

[REDACTED]

From: Wilson, Paul
Sent: 28 October 2022 14:38
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Purdy, Garry
Subject: [OFFICIAL (SENSITIVE)] Travellers - Matlock Bath Coach Park

Importance: High

Categories: Gypsy and Traveller

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

[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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McLaughlin, James

From: Hobson, Susan
Sent: 28 October 2022 15:08
To: Braund, Tim
Cc: Purdy, Garry; Shirley, Andrew; McLaughlin, James; Wilson, Paul; Donnelly, Tom; Lees, Stuart
Subject: Re: [OFFICIAL (SENSITIVE)] Consultation - Urgent Decision - Designation of Matlock Bath Station Yard Car Park as a Temporary Site for a Specific Traveller Family
Categories: Gypsy and Traveller

Tim

Should a voluntary move take place I do hope that officers will take account of comments already made by the G&TWG in relation to provision of amenities for the Traveller family including toilets, waste bins and adequate fencing that ensure both privacy and safety (particularly for the vulnerable adult in the group).

Kind Regards

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

On 28 Oct 2022, at 12:43, Braund, Tim <tim.braund@derbyshiredales.gov.uk> wrote:

Cllr Purdy

Thank you for your email. You have made some assertions here that I feel I must address, not least for the benefit of the Ashbourne Members you have copied in, as I would not like them to think that action in relation to the encampment on the coach park has been delayed in any way.

Following the resolution at the Council meeting on 29 September, I contacted Dr Spencer at the Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group on 30 September, to explain the decisions taken and to ask for her assistance in persuading the family to leave the site voluntarily. I emailed you, Cllr Hobson, Paul and James about this and you agreed that this was the approach that was agreed at the meeting, albeit it wasn't recorded in the decision.

Officers from the Environmental Health team attended the site the following Monday (3 October) to explain the decision directly to the family and to encourage them to move voluntarily. At this stage the response from the family was one of resignation to the decision, suggesting that they would move of their own accord.

At the same time I asked Ash to arrange for the site at Harrison Way to be cleared as thoroughly as possible, so that the family could view it in the best possible light. This he arranged through the Clean and Green Team. I also asked Ash whether drivers and vehicles could be made available to help the family with the move. He confirmed that up to 8 towing vehicles and 8 experienced drivers would be able to assist. This information was conveyed to both the family and DGLG.

Liaison was maintained with the family and DGLG and it became clear that they were not prepared to move voluntarily. Consequently Directions to Leave were served on the family. These expired on 14 October. The site was visited on 14 October and since the family was still on site and application for an eviction order was made that day to the magistrates' court.

As you know, that application has been challenged through the issue of a JR pre-action letter, through the Community Law Partnership (CLP). This challenge has required the Council to withdraw its current application to the Court. Having spoken with our Legal Team we are of the view that the pre-action letter can be countered and Legal have sent an initial response to CLP. Legal will be following this up with a full rebuttal but I am advised that it is absolutely necessary that this legal issue is fully dealt with before we can recommence legal action.

Taking the legal challenge into account it is very important that we do obtain the views of the family in relation to this new offer. We will need to include this consultation in the documents that we are obliged to submit to the Court as part of a new application for an eviction order – we have to complete a welfare assessment and an eviction rationale, both of which will need to reference the fact that this conversation has taken place. A failure to undertake these steps correctly could lead to further legal challenge with a much higher possibility that such a challenge would be successful, in turn leading to further delays. This is why it is so important that we follow the correct legal process in undertaking evictions.

Paul and I will continue to take advice from our Legal team as to the formal action we can take in light of the unresolved pre-action letter, but in the meantime colleagues will do all they can to secure a voluntary move as quickly as possible.

I hope that this helps to explain the situation.

