

## McLaughlin, James

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**From:** McLaughlin, James  
**Sent:** 23 November 2022 17:58  
**To:** Hobson, Susan  
**Subject:** [OFFICIAL (SENSITIVE)] Timeline

Hi Cllr Hobson,

Please see below the timeline in relation to the occupation of the Clifton Road Coach and Car Park site in Ashbourne.

08/07/2022 (Day 0)	Traveller family vacate Doveridge Burial Ground and set up encampment at Clifton Road Coach and Car Park in Ashbourne
28/07/2022	<a href="#">Report to Council</a> detailing 133 land holdings owned by the District Council – no decision made:  <b>RESOLVED</b> – That Officers be tasked to use the feedback that has been provided by Ward Members on the sites discussed in Appendix 1 and develop further proposals based on that feedback for future consideration by Council.
From 28/07/2022 until mid-September 2022	Multiple complaints received from residents in Ashbourne and responses issued by the Council
29/09/2022	Full Council decision following amendment proposed by Cllr Tom Donnelly and seconded by Cllr Stuart Lees:  <b>RESOLVED</b> – That, until such time as the working group has submitted its recommendations to an extraordinary meeting of the Council, the council owned land at Harrison Way, Northwood, be designated as a temporary site for a specific Traveller family with a local connection to the Derbyshire Dales to whom the authority has a statutory homelessness duty, and that officers be authorised to seek an eviction notice in respect of the encampment currently located on Clifton Road Coach and Car Park in Ashbourne.
05/10/2022	Family served with Direction to Leave
14/10/2022	Direction to Leave instruction expired
17/10/2022	Application made to courts for eviction
21/10/2022	Judicial Review pre-action letter received from the Community Law Partnership acting on behalf of the Traveller family. Council negotiated with CLP to seek a voluntary move from Clifton Road Coach and Car Park from week commencing 14/11/2022, which was agreed.
28/10/2022	Urgent Decision taken to designate Council owned land at Matlock Bath Station Yard Car Park as a temporary site for occupation by the family from 1 November until 31 January 2023.
15/11/2022	Traveller family indicated that a mechanical issue would prevent a move until week commencing 21 November 2022
22/11/2022	Traveller family vacated the site at Clifton Road Coach and Car Park to make camp at Matlock Bath Station Yard Car Park

The total duration of the site at Ashbourne being occupied was **138 days**.

I think I have covered the key milestones, but please come back if you need any further information.

Best wishes,  
James

**James McLaughlin**

Director of Corporate & Customer Services  
and Monitoring Officer



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(01629) 761281

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## McLaughlin, James

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**From:** Hobson, Susan  
**Sent:** 24 November 2022 11:14  
**To:** Ratcliffe, Mike  
**Cc:** McLaughlin, James  
**Subject:** Re: [OFFICIAL (SENSITIVE)] Draft Report - Gypsy and Traveller Site Provision Working Group

**Categories:** Gypsy and Traveller

Mike

I think if James could have this ready for the meeting it would be most helpful

Kind Regards

Councillor Susan Hobson  
Deputy Leader Derbyshire Dales District Council  
Chatsworth Ward  
Sent from my iPad

On 24 Nov 2022, at 09:20, Ratcliffe, Mike <Mike.Ratcliffe@derbyshiredales.gov.uk> wrote:

Could I suggest that the land registry map with a clearly defined marked area of the precise boundary of the intended fenced compound being offered as a temporary site is projected on the screen during the Item 15 Agenda discussions and debate this evening. Paul Wilson sent out a large number of these maps prior to publication of the report but the Matlock Bath Station one is misleading as it shows the total holdings of the Council and not the intended precise location. This might also be useful for the Derwent Way site.

Kind regards  
Mike Ratcliffe

Sent from my iPad

On 23 Nov 2022, at 19:33, Hobson, Susan  
<Susan.Hobson@derbyshiredales.gov.uk> wrote:

Mike

I would agree with you - perhaps James can clarify the exact position of the site. I thought it was at the very far end of the car park?

From my point of view if the temporary site is well managed by DDDC it will make a huge difference to the privacy and safety of the Travellers and also to the public perception of the temporary site.

