

[REDACTED]

From: Purdy, Garry
Sent: 02 November 2022 19:44
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Wilson, Paul; [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: [OFFICIAL (SENSITIVE)] Travellers - Matlock Bath Coach Park

Thank you [REDACTED]
I have an entry in my diary for mid January next year to ensure that the family will be moved on as indicated
Regards

Sent from my iPad
Cllr Garry W Purdy BSc(Hons)
Leader Derbyshire Dales District Council
Representing Masson Ward

On 2 Nov 2022, at 14:17, [REDACTED] wrote:

Warning External

Good afternoon Paul

Thank you for the update and the assurance that the Travellers will vacate the coach park at the end of January 2023.

We will now continue our marketing investment to encourage the coach industry to return to the Heights and Matlock Bath.

The Heights continues to increase its employment of local talent who create an outstanding experience for our visitors, and this has been acknowledged by a VisitEngland Gold Accolade for "outstanding visitor experience and quality" for a sixth year.

Our partnership with Derbyshire Dales District Council in supporting us with the vital infrastructure and management of the village environment has always been fundamental to our success.

Please pass on our thanks to your team and the members.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

The Heights of Abraham (Matlock Bath) Ltd
Matlock Bath, Derbyshire, DE4 3PD
Tel: [REDACTED]
Mob: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Web: www.heightsofabraham.com

Registered in England- No. 683982

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From: Wilson, Paul <paul.wilson@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>

Sent: 28 October 2022 14:38

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Purdy, Garry <Garry.Purdy@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>

Subject: [OFFICIAL (SENSITIVE)] Travellers - Matlock Bath Coach Park

Importance: High

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

Further to your recent email, I would like to provide you with an update in regard to the issue of temporary tolerated Traveller sites.

As you are all too well aware, the District Council has sought to establish permanent and temporary Traveller sites in the district for decades and has not yet allocated a site for this purpose – however we are making good progress in the pursuit of a permanent site.

On 29th September 2022, the Council established a Gypsy and Traveller Site Provision Working Group to consider the viability of a number of Council owned sites for use as temporary sites for Traveller families with a local connection to the Derbyshire Dales and to whom the Council has a statutory homelessness duty to provide accommodation.

At the same meeting, the Council voted to evict a specific Traveller family from their current encampment at Clifton Road Coach and Car Park in Ashbourne. In making that decision, Members designated Council owned land at Harrison Way, Northwood for temporary occupation by the specific Traveller family.

In October 2022 Members of the Gypsy and Traveller Site Provision Working Group visited various sites across the Derbyshire Dales to undertake assessments of available options in the Council's ownership. Having viewed various sites, Members evaluated those sites against Derbyshire Dales Local Plan Policy HC6 in respect of Gypsy and Traveller Sites. At a meeting of the working group held on 19th October 2022, members of the working group concluded that the site at Harrison Way would not be suitable for occupation at this time and proposed the site at Matlock Bath Station Yard as a more appropriate (but not ideal) alternative. The Working Group considered that the coach park site within Matlock Bath Station Yard Car Park, which had previously accommodated the specific Traveller family, would be a suitable option for occupation during the winter months until 31 January 2023.

In order to give effect to this recommendation, it has been necessary for the Council to take an urgent decision under delegated authority, in accordance with the Council Constitution, following consultation with Political Group Leaders. Having consulted all five political group leaders, there was unanimous (albeit reluctantly from Cllr Purdy as a ward Member for this site) acceptance of the proposal. Following specific feedback from Cllr Purdy, and in accordance with the request in your earlier email, the proposed period of designation as a temporary site has been limited from 1 November 2022 to 31 January 2023.

Discussions are now taking place with the Traveller family and it is anticipated that they will be relocating to Matlock Bath Station in the next week. In taking this difficult decision, the Council is acutely aware of the need for the car park to be vacated by February 2023 and will take the necessary action to ensure that this is achieved.

I trust the advance notice is of assistance, however please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further questions.

Regards
Paul

Paul Wilson
Chief Executive



Town Hall | Matlock | Derbyshire, DE4 3NN
tel (01629) 761126

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 October 2022 15:59
To: Wilson, Paul <paul.wilson@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>
Cc: Garry Purdy <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Travellers - Matlock Bath Coach Park

Warning External

Good afternoon Paul

I understand that the Council finds it necessary to relocate the Travellers to Matlock Bath Coach Park this winter.

The last time the Travellers were in occupation the Heights and the village lost all their coach business, and for several years Matlock Bath was known nationally by operators as a place to be avoided!

After the challenges of the Covid years we have spent considerable funds encouraging the Coach Operators to return, with some success.

The income from the coach business is vital if we are to maintain the high level of employment which is necessary to sustain the quality of the visitor experience we have created.