Regards

Tim

Tim Braund
Director of Regulatory Services



Town Hall | Matlock | Derbyshire, DE4 3NN
tel 01629 761118 | mobile 07775 931052

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From: Purdy, Garry

Sent: 28 October 2022 11:33

To: Braund, Tim <tim.braund@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>

Cc: Hobson, Susan <Susan.Hobson@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>; Shirley, Andrew

<Andrew.Shirley@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>; McLaughlin, James

<James.McLaughlin@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>; Wilson, Paul <paul.wilson@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>;

Donnelly, Tom <Tom.Donnelly@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>; Lees, Stuart

<Stuart.Lees@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: [OFFICIAL (SENSITIVE)] Consultation - Urgent Decision - Designation of Matlock Bath Station Yard Car Park as a Temporary Site for a Specific Traveller Family

Tim

An Urgent Decision Notice has been signed by myself and Cllr Andrew Shirley following an email from James to move the Traveller family from Ashbourne to the Station car park Matlock Bath as soon as the Illuminations at Matlock Bath close on 31 October 2022

Following the Council decision on 29 September 2022 on the Amendment to move the family to the site at Northwood I fully expected that Council approval to be acted upon.

It was not and has added further stress, anger and mental health issues to the people of Ashbourne, and including our Councillors who dare not visit their own Town in the knowledge that they will be further accosted and abused.

It is not a question of what the family think Tim, it is a question now of complying with the Urgent Decision Notice and I therefore expect plans to be put in place for the family to be moved, with the assistance of our Staff on 1st November 2022 and be moved to Matlock Bath.

Feelings are running extremely high in Ashbourne and a Public meeting is being called for and such action could possibly stir tempers more to the point of concern for some vigilante action.

Enough is enough for Ashbourne and so take due notice that I fully expect the action I have detailed to be carried out with the backing of the Emergency Decision Notice signed off.

Sent from my iPad

Cllr Garry W Purdy BSc(Hons)

Leader Derbyshire Dales District Council

Representing Masson Ward

On 28 Oct 2022, at 11:10, Braund, Tim <tim.braund@derbyshiredales.gov.uk> wrote:

Cllr Hobson

Thanks for the email. The Environmental Health team will be visiting the encampment today to discuss the new offer with the family. We should gain some idea about whether they will view this more positively then.

Regards

Tim

Tim Braund

Director of Regulatory Services



Town Hall | Matlock | Derbyshire, DE4 3NN

tel 01629 761118 | mobile 07775 931052

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From: Hobson, Susan

Sent: 28 October 2022 10:52

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

Cc: Shirley, Andrew <Andrew.Shirley@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>; McLaughlin, James <James.McLaughlin@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>; Wilson, Paul <paul.wilson@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>; Braund, Tim <tim.braund@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: [OFFICIAL (SENSITIVE)] Consultation - Urgent Decision - Designation of Matlock Bath Station Yard Car Park as a Temporary Site for a Specific Traveller Family

All

Thank you for agreeing to this urgent decision.

I am told this morning that the mood in Ashbourne is febrile and that there is a lot of negative activity on social media.

Ashbourne members, and their families, are being verbally abused in the town and this cannot be tolerated.

For the sake of the safety of the Traveller family, and also the concerns of the settled community this move must be initiated as soon as possible.

I would like to thank Councillor Purdy for his earlier initiative and, although this was not progressed, he was trying to balance the needs of all those concerned.

It would only be common courtesy for Mr Pugh to be informed officially.

Kind Regards

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

On 28 Oct 2022, at 09:17, Purdy, Garry <Garry.Purdy@derbyshiredales.gov.uk> wrote:

James

As you know I suggested previously that after the close of the Illuminations at the end of October this year that the Traveller family at Ashbourne should be moved to the Station car park Matlock Bath but with the stipulation that they should be moved off at the end of January 2023 (you have the date 2022) prior to the School terms opening of the Heights of Abraham Matlock Bath and so I am pleased to see the stipulation that I requested in your email. I only ever saw the Northwood site as a temporary- temporary situation pending the end of October. I therefore agree this Urgent decision
Garry

Ps I would like a letter being sent to Mr A & R Pugh, Heights of Abraham in order to reassure them of the stipulation at the end of January

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

On 27 Oct 2022, at 22:19, Shirley, Andrew
<Andrew.Shirley@derbyshiredales.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear James,

Thank you for this email which I have read, together with the attached notice. It is my view that you are correct that this is an urgent matter and therefore I approve the designation of the Matlock Bath Station Car Park as a temporary site for a specific traveller family.

