

**Speaker – Cllr. Kris Mountford on behalf of the Chair of
Stanton Drew Parish Council, Cllr Judith Chubb-Whittle**

Statement to

Full Council Meeting

Thursday 16th May 2013, 6.30pm

Concerns relating to Planning application 013/0125/FUL

[And to the BaNES 2012 Gypsy & Traveller DPD proposal]

to develop the Old Colliery Site, Stanton Wick as a Gypsy, Traveller site.

Good evening, I am Kris Mountford, I am reading this statement on behalf of the Chair of Stanton Drew Parish Council.

Last year the parish council came to you to ask you to scrutinise the gypsy & traveller DPD due to the deeply flawed process carried out in 2012 concerning the old colliery site at Stanton Wick.

The Cabinet resolved in September [2012] to remove that site as a preferred option because of the arguments the parish & action group put forward.

Then in January [2013], a planning application was lodged by the land owner & agent well known to this council, for a gypsy site, which was classed as a major development.

The application was withdrawn two weeks ago, just prior to determination and we were expecting another application and this has come through today.

I come to you to ask you to scrutinise the process by which the planning application was allowed to proceed in the first instance.

The parish council identified a minimum of 37 errors in the previous application, one of the fundamental errors being the hectareage involved noted as 0.6ha but actually being 6.9ha. Council officers need to definitively measure the area.

The parish council asked questions of the land agent & owner and invited them to consult with us to answer such questions as;

‘What is a sewage treatment package?’

No answer was received.

Many hours have been spent over the last 12 months by parishioners highlighting errors made by BANES during the DPD to prevent gypsies & travellers being denigrated to this isolated, contaminated spot. Now, many more copious hours have been wasted having to highlight once again a multitude of errors that should have meant the application being turned down as soon as it hit the BANES’ Planning Dept reception desk.

I respectfully ask the full Council to look into the process by which planning application 013/0125/FUL has been managed in the light of such a poor quality application and to carefully scrutinise the 013/01965/FUL

Last year the Cabinet wished to shoe-horn this inappropriate, contaminated site into the deeply flawed DPD matrix, like the ugly sister’s foot into Cinderella’s glass slipper.

Please help us to ensure that the correct, fair, transparent & democratic process is upheld for the re-application by scrutinising the process & points of contact that occurred during the application and the on-going gypsy & traveller DPD.

On behalf of our parishioners, I thank you.