

Questions for Cllr David Phillips:

1. What were your responsibilities from May 2012 as Leader of the Council in respect of Gypsy & Traveller Site Provision, and what was your role in the process?
2. How was the Cabinet / new administration briefed after the May 2012 elections to ensure awareness of progress and current position?
3. What were the role / responsibilities of other Cabinet Members in the process? At some point during the process Cllr Burtonshaw declared an interest and ceased to be the responsible cabinet member - who provided the political leadership of the process after that point?
4. What were respective roles and responsibilities between the cabinet, the member task and finish group, and officers and inter-relationship? Did your involvement in the process include regular meetings with officers?
5. Did any review of the process take place under the new administration between May and July 2012 – before it was agreed to re-establish a member task and finish group and continue where things were left off?
6. As Leader, what was your awareness / understanding of the “West Glamorgan agreement” and what implication did this have on the process?
7. What is your understanding of the role and purpose of the 2 Member Task & Finish Groups (pre-May 2012 and post-May 2012)? How did they differ?

(any comment on the relatively short period between the 2012 local elections and the ‘conclusion’ of the 2nd Task & Finish Group?)

Appendix 1

8. Why was there no specific report 'setting out options' to Cabinet from the Task & Finish Group in accordance with cabinet decision on 5 July 2012, having spent almost 2 years on the short listing process. A report to Cabinet on 1 November 2012 only makes brief reference to the work of the Task & Finish Group.

(was it left to officers?; there had been some issues regarding the exclusion of 2 sites by the Task & Finish Group prior to the 2012 election – were you made aware of this at the time, or subsequently after the 2012 election?)

9. With regard to community engagement in the process can you confirm what work was carried out to maximise community cohesion, tolerance and avoidance of unnecessary conflict?
10. What is your understanding of the outcome of consultations with the Gypsy & Traveller families? Should the views of the families have been taken into account at an earlier stage in the process?
11. What led you to announce that the final decision in the process would rest with the Council?
12. After the council meeting in October 2013 did cabinet at all consider proceeding to planning application stage despite council's view that the search should consider all land options, given various assurances that the process had been sound and the authority has acted rationally and lawfully throughout?
13. Finally, we would like you to consider your experience generally over the last few years dealing with this matter and invite reflections on the process and any learning points / improvements. Did you consider the process to have been deeply flawed? If so, could you elaborate on the problem(s)? Could this process have been done differently with better outcomes?