Regards

Andrew

Cllr Andrew Shirley
Clifton and Bradley Ward
Derbyshire Dales District Council

Sent from my iPad

On 27 Oct 2022, at 17:20, McLaughlin, James
<James.McLaughlin@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>
wrote:

Good afternoon Cllrs Purdy and Shirley,

I am writing to you as Vice-Chairman of the Council (in the absence of Cllr Mrs Bull) and Leader of the Council because the Gypsy and Traveller Site Provision Working Group has recommended that the coach park within the Matlock Bath Station Yard Car Park be designed as a temporary site for a specific Traveller family from 1 November 2022 until 31 January 2022.

This proposal emerged during a meeting of the working group held on 19 October 2022 following site visits across the district, including the site at Harrison Way, Northwood, which had previously been agreed by the Council on 29 September as a temporary site. 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 an alternative.

Given that there is an existing Council decision to direct the specific Traveller family to Harrison Way, the Council would need to take a further decision to designate the land at Matlock Bath Station Yard. There is no scheduled Council meeting or possibility of making arrangements for an extraordinary meeting of the Council in time, so it would be necessary for an officer (in this case, me) to take an urgent decision on behalf of the Council to give effect to this recommendation so that arrangements can be made to seek the voluntary movement from Clifton Road Coach and Car Park or secure the eviction of the specific Traveller family with a direction to go to Matlock Bath Station Yard Car Park as a designated site. This decision is subject to consultation with you as Vice-Chairman and Leader of the Council.

Before commencing the formal consultation process required by the Constitution, the working group instructed me to consult Political Group Leaders on their views and to establish a further level of political support for their proposal. Having consulted all five group leaders, there is unanimous (albeit reluctantly from Cllr Purdy as a ward Member for this site) acceptance of the proposal. Following the specific feedback from Cllr Purdy, the proposed period of designation as a

temporary site would be from 1 November 2022 to 31 January 2023, during the winter months where there is reduced demand for the parking spaces at this site. The date of 31 January 2022 has also been submitted to the Community Law Partnership, which is acting on behalf of the specific Traveller family, as the period when the Council will not seek eviction from Matlock Bath as an incentive to secure their vacation of the Clifton Road Coach and Car Park by 4 November 2022. It will not be possible to revisit this date if the specific Traveller family comply with the request.

I have prepared a decision notice, which is attached, that seeks to confirm the urgent decision to designate the land at Matlock Bath Station Yard as a temporary site for occupation by a specific Traveller family from 1 November 2022 until 31 January 2023. I am required to consult you before formally and seek your consent to the urgency of this decision, so I would appreciate your response to set out your agreement or otherwise to the proposed decision and its urgency. I am unable to take a decision without your consent to urgency. I would also seek your agreement to the wording of the attached decision notice in respect of this matter, as this is the document that will be published on the Council's website.

Following consultation with the Chairman of the Council and the Leader of the Council I am required to notify the ward Members for Masson Ward of the decision. This is not consultation, but a notification of the decision.

Subject to your consent to the urgency, the decision may be taken and implemented by officers and we will confirm this to the Gypsy and Traveller Site Provision

Working Group and other political group leaders.

I am on leave from today until Monday 7 November, so Paul will be able to assist with or coordinate a response to any queries in the meantime.

Best wishes,
James

James McLaughlin
Director of Corporate & Customer Services
and Monitoring Officer

<image001.jpg>

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[<image002.png>](#) [<image003.png>](#)

[<image004.png>](#) [<image005.png>](#)

[<image006.jpg>](#)

<DRAFT_Record of
Decision_Temporary Traveller
Site_Matlock Bath Station Yard Car
Park.docx>

McLaughlin, James

From: Hobson, Susan
Sent: 28 October 2022 15:10
To: Wilson, Paul
Cc: Murphy, Dermot; McLaughlin, James; Purdy, Garry
Subject: Re: [OFFICIAL (SENSITIVE)] Urgent Decision Notice : Designation of Matlock Bath Station Yard Car Park as a Temporary Site for a Specific Traveller Family
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.png; image003.png; image004.png; image005.png; image006.jpg; Urgent Record of Decision Temporary Traveller Site Matlock Bath Station Yard Car Park November 2022.docx
Categories: Gypsy and Traveller

Councillor Murphy

Dermot

Please see below email to Tim in relation to this matter:-

Tim

Should a voluntary move take place I do hope that officers will take account of comments already made by the G&TWG in relation to provision of amenities for the Traveller family including toilets, waste bins and adequate fencing that ensure both privacy and safety (particularly for the vulnerable adult in the group).

