



CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA
DINAS A SIR ABERTAWE

Councillor Jeff Jones
Convenor
Tethered Horses Scrutiny Working
Group

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MC/CM

10th May 2016

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I dderbyn yr wybodaeth hon mewn fformat arall, cysylltwch â'r person uchod.**

Dear Councillor Jones

TETHERED HORSES SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP

Thank you for your letter of the 20th April 2016 detailing the work completed to date by the Tethered Horses Scrutiny Working Group.

I am aware that this is a subject that has divided opinion and that there are a number of passionate groups who are committed to horse welfare having competing demands. For that reason I think we should have a fuller understanding of the issues and be clear about the responsibilities of the Council before investing resources in a pilot scheme

Before raising expectations via any scheme, we need to be clear about:

- The availability of an area of land and any existing plans the Council has for it
- Any planning requirements that would have to be met

If these issues can be resolved further fundamental questions about any pilot will require clarity including:

- Who will finance the development of the land to provide the essential basic facilities?
- How much will it cost?
- Who will be responsible for horses on this land particularly if owners lose interest and abandon them?

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- How will places be allocated?
- How will the success of any scheme be measured?
- What charges will be levied, collected and recovered in the case of default?
- Who would be responsible for horses in the event that a pilot scheme failed?

I am unable to support an invest to save scheme until any scheme is more clearly defined and potential savings as a result of the investment identified.

May I suggest that further evidence is required related to a range of issues and that the numerous potential problems are fully explored before any additional commitment is made by the Council.

Thank you again for your considerable efforts so far in relation to this subject. I look forward to hearing from you again once your working group has had the opportunity to consider the complex issues I have raised above.

Officers will continue to take a proactive approach to the identification of horses and their owners. In addition I have asked them to meet contributors to the working group in order to:

- Use existing resources to develop an education/communication pack about horse welfare, tethering and the responsibilities of owners or keepers
- develop and communicate an agreed system for reporting horse welfare issues to the Council, the RSPCA or other welfare organisations

Yours sincerely



COUNCILLOR MARK CHILD
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