We therefore need to have confidence that the Travellers will vacate by 10 February 2023.

I look forward to your confirmation that the Council can accommodate this request and thereby support the tourist industry.

Kind regards



The Heights of Abraham (Matlock Bath) Ltd
Matlock Bath, Derbyshire, DE4 3PD

Tel: [REDACTED]

Mob: [REDACTED]

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Do you really need to print out this e-mail? Be Green - keep it on the screen

McLaughlin, James

From: Wilson, Paul
Sent: 03 November 2022 10:06
To: Hobson, Susan
Cc: Braund, Tim; McLaughlin, James; Purdy, Garry
Subject: [OFFICIAL (SENSITIVE)] Traveller Working group - Summary Recommendations

Importance: High

Categories: Gypsy and Traveller

Morning Cllr. Mrs Hobson,

Following last night's meeting of the Traveller Working Group (TWG), officers will now prepare a report on behalf of, but to be presented by, the TWG for a special meeting of Council (date TBC) which will summarise the work of the group to date and their recommendations for council to consider.

If this meeting is to take place before the next scheduled meeting of Council on 24th November, a report will have to be finished next week. Time is therefore in short supply. As requested, the report will be circulated to the TWG for their input before a final version is agreed and published.

In order to ensure that Officers accurately reflect the decisions of the TWG and do not waste time unnecessarily, I outline below what I understand to be the main recommendations of the TWG. A recording of last night's meeting was taken and it will be reviewed as necessary for the purposes of clarification. I suggest that it is also made available for those members of the TWG who have inputted into this process to date but were unable to attend the meeting last night since the report will be presented on their behalf.

My understanding of the recommendations of the meeting last night are as follows:

Current Actions

1. The TWG inform Council that the previously approved temporary tolerated site at Northwood is not considered an appropriate location to relocate the Ashbourne Traveller family and that the family should not be relocated to this site. An urgent decision has already been made and published to this effect.
2. That Matlock station Car Park and Matlock Bath Station Car Park be identified as suitable temporary tolerated sites.
3. That the Ashbourne Traveller family be relocated to Matlock Bath Station Car Park until 31st January 2023. An urgent decision has already been made and published to this effect.

Alternative Temporary Tolerated Sites

4. The TWG were unable to identify any other sites in the Council's ownership that could be identified and used as temporary tolerates sites.
5. That no further consideration be given to any of the Council owned sites as they are all deemed unsuitable.

Further Site Options

6. That Tinti's Yard, Matlock Bath be explored further as a temporary tolerated site

7. That land at Homesford be explored further as a temporary tolerated site.
8. Officers continue to push DCC for a response on the potential of two roadside sites on A515
9. Officers continue to explore options for Ashbourne Depot, having regard to the need to identify alternative equipment storage space for C&G team.
10. There was some discussion about obtaining independent planning advice of the alternative sites? What exactly is required?

In regard to (6) and (7) above, it would be helpful if the TWG could be clear as to what they require i.e. are they wanting officers to enter into lease discussions, outright purchase negotiations or compulsory acquisition? All three of these options were raised at various points but I do not recall a clear steer being given.

Other Matters to be Covered

- Cost of semi-permanent fencing for the Traveller family
- Facilities and services to be provided on-sites
- Delegated authority – to be given to officers but only in regard to the sites identified. The form and mechanism for this delegated needs to be clear.
- Anything else?

Other Issues

- Traveller family engagement – when is this to take place, before or after the Council meeting?
- Who is to meet the family – I don't think they will want to meet the entire TWG
- The TWG indicated that they would continue to meet. I presume that this is receive updates on the provision of the further site options identified above?

At the risk of causing more annoyance than I already have and in the absence of any other Council owned sites being identified, I repeatedly asked the TWG what position the Council is to be recommended to take after 31st January in the event that neither Tinti's Yard nor Homesford are available for temporary tolerated use. The TWG did not provide any positive steer on this critical question, however if we are to manage the Traveller encampment pro-actively and in accordance with the urgent decision that has already been taken and published, this is a question Council will need to answer - especially given the fact that after 24th November, there is not another Council meeting to make such a decision until 26th January 2023 – 5 days before they are due to leave the site.

If you could advise of anything I may have missed or misrepresented, that would be of assistance and will ensure a quick turn-around of a draft report.

