

My name is Susan Osborne and I am a member of the Stanton Wick Action Group

I would like to quote your resolution No 5 from your Meeting on 12th September 2012.

“To Agree that whilst the Council is progressing the DPD (and) in the light of the absence of any authorised permanent sites within the District, the Council should progress a planning application at Lower Bristol Road for Gypsy and Traveller pitches”

The rationale for the resolution is noted as;

“The work undertaken and recommended action are a key part of the Councils Local Development Scheme and commitments agreed through the Draft Core Strategy.

The site at Lower Bristol Road is widely acknowledged as a successful site and the residents are fully integrated into the local community so processing the site will bring **rapid** benefit to all concerned”

Well, that laudable, popular and widely supported resolution was made 9 months ago and yet we have no sign of a planning application.....rapid or otherwise!

In fact it has slipped to a point where your officers update report to the Housing and Major Projects Policy Development Scrutiny Panel in May did not even mention it. No mention despite its role in satisfying significant need in the District, and therefore of material importance.

Surely with your professional resources you can submit a planning application on your own land within 9 months?

If you have any problem, we can remind you of a planning consultant that you know and have employed and a site agent that you know and have employed who have managed to make and register a planning application on a bigger site for the same use in under 4 months....and not once, but twice!

You will understand why your taxpayers, given the performance so far, are not confident of your ability & competence to achieve what you have resolved.

In the commercial world lack of attention and failure to deliver on deadlines are punished.

In the public services world it is the public who suffer the consequences of failure.

Your own risk management report clearly states that if you fail to identify sufficient sites through the DPD to meet need there will be pressure for sites to be granted planning permission ad hoc or by appeal with the likely detrimental effect on relationships between settled and travelling communities.

Does the Cabinet consider the delay reasonable? Does the Cabinet accept that without site provision significant harm is being done to all communities within B&NES, leaving them vulnerable to inappropriate applications.

Isn't it now time to cut the rhetoric and waffling, roll up your sleeves, make things happen and deliver on your promises?