Kind Regards

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

On 28 Oct 2022, at 13:55, Wilson, Paul <paul.wilson@derbyshiredales.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear Cllr. Murphy,

I am writing to you in your capacity as Ward Member for the Masson Ward to inform you that in accordance with the Council's Constitution, an urgent decision has been taken in consultation with the Vice-Chairman of the Council (in the absence of Cllr Mrs Bull) and Leader of the Council, to implement a recommendation of the Gypsy and Traveller Site Provision Working Group to designate the coach park within the Matlock Bath Station Yard Car Park as a temporary site for a specific Traveller family from 1 November 2022 until 31 January 2023.

This proposal emerged during a meeting of the working group held on 19 October 2022 following site visits across the district, including the site at Harrison Way, Northwood, which had previously been agreed by the Council on 29 September as a temporary site. 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 an alternative.

Given that there is an existing Council decision to direct the specific Traveller family to Harrison Way, the Council would need to take a further decision to designate the land at Matlock Bath

Station Yard. There is no scheduled Council meeting or possibility of making arrangements for an extraordinary meeting of the Council in time, so it would be necessary for an officer (in this case James McLaughlin) to take an urgent decision on behalf of the Council to give effect to this recommendation so that arrangements can be made to seek the voluntary movement from Clifton Road Coach and Car Park or secure the eviction of the specific Traveller family with a direction to go to Matlock Bath Station Yard Car Park as a designated site.

Before commencing the formal consultation process required by the Constitution, the working group instructed James McLaughlin to consult Political Group Leaders on their views and to establish a further level of political support for their proposal. 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 the specific feedback from Cllr Purdy, the proposed period of designation as a temporary site would be from 1 November 2022 to 31 January 2023, during the winter months where there is reduced demand for the parking spaces at this site. The date of 31 January 2023 has also been submitted to the Community Law Partnership, which is acting on behalf of the specific Traveller family, as the period when the Council will not seek eviction from Matlock Bath as an incentive to secure their vacation of the Clifton Road Coach and Car Park by 4 November 2022. It will not be possible to revisit this date if the specific Traveller family comply with the request.

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I trust the above 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: Purdy, Garry
Sent: 28 October 2022 15:24
To: Wilson, Paul
Subject: Re: [OFFICIAL (SENSITIVE)] Travellers - Matlock Bath Coach Park

Thanks Paul

Ps
I don't expect you to commit to see [REDACTED] at Masson Mill on Tuesday 8th November, at 2.30pm, unless of course you wish to do so.
It will be interesting to see what plans they have, and if there is a need I will put him in touch with our Business Team.

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

On 28 Oct 2022, at 14:38, Wilson, Paul <paul.wilson@derbyshiredales.gov.uk> wrote:

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.

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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



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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

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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

[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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McLaughlin, James

From: Braund, Tim
Sent: 28 October 2022 15:49
To: Hobson, Susan
Cc: Purdy, Garry; Shirley, Andrew; McLaughlin, James; Wilson, Paul; Donnelly, Tom; Lees, Stuart
Subject: RE: [OFFICIAL (SENSITIVE)] Consultation - Urgent Decision - Designation of Matlock Bath Station Yard Car Park as a Temporary Site for a Specific Traveller Family
Categories: Gypsy and Traveller

Cllr Hobson

Thanks for the email. We always provide toilets and bins when they move sites on land we own. We provide the Heras fencing because that is something we can do quickly and it meets with the family's request. I will speak with Mike Galsworthy about more substantial fencing and see whether it is something that can be installed within the relatively short windows we are talking about, whether it can be moved from site to site and how much it will cost. I will let you have this detail when I have got it.

Regards

Tim

Tim Braund
Director of Regulatory Services



Town Hall | Matlock | Derbyshire, DE4 3NN
tel 01629 761118 | mobile 07775 931052

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From: Hobson, Susan
Sent