Regards
Paul

c.c. Cllr. Purdy, James, Tim – for info

Paul Wilson
Chief Executive



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McLaughlin, James

From: Purdy, Garry
Sent: 03 November 2022 11:06
To: Wilson, Paul
Cc: Hobson, Susan; Braund, Tim; McLaughlin, James
Subject: Re: [OFFICIAL (SENSITIVE)] Traveller Working group - Summary Recommendations

Categories: Gypsy and Traveller

Paul
A less than satisfactory outcome
Why on earth Homesford has been put forward is beyond belief when it has been refused at least three times by our Planning Committee and at least once by a Planning Inspector.
If we approve this we are going to look a complete laughing stock after all these years of refusal, and I can well imagine what Mr Youatt will say!
Whilst I do think Tintis is a possibility, this has been turned down solidly in the past with regard to land/lease issues and an objection from the Police with regard to the rifle range club nearby
I really cannot see Highways at DCC agreeing to the suggestions on the roadside in a lay-by
The very poor outcome leaves me angry and nervous now for the tacit agreement I gave to house the family in the Station car park, Matlock Bath.
With no alternative site for the family to be moved to at the end of January 2023 it is of real concern.
If we do not comply with the commitment to the Heights of Abraham to move the family at the end of January then I would very seriously have to consider my position.
The HOA season starts at the beginning of February and they will be more than furious if the family is still in situ and the coach drivers that bring much needed business to the HOA and Matlock Bath see the camp then the drivers would simply turn around and take their passengers elsewhere as they have done in the past.
To some extent I was relying and perhaps even hopeful that the TWG would have come up with at least one other suggestion for a site.
Evidently not.
I see no point in us meeting the family. What good will that serve.
What consideration has this family given to its neighbours. None.
I also cannot see the point in engaging with any Planning Officers.
What good will that serve
I wait with interest to see the thoughts on our Depot at Ashbourne.
It is fully appreciated that the family in question do not help themselves with the serious impact they have upon residents and businesses wherever they settle, and the many complaints and abuse to some of our Councillors and indeed family Members also is a factor in the decision making
However, until such time as we do have an approved Permanent Traveller site the only tool we have at our disposal to deal with the Traveller families is to move them to another site.
We do not now have that tool in our box!

Sent from my iPad
Cllr Garry W Purdy BSc(Hons)
Leader Derbyshire Dales District Council
Representing Masson Ward

On 3 Nov 2022, at 10:06, Wilson, Paul <paul.wilson@derbyshiredales.gov.uk> wrote:

Morning Cllr. Mrs Hobson,

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10. There was some discussion about obtaining independent planning advice of the alternative sites? What exactly is required?

In regard to (6) and (7) above, it would be helpful if the TWG could be clear as to what they require i.e. are they wanting officers to enter into lease discussions, outright purchase negotiations or compulsory acquisition? All three of these options were raised at various points but I do not recall a clear steer being given.

Other Matters to be Covered

1. Cost of semi-permanent fencing for the Traveller family
2. Facilities and services to be provided on-sites

3. Delegated authority – to be given to officers but only in regard to the sites identified. The form and mechanism for this delegated needs to be clear.
4. Anything else?

Other Issues

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If you could advise of anything I may have missed or misrepresented, that would be of assistance and will ensure a quick turn-around of a draft report.

Regards
Paul

c.c. Cllr. Purdy, James, Tim – for info

Paul Wilson
Chief Executive



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tel (01629) 761126

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McLaughlin, James

From: Hobson, Susan
Sent: 03 November 2022 11:12
To: Wilson, Paul
Cc: Braund, Tim; McLaughlin, James; Purdy, Garry
Subject: Re: [OFFICIAL (SENSITIVE)] Traveller Working group - Summary Recommendations

Categories: Gypsy and Traveller

Paul

In my mind your email gives a correct (to my mind) representation of the meeting last night, with a couple of slight differences.

It was unfortunate that two members were unable to attend but I am sure you were able to see the calm and considered cross party agreement to all those matters discussed.

It was particularly heartening to hear the comments of Councillor Swindell, who had only been able to join this final timetabled meeting.

My understanding is the G&TWG wish officers to move at pace to start negotiations for both T Yard and the site on the A6.

We agreed that independent consultants should also be involved in these negotiations.

Compulsory Purchase or lease options are both acceptable to the group.

We need a response from DCC regarding sites owned by them.

My understanding was that the depot at Ashbourne was going to prove too difficult to move forward due to DDDC operational issues, and also the cemetery next door.

There was an agreement to look again at the "long list" of sites and also for the G&TWG to be continued at the request of full council.

I know that members have commented on the colour ratings for the sites we have already visited so it may be helpful to look at the long list again.

There are several other matters that have previously been raised with James which I will endeavour to send to him before Monday. As you know I also asked those present for any additional comments to be etc in.

Will the meeting notes be circulated to Councillors Flitter and Allison?

Certainly the draft proposals and report (once prepared) must be circulated to all members of the working group as soon as possible together with any date proposed for an extraordinary meeting.