Many thanks

Susan.hobson@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

Sent from my phone

----- Original message -----

From: "Ratcliffe, Mike" <Mike.Ratcliffe@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>

Date: Wed, 23 Nov 2022, 17:38

To: "Hobson, Susan" <Susan.Hobson@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>

Cc: "McLaughlin, James" <James.McLaughlin@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: [OFFICIAL (SENSITIVE)] Draft Report - Gypsy and Traveller Site Provision Working Group

It just goes to show how easily one can fall into what might be false assumptions! For my part I thought the Matlock Bath Station car Park temporary site was away from any coach parking and was situated in the far top corner by a storage building. That was certainly where the working group visited. If this is the case I don't see how the coaches arriving at February 2023 half term can be affected if they are using their designated parking spaces.

Regards

Mike Ratcliffe

Wirksworth

Sent from my iPad

On 23 Nov 2022, at 15:57, Hobson, Susan  
<Susan.Hobson@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>  
wrote:

Councillor Burfoot

Sue

You raise a very interesting question and I would agree with your comments about half term.

Perhaps James is able to comment?

Kind Regards

Councillor Susan Hobson  
Deputy Leader Derbyshire Dales District  
Council  
Chatsworth Ward  
Sent from my iPad

On 23 Nov 2022, at 13:43,  
Burfoot, Sue

<Susan.Burfoot@derbyshiredale  
s.gov.uk> wrote:

Good afternoon

After giving much thought to the report for tomorrow night, I would like to ask the following question in the hope that I can be given an answer.

It has been mentioned many times that if and when the site at the Coach Park in Matlock Bath is approved as a temporary tolerated site, it would only be until the 31st January 2023.

This I believe will result in a massive problem for the Council and particularly for our officers who will have to deal with it.

I should have asked this before now, but why does this date have to fixed at the 31st January? I cannot believe that there is an influx of many more visitors to Matlock Bath beginning on the 1st February. I do realise that schools may be on half term but I cannot believe that the car park cannot cope with numbers of people coming to Matlock Bath and not be able to accommodate the gypsy and traveller family.

Just out of interest, are you able to tell me where the traveller family from Ashbourne have moved to.

Kind regards

Sue

Sent from my iPad

On 21 Nov 2022,  
at 17:56,  
McLaughlin,  
James  
<James.McLaughl

in@derbyshiredal  
es.gov.uk> wrote:

Good afternoon Cllr  
Allison,

Thanks for your  
email.

This is not an easy  
question to answer  
as there are a  
number of issues to  
consider.

In order to secure  
an eviction order,  
the Council must  
have demonstrated  
that the Traveller  
family has not  
complied with a  
Direction to Leave  
by the Council.  
Having designated  
the land at Matlock  
Bath as a  
temporary site until  
31 January, the  
Council will need to  
have identified an  
alternative site for  
the Traveller family  
to go to well in  
advance of that  
date and have  
given direction to  
leave Matlock Bath.  
The best option will  
be to secure a  
voluntary move by  
the family, which  
necessitates  
engagement with  
them or their  
representatives, to  
an alternative site. If  
that isn't achieved  
then it will be  
difficult to envisage  
that the family will  
have left the  
Matlock Bath site by  
31 January.

After the Council meeting on Thursday, there will be 21 working days before Christmas and 42 working days until 31 January. There is no delegated authority to make any decisions on the designation of another site, so at least five clear days need to be subtracted immediately to accommodate the organisation and holding of a Council meeting. If a recommendation on one or both of the two privately owned sites is forthcoming, there will need to be a decision at the Council.

If a decision is made (and there is no guarantee that there will be a positive decision by the Council) it will require the completion of legal agreements with the landowner(s). With the best will in the world, this will take a number of days to resolve even if our own legal services give it immediate and urgent attention, but as there is no guarantee that lawyers acting on behalf of landowners will do the same. We may find that they move with pace, but experience would suggest will be unlikely given their other caseloads.

I would anticipate that a decision on alternative sites will be needed by the Council no later than week commencing 12 December. If no sites are agreed for designation, then (as Tim has outlined below) there is little chance of securing an eviction order from the site at Matlock Bath because of the homelessness duty that the Council has to this specific Traveller family. The absence of a fall-back position will remain a concern until such time as the Council makes a decision on an alternative site(s).

