

APPX 8

My name is Karen Abolkheir and I am a member of the Stanton Wick Action Group

I am here again in respect of the processing of the major Planning Application on the Shale Tip at the Old Colliery, Stanton Wick, which yesterday was re-advertised for 14 days due to yet another amendment. The boundary of the development has changed for the second time and the area is now 2.33 hectares, down from 2.46 hectares.

The application has been referred to the Development Control Committee but the information on the referral form is incorrect. There is no B2 on the shale tip part of the site, a former mine which was abandoned in 1958. The number of objections stated on the form is 289 rather than the 432 objections on the planning portal – even allowing for a handful of duplications, there is a big difference between 432 and 289. The 289 may refer to the number of objections to the previous application 13/00125/FUL, objections that were not transferred over to application number 13/01965/FUL, although a letter of support was transferred over.

I maintain that this application should not have been registered due to the lack of information such as properly conducted surveys on contamination and ecology, within the actual development area and for the applicant rather than the BaNES reports that were conducted for another location close by.

I would like to point out to Cabinet that this site is not plannable, there are too many hurdles that cannot be overcome:

- Gypsy Traveller sites are inappropriate development in Green Belt
- The site would have to be removed from Green Belt via a proper planning process which is likely to include consultation with the public which is time consuming and expensive
- Very Special Circumstances cannot be demonstrated. This site is remote with poor access to education, doctors and employment and is therefore unsustainable
- The Secretary of State, Eric Pickles, has made a statement regarding the inappropriateness of the inset of development of Gypsy Traveller sites within Green Belt
- Inspectors and the High Court are increasingly finding against Traveller sites in Green Belt – the needs of Gypsy Travellers do not outweigh the harm to the Green Belt.
- I cite two recent judgements – the Meriden case and the Delaney case.
- In addition the site's highway access is inappropriate for any further traffic
- Contamination and European Protected Species could leave the Council open to litigation if the application was approved.