

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

Unfortunately I have to attend here yet again to remind Cabinet and inform Council Tax Payers of the expensive project that is your Gypsy Traveller DPD.

It is not a good story so far;

- Contrary to the Parish Charter you failed to consult with the Stanton Drew PC on the Old Colliery in Stanton Wick between January and mid April 2012, when the site suddenly appeared in your “Preferred Options” DPD.
- Despite comprehensive information provided to you at your meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2012 clearly setting out that the site was not sustainable or achievable, you ignored us, blamed the previous administration, and announced your absolute commitment to provide pitches for the demonised travelling community.
- Despite detailed advice that your evaluation matrix was seriously flawed, you ploughed on, trying to defend the indefensible with sometimes bizarre reasoning.
- Having robustly defended your evaluation matrix, you then ignored it when selecting sites for your “preferred list”. Bizarre and damaging.
- You ignored your own Scrutiny Panel’s recommendations on a number of occasions to stop and review the process, ploughing on regardless, extending the costs and damage to your settled communities.
- You ignored the representation at an unprecedented Special Full Council in June 2012 callously issuing the text of your resolution of rejection to the request to stop and review the process - in advance of the meeting.
- You advised the Full Council that halting the DPD process would severely damage the progress of your Core Strategy – a Core Strategy that was rejected by the Inspector shortly after.
- Your officers failed to fully investigate the Stanton Wick site, despite the provision of detailed information, which supported their clear intention to run roughshod through planning law.
- You only removed the site from the DPD under proceedings for a Judicial Review. A costly exercise for some of your tax-payers. Unfortunately you again failed to properly remove the site from your list, in what appeared to be a rushed withdrawal.

- As a result you left the door open and consequently you have now presided over 3 flawed planning applications bringing yet more cost and stress to the settled community.
- You have simply failed to progress on your DPD, despite continued encouragement from your tax-payers and your Scrutiny Panels. You have failed to progress your prize site at Lower Bristol Road.
- You need to clarify if Lower Bristol Road has been removed from the DPD and why the number of pitches has decreased by nearly 27%.
- You have presided over a flawed Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment which appears to overestimate the number of new Age Travellers on the Lower Bristol Road site.
- You have failed to cull the current long list of 29 possible sites for pitches despite the majority being clearly unavailable, unachievable and therefore undeliverable.

You said in May 2012 that you would not be deflected from this task yet you have failed to deliver at every stage which has cost a small fortune in time, anguish, stress and money.

We again urge you to get a grip, turn away from the excuse driven philosophy and make things happen.

Thank you