Best wishes,

James

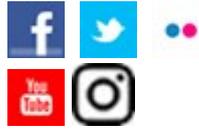
**James  
McLaughlin**  
Director of  
Corporate &  
Customer  
Services

and Monitoring  
Officer



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**From:** Allison,  
Jacqueline  
**Sent:** 21  
November 2022  
10:03  
**To:** Braund, Tim  
<tim.braund@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** McLaughlin,  
James  
<James.McLaughlin@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>; Atkin,  
Jason  
<Jason.Atkin@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>; Burfoot, Sue  
<Susan.Burfoot@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>; Donnelly,  
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**Subject:** Re:  
[OFFICIAL  
(SENSITIVE)]  
Draft Report -  
Gypsy and  
Traveller Site  
Provision  
Working Group

Dear Paul , James

In Tim's absence ,  
if a date needs to  
be put against  
occupation of the  
site at Matlock  
Bath , what do  
officers consider  
is achievable and  
will alleviate  
some of the  
concerns you have  
?

Best, Jacqui

Jacqui Allison

## McLaughlin, James

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**From:** Hobson, Susan  
**Sent:** 24 November 2022 12:22  
**To:** McLaughlin, James  
**Subject:** Proposal Draft

**Categories:** Gypsy and Traveller

I am happy to propose the recommendations in this report:-

This is not my report or that of the officers (although I do thank them for their work and effort supporting the group ) - it a report of the G&TWG and hopefully a “stepping stone” interim report for further work by the group should members agree that it continue it’s work.

DDDC have a duty of care to certain homeless Traveller families in our area and must try to fulfil our obligations.

We must also consider the views of our residents, businesses, parish and town councils.

There has been some email dialogue since the report was published and I have tried to précis the issues discussed later on during this statement.

Since June 2022 this council has had three major discussions regarding temporary locations for the travellers - which have generated much debate, but not offered any new solutions.

The group was set up to be politically proportionate, and to look at the remit in a non-partisan way. For years there has been no different approach to this issue and we wanted to work in a calm and considered way to follow the remit we were given.

Following a timeline issued to all members of the Group, and with an urgency to prepare for a proposed emergency meeting mid November, we proactively arranged site visits from the first week (to fit in with the other commitments of the group members)

I am sure those members that spent two full days on the site visits together found them invaluable - visiting the sites using the matrix documentation prepared by officers, and also having dialogue each week with officers present, as well as with the other members, and listening to their views and those of their wider communities.

We also took on board views expressed at previous meetings and statements from other interested parties.

At the outset Councillor Flitter said that this could not be a “desk top exercise”. Using documentation provided by the council the members first visited all the sites coded “green” by officers. The consensus of the group was that none of these sites were suitable so the group decided to visit the next section of sites on the list - none of those sites were deemed suitable either

Some sites not under direct DDDC control were suggested worthy of urgent further investigation (together with independent consultant support to our officers) but for legal and other reasons I am not able to disclose these locations publicly.

Should the group continue, those sites already known to the G&TWG (and any other sites nominated) can be put forward for urgent work.

I would hope that all members of the group would agree that our discussions were friendly, frank and open, and that everyone had the opportunity to contribute fully at each meeting.

We simply cannot go on moving these families to whom we owe a duty of care from one unsuitable site to another. It is not fair on them and it is not fair on the communities around them.

As a result of the final meeting (of which 9 members out of 11 attended) a consensus was reached and the recommendations you see before you were agreed.

You will see before you the map of the area of Matlock Bath car park that the Travellers are now on. Before 31 January Council have to meet again to agree a further temporary tolerated site. Councillor Purdy and myself have already been in dialogue with Officers to ensure that Matlock Bath has proper facilities and adequate fencing for the privacy and safety of the family concerned.

This remains an urgency to this matter which is why members of the G&TWG are keen to continue their work, as we remain optimistic that with further work we can find other temporary tolerated sites.

We must demonstrate that we are trying to find a fairer way forward for the Traveller families, and the residents and businesses of the Derbyshire Dales, and I would ask you for your support.

Ultimately this is a decision for Members that and I ask that they consider anew approach to this long standing issue.

Kind Regards

Kind Regards

Councillor Susan Hobson  
Deputy Leader Derbyshire Dales District Council Chatsworth Ward Sent from my iPad Kind  
Regards

Councillor Susan Hobson  
Deputy Leader Derbyshire Dales District Council Chatsworth Ward Sent from my iPad