



CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA
DINAS A SIR ABERTAWE

Mr David Grimsell
Friends of Swansea Horses (FOSH)
PO Box 65
Lampeter
Cardigan
SA48 9BJ

Please ask for:
Gofynnwch am:
Direct Line:
Llinell
Uniongyrochol:

Councillor Mark Child
(01792) 637441

E-Mail / E-Bost:
Our Ref / Ein Cyf:
Your Ref / Eich
Cyf:
Date / Dyddiad:

clfr.mark.child@swansea.gov.uk
MC/SH

19 July 2016

**To receive this information in alternative format, please contact the above.
I dderbyn yr wybodaeth hon mewn fformat arall, cysylltwch â'r person uchod.**

Dear Mr. Grimsell

Thank you for your observations related to horses being kept without permission on public land. I am taking the opportunity to reply to your correspondence of 12th July 2016 and the questions you posed via the Cabinet Scrutiny Meeting on 11th July 2016

I am continuing to determine a process that can implement some of the recommendations of the scrutiny panel including the feasibility of a pilot scheme. Once this is concluded I will be asking Officers to meet with contributors to the scrutiny process in order to obtain their assistance provided we can establish a scheme that is practical and workable. The most recent letter in the scrutiny process can be found at <http://www.swansea.gov.uk/article/26750/Tethered-Horses-Working-Group-Letter-to-Cabinet-member-20-June-2016>

In response to your specific statements contained in your letter I would comment as follows:

- The Council uses resources which include Trading Standards and Animal Wardens who deal with issues presented by stray and unclaimed animals including horses
- Our approach is not entirely reactive as you suggest as we have worked with partners to improve identification and to reduce numbers.

COUNCILLOR/Y CYNGHORYDD
MARK CHILD
CABINET MEMBER FOR WELLBEING & HEALTHY CITY /
AELOD Y CABINET LLES A DINAS IACH

CABINET OFFICE, THE GUILDHALL, SWANSEA, SA1 4PE
SWYDDFA'R CABINET, NEUADD Y DDINAS, ABERTAWE, SA1 4PE

☎ (01792) 637441

✉ clfr.mark.child@swansea.gov.uk www.swansea.gov.uk



CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA
DINAS A SIR ABERTAWE

- 2 -

We are continuing to identify alternative interventions and will seek to include contributors to the scrutiny process as part of this. I expect Officers will be in a position to involve interested groups in this within the next few weeks.

- The relationship with Hillside Sanctuary has been positive. We have acknowledged the role played by FOSH in creating this opportunity to use this facility. We have been pleased to receive their continued reassurance about their capacity to cope with the horses from Swansea. We are discussing re-homing capacity with other organisations to reduce the effect on Hillside but our stated aim is to make owners responsible for their own animals which includes finding somewhere appropriate to keep it with the permission of the land owner.
- We record all service requests that are received irrespective of the subject and whether we have a statutory duty for that subject. There is no statutory duty for horses other than their identification. Our commitment not to ignore this subject is demonstrated by the figures you have quoted. We are always seeking improved solutions particularly those that will reduce cost.
- Your petition has been dealt with in accordance with Council Policy and an alternative petition which seeks tolerance of continued use of Council land for horses, which was also supported by a local community, has been dealt with in the same way.
- The Council does not give permission for public land to be used for the keeping of horses. This is made clear to individuals directly and to the public more widely by way of public statement. If a practical pilot scheme can be established a communication strategy will be part of it.
- Additional public money is not made available for this purpose. The Control of Horses (Wales Act 2014) was provided as a power for Councils but is not a statutory duty and no resources were allocated when it was enacted.

COUNCILLOR/Y CYNGHORYDD
MARK CHILD
CABINET MEMBER FOR WELLBEING & HEALTHY CITY /
AELOD Y CABINET LLES A DINAS IACH

CABINET OFFICE, THE GUILDHALL, SWANSEA, SA1 4PE
SWYDDFA'R CABINET, NEUADD Y DDINAS, ABERTAWE, SA1 4PE

(01792) 637441

✉ cllr.mark.child@swansea.gov.uk www.swansea.gov.uk



CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA
DINAS A SIR ABERTAWE

- 3 -

- The Council continues to work with RSPCA in respect of this subject. Both of our organisations have taken action ranging from advice and provision of information through to prosecution and banning orders. We are considering the use of notices but at present do not consider that engaging external contractors in the manner that Hartlepool have is the best use of public resources

Thank you for your observations. As already stated, the scrutiny process has not been disregarded. I regret that you have found the response of Council Officers to be patronising and I will draw your feelings to their attention. Your estimates of numbers are interesting. Our evidence suggests that the figures are about 50 not all of which are tethered but I see little value in disagreeing over numbers when what we are all seeking is an improved solution. Please expect to hear from Officers in the near future to discuss how FOSH may participate in reducing tethering on council land.

Yours sincerely

COUNCILLOR MARK CHILD
CABINET MEMBER FOR WELLBEING & HEALTHY CITY

COUNCILLOR/Y CYNGHORYDD
MARK CHILD
CABINET MEMBER FOR WELLBEING & HEALTHY CITY /
AELOD Y CABINET LLES A DINAS IACH

CABINET OFFICE, THE GUILDHALL, SWANSEA, SA1 4PE
SWYDDFA'R CABINET, NEUADD Y DDINAS, ABERTAWE, SA1 4PE

☎ (01792) 637441

✉ cllr.mark.child@swansea.gov.uk www.swansea.gov.uk