

Report of the Chair

Special Scrutiny Programme Committee - 23 April 2014

GYPSY & TRAVELLER SITE SEARCH PROCESS – EVIDENCE SESSION

Purpose	The fourth evidence session will focus on evidence from members of the public and other councillors who have contacted the committee.
Content	Arrangements have been made for the following persons to give evidence to this committee meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keith Jones• Councillor Uta Clay• Councillor Penny Matthews• Tony Beddow
Councillors are being asked to	Consider the information presented as part of the committee's review of the process, and ask questions.
Lead Councillor(s)	Councillor Robert Smith, Vice-Chair of Scrutiny Programme Committee.
Lead Officer & Report Author	Brij Madahar, Scrutiny Coordinator Tel: 01792 637257 E-mail: brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk

1. Introduction

- 1.1 A series of special meetings of the Scrutiny Programme Committee are being arranged to review the process adopted to date in the search for a second gypsy and traveller site so that the committee can consider whether the process, leading up to the report to Council on 21 October 2013, was robust. The committee will be looking at the quality of that process, and may identify any learning points about the process, and recommend any changes for the future as appropriate.
- 1.2 The committee is gathering evidence for this work. Initial meetings have enabled the committee to hear from officers involved in the process who have provided an overview of the process and legal framework and information on the criteria and method of site selection, the consultation process / outcomes, and the role of officers.
- 1.3 The committee was also keen to ensure that members of the public and other councillors not involved in the committee were provided with opportunity to engage with this work.

2. Call for Evidence

- 2.1 The committee issued correspondence that would enable interested persons to:
- suggest questions about the process that was followed to help the committee ask the right questions at its meetings
 - submit information / views in writing about the process that was followed that they wish to bring to the committee's attention
 - if preferred, appear before the committee to give oral evidence about the process.
- 2.2 The committee raised awareness of this invitation through specific correspondence sent to all councillors, a press release which appeared on the council's website and local newspaper, and correspondence sent to members of the local gypsy and traveller community.
- 2.3 Those wishing to respond to this invitation were directed to contact the scrutiny team at the Civic Centre by email or print.

3. Response

- 3.1 The following persons have requested to appear before the committee to their evidence / views about the process:
- Tony Beddow
 - Keith Jones
 - Hilary and Tom Jenkins
 - Phillip Robins
 - Lawrence Bailey
 - Councillor Uta Clay
 - Councillor Jennifer Raynor
 - Councillor Penny Matthews
- 3.2 Correspondence was also received from Councillor Bob Clay making suggestions about the sort of people who might be able to help the committee in its understanding of the whole issue, who the committee may wish to call as future witnesses. He wanted to explain to the committee what each of these people might be able to tell the committee. *(Note – Councillor Clay has also expressed a wish to be co-opted onto the committee – which is being dealt with elsewhere on the agenda for this meeting).*
- 3.3 In order to manage the business of the committee and taking into account the availability of those wishing to give evidence, the evidence indicated above will be dealt with over committee meetings as follows:

Wed 23 April:

- Tony Beddow
- Keith Jones
- Councillor Uta Clay
- Councillor Penny Matthews

Further meeting(s) – date & time to be confirmed:

- Hilary and Tom Jenkins
- Phillip Robins
- Lawrence Bailey
- Councillor Jennifer Raynor
- Councillor Bob Clay (*subject to the committee's decision on co-option*)

- 3.4 The purpose of the session is for the committee to listen to the evidence that is presented and ask questions in order to clarify anything that is said. It may also guide the future work of the committee. The committee will have the opportunity to reflect on all evidence gathered in due course in order to draw conclusions.

Date: 11 April 2014

Legal Officer: Nigel Havard
Finance Officer: Carl Billingsley

Background Papers: None