

REPRESENTATION FROM COCKETT WARD

My name is Mr Phil Robins an as a resident of Cockett Ward fully recognise the legal obligation of Swansea City Council to provide a permanent residing place for the cities Travelling Gypsy Community. However the site proposed for consideration in the Cockett Ward, the former greyhound track is totally unsuitable.

I myself have been a resident of Denver Road Fforestfach since 1965. It is an estate of 40 houses, which directly overlooks the greyhound track. We are a very strong community that has supported the expansion of a post war industrial estate, which over recent years has not only expanded it is nearly to its maximum capacity and thriving. It is one of the only communities in the city that can boast it has a well supported village pub, church and local post office.

As you are aware a consultation document was drawn up by your Officers to support the consideration of the former greyhound track as a suitable site. This document is not only flawed it is 80% inaccurate!

- The document in question was at the time of consultation over 3 and a half years out of date
- I would like to highlight the inaccuracies under the section marked site constraints. It states that contamination is not applicable. It is a well known fact that during the 1970s ICI dumped waste on the said site and also the long closed/disused Geranium Colliery also used the ground to dispose of colliery waste.
- Which leads me into the section marked characteristics where it clearly states coal is not applicable. There is a stream which runs adjacent to the former greyhound track and the mine slurry can clearly be seen in it. Across the road there are also open mine shafts which are totally hidden by dense vegetation mainly Japanese knot weed. In recent years there was a major incident in the area with all emergency services including mines rescue from Porth Rhondda when a missing child was believed to have fallen down an open shaft!
- Moving onto the section marked highway issues, when the document was put together the industrial estate was in a double dip recession and the highways would have been in principal suitable to the type of traffic visualised. However the estate is now thriving and one only has to drive around in the early evening to see the traffic chaos caused by one unit alone i.e. the gym.
- Titanium Road which is adjacent to the site has a constant flow of HGV vehicles with many carrying tons of raw material. These vehicles directly pass the former greyhound track. Many of the HGV vehicles are of left hand drive and find it difficult to navigate their way around the current road system. I would like to bring to your attention that many of the satellite navigation systems that these vehicles are using bringing them through the estate and Ystrad Road causing chaos.

- You can often see residents assisting the drivers to navigate the correct route almost turning these vehicles to do 3 point turns in the road.
- The consultation report states that public transport is provided in the immediate vicinity, we as residents have consulted with First Cymru and at the point of publication there have been no bus services pass this site for over 25 years.
- The document once again contradicts itself stating the distance to the bus stop is 823 metres which to you and I is approximately half a mile. Hardly the immediate vicinity stated.
- Moving onto the section marked infrastructure (I apologise if I am throwing a lot of factual information at you but it is necessary to show you in inaccuracies of this document).
- The document states that a water main is identified within close proximity to the site but what it fails to tell you is that it is only one five major hydrants in the whole and I mean the whole of Swansea. And this hydrant is directly outside this site and is used to serve the whole estate and surrounding community. Many of you will remember the tyre factory fire 18 months ago, which is approximately a mile away from this hydrant.

It was from this area (the hydrant) that all emergency services operated from, bringing the estate into lock down. They also had to call upon neighbouring fire services to borrow pipe work to cover this great distance. I must reiterate that this fire hydrant is the only one servicing the whole community. If it was compromised in any way LIVES WOULD BE PUT AT RISK!

- Section marked local services. No consideration has been taken into place for the basic human rights of the proposed residents/tenants. I.e. travellers. Travellers are staunch Catholics who practise their faith. The schools that have been considered are not catholic education centres and thereby would not be suitable for travellers children impacting on their education.

The health care facilities that you have mentioned that would be used by the travellers (and please bare in mind the travellers have different health requirements/needs to people who live in a permanent dwelling). You have suggested that they attend Cheriton Medical Centre, Portmead. Which is already at full capacity and is not in the catchment area for the former greyhound track. The dental surgery you suggest Jeremy P. Richards, Cwmbwrla closed over fours years ago. I know it is hard to find a dentist these days but it is impossible to visit Mr Richards at his practice when he retired four years ago.

- Under the section marked potential environmental impact you state that the green wedge is not applicable, but we as residents would like to draw your attention to the fact that the land is due to be considered under the Unnity Development Plan, currently known as UDP.

You also state registered common land is not applicable but there are vast wedges of this in the immediate vicinity. Nature conservation also achieves a

not applicable marking. But from documentation submitted by Asbri Planning on behalf of residents and businesses alike this is of major concern.

- Amenity issues. The document states the site is bound by partial light industrial activity and would be subject to some noise pollution. It does not mention the residential homes clearly visible on Google maps are joining the site or KEEPERS LODGE FARM which often has 500 pigs in residence. Or the thriving Harris Bros tyre depot, which immediately joins the site. This company uses drills and airguns as part of their daily work.

How can this document state that this site is bound by partial and light activity when in fact this road is named Titanium road (after the company sited at the end of it) and is one of the largest industrial employers of this city.

- Drawing this document to a close it also failed to identify that there is a childrens playground in the immediate vicinity. It is clearly set down in law that no traveller/gypsy sites are to be places near such an area.

As a community we are supporters of ethnic minorities being integrated into our community. We already have two Romany gypsy families who we have supported in excess of 40 years (one directly opposite the proposed site). I am not sure if you are aware of the ethnic tension between Romany and Gypsy travellers. At best described by the Romany resident himself as 'how can a fox and chicken ever reside in harmony?'

I myself have visited the traveller families on the unauthorised site in Llansamlet and have been clearly informed by them they have no intention of leaving this site and more so do not wish to relocate to the former greyhound site. You may recall the passionate and emotional address the travelling community expressed at the cabinet meeting in November 2013 to stay in Llansamlet.

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that myself and other residents have sat in these council offices requesting a meeting with officers or Mr Martin Saville to address these inaccuracies. Only to be told to come back tomorrow and then to be told that they do not see or speak to members of the public. Therefore how has it been possible to put forward for an impartial vote on a suitable site.

For an impartial vote to be gained the information supplied to the voters to allow them to reach their decision must be to the best of your knowledge at the time of the vote factually correct. The information must be open, honest and transparent, ^{without} ~~without~~ prejudice and adhering to the human rights of all parties concerned. The consultation document for the Cockett Ward was far from that.

There are many more points I could have raised but due to the constraints of time I have tried to make it as concise as I can.

I thank you for your time.

One last point it is very frustrating when sitting in the public gallery to hear senior officers not giving truthful and honest answers to questions from councillors when asked "have you consulted with other councils? Have they had any problems with gypsy traveller sites? To be told yes, no problems it is quite obvious she did not consult Cardiff city/council. RE Rover Way I do ask you to visit rover way Cardiff to see the results of what bad policy planning has done to a once thriving industrial estate.