Apologies for brevity of response - I am working this morning

Susan.hobson@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

Sent from my phone

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

From: "Wilson, Paul" <paul.wilson@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>

Date: Thu, 3 Nov 2022, 10:06

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

Cc: "Braund, Tim" <tim.braund@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>, "McLaughlin, James"

<James.McLaughlin@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>, "Purdy, Garry" <Garry.Purdy@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>

Subject: [OFFICIAL (SENSITIVE)] Traveller Working group - Summary Recommendations

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Regards
Paul

c.c. Cllr. Purdy, James, Tim – for info

Paul Wilson
Chief Executive



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tel (01629) 761126

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McLaughlin, James

From: Hobson, Susan
Sent: 06 November 2022 18:31
To: Burfoot, Sue; Allison, Jacqueline; Atkin, Jason; Donnelly, Tom; Flitter, Steve; Lees, Stuart; Morley, Tony; Sutton, Alasdair; Ratcliffe, Mike; Swindell, Colin; Wilson, Paul; Cogings, Robert; Braund, Tim; Shaw, Tommy; McLaughlin, James; Watts, Ashley
Subject: Re: Gypsy and traveller site provision working group
Categories: Gypsy and Traveller

Councillor Burfoot

Sue

The final meeting of the G&TWG was last week and the report will be prepared following our discussions that evening.

Susan.hobson@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

Sent from my phone

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

From: "Burfoot, Sue" <Susan.Burfoot@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>
Date: Sun, 6 Nov 2022, 15:03
To: "Allison, Jacqueline" <Jacqueline.Allison@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>, "Atkin, Jason" <Jason.Atkin@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>, "Donnelly, Tom" <Tom.Donnelly@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>, "Flitter, Steve" <Steve.Flitter@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>, "Hobson, Susan" <Susan.Hobson@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>, "Lees, Stuart" <Stuart.Lees@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>, "Morley, Tony" <Tony.Morley@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>, "Sutton, Alasdair" <Alasdair.Sutton@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>, "Ratcliffe, Mike" <Mike.Ratcliffe@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>, "Swindell, Colin" <Colin.Swindell@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>, "Wilson, Paul" <paul.wilson@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>, "Cogings, Robert" <robert.cogings@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>, "Braund, Tim" <tim.braund@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>, "Shaw, Tommy" <Tommy.Shaw@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>, "McLaughlin, James" <James.McLaughlin@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>, "Watts, Ashley" <ashley.watts@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>
Subject: Gypsy and traveller site provision working group
Dear all

My apologies for missing the meeting on Wednesday the 9th November as I am away for 2 days in Manchester.

I have given much thought and consideration as to where we are in our search for temporary tolerated sites in the Derbyshire Dales, bearing in mind our duty to do so.

I realise how difficult this process is and give credit to the members of the group and officers who have given much time to this.

However, I feel I must highlight the fact that, at the present time, we have only two agreed temporary tolerated sites. These are at Derwent Way Matlock and the Station Yard car park at Matlock Bath. The latter is only available, as I understand it, until the 31st January 2023, and this leaves little time to find a necessary alternative site.

This worries me greatly and in my opinion as a group tasked with finding sites, it is imperative that we need to find and agree at

least two more sites. We need to remember that the two traveller families for whom we have a statutory duty cannot reside on the same site.

Officers have, at the request of the group, contacted DCC regarding the lay bys at Cubley (A515) and at the site known as Bull Hill (A517).

Investigations are ongoing regarding the Woodyard site although I understand the family currently in Ashbourne have said that they will not occupy this site. Also being investigated with regard to the lease, is Tintis at Matlock Bath but I would suggest that this may not be available.

Ash Watts has been asked to look into the possibility of utilising the DDDC depot at Watery Lane in Ashbourne which, in my opinion, would be a suitable site given that we must find a site in the Ashbourne/south area of Derbyshire Dales.

I believe we have also asked our officers to contact DCC about other land they own at Watery Lane.

Having been on the site visits etc my conclusion is that we must find and agree on at least two more temporary tolerated sites very quickly.

I would suggest the following become temporary tolerated sites on the basis that we cannot assume that any of the sites being investigated will be available before the 1st February 2023.

Derwent Way, Matlock. Only for the Price family already there.

Station Yard, Matlock Bath

Temple Walk Car Park Matlock Bath

Old Station Close Car Park Rowsley

Hopefully some of the sites, especially in the Ashbourne area, will be available in the very near future.

We do of course need to bear in mind and take very seriously the views and wishes of the traveller families themselves.

None of us thought any of this would be easy and it certainly is not.

Kind regards

Sue

Sent from my iPad

McLaughlin, James

From: Hobson, Susan
Sent: 08 November 2022 11:47
To: McLaughlin, James
Subject: Response from Cllr Mrs Burfoot

Categories: Gypsy and Traveller

James

I have had a response from Cllr Mrs Burfoot agreeing Derwent Way and the temporary arrangements at the coach park in Matlock Bath

Kind Regards

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