

## **Gypsy and Traveller Pitch Identification**

On Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July, People Scrutiny rejected the proposals to consult on the five pieces of council owned land and agreed

Option 3: To not recommend any of the pieces of land to cabinet to formally consult upon.

The principal reasons for this recommendation were based on

1, multiple concerns about the integrity of the process, perceived inconsistencies, and erroneous information.

2, Site specific feedback from residents, communities and their representatives.

3, Detailed contributions from local elected members.

Please see below the link to watch the meeting should you wish to hear the detail and the contributions and the committee's conclusions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fBQzUYgfHeM>

It should be noted that the People Scrutiny meeting was billed as a "Pre decision Scrutiny" however, the papers for cabinet - issued on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July for Cabinet (next week 26<sup>th</sup> July at 5pm) contain the following agenda item.

Purpose: The purpose of this report is to approve a proposal that the Council consults on the suitability of four pieces of Council owned land for potential development to meet (all or part meet) its statutory obligation to address identified Gypsy and Traveller pitch needs in Monmouthshire. It also recommends further evaluation of a fifth piece of land, to inform possible consultation.

I am advised that the scrutiny feedback will be added to the report pack. I hope that the administration will be taking the scrutiny response as a reflection of the public and member view of the process as flawed and lacking in soundness and integrity.

However, please note that the Cabinet could also choose not to follow the scrutiny recommendation and approve their preferred course of action.

The papers are below, and as with all Council meetings can be watched live or post the event.

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=144&MId=5222>

I will be in attendance and should there be any deviation from the recommendation from scrutiny, then I will be in touch further and try to communicate this widely. One of the requests at the Town Council meeting from residents was to try and equip people to make consultation responses based on material planning matters such as highways, access, flood risk, ecology etc. We have agreed that this might be a key action to support residents to respond.

I would anticipate that we will communicate via the Town Council's Facebook page, the website and email group where people have provided them and also Frances Taylor Independent Cllr Facebook Page in order to communicate with residents and we would ask residents to share further.

With all good wishes

Frances