

Langley Close and Dancing Hill - Gypsy Traveller Pitch Identification Process

A further meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday 9th August at Magor Baptist Chapel at 6pm to plan next steps.

The following is an update from Monmouthshire County Councillor Frances Taylor (Magor West)

Many thanks to all of those that attended the public meeting last Wednesday at Magor Baptist Chapel. It is anticipated that the meeting scheduled for 09th August 2023 is for a smaller group to focus on some of the actions that can be taken by the community. However, all are welcome and if you have offered to do something please come along.

The purpose of the meeting last week was to bring people up to date and make clear that there are not any active decisions to include the sites in the Replacement Local Development Plan as yet, nor is there currently an open consultation.

However, attendees expressed their concern and dismay at the process & that the views of the Scrutiny Meeting have not been taken on, and that they felt that this is already decided. I continue to have a great deal of contact from residents if you have emailed me and I have not got back to you, I will try to in due course.

I, along with Cllr John Crook attended a meeting I had requested to seek answers on your behalf with the Cabinet Member Cllr Burch, and officers last Friday.

The key points were;

- A further discussion about concerns over the process to date, (further) request for all of the information pertaining to the filtering process and concern about the failure to take on board the Scrutiny Committee's recommendations.
- Some initial conversations I about what further work specific to the sites at Dancing Hill and Langley entails. Noise Pollution (Desk top), Air Pollution (no further details as yet), Land contamination studies, to include desktop and intrusive soil sampling only outline first stage costs provided. Potentially, a lead in time of several months for the Land Contamination Surveys.
- We were also advised by the Cabinet member that the land at Langley and Dancing Hill might also be deemed suitable for other development purposes such as affordable housing.
- We were informed of further review of the other shortlisted sites, and also of land already contained in the Council's asset register which was ruled out of the pitch identification process, as it was deemed suitable for other forms of development such as residential.

It seems prudent to ensure as many people as possible are provided the facts which will enable them to respond. A guide shall be prepared for residents to enable them to develop their own responses, concentrating on the key issues of:

- the process which has short-listed the parcels of land,
- the site descriptions,
- the RAG ratings and site-specific material planning considerations,
- ecology,
- highway access,

- green Infrastructure.

While it is understood that many of you will wish to make representations in respect of this matter it is respectfully requested that you focus only on the bulleted points above and avoid comment pertaining to the stigmatising of Gypsies and Travellers.

Please note that if you write and submit a response you will need to repeat that submission should Monmouthshire Cabinet Meeting determine that sites go out to public consultation.

County Councillor Frances Taylor
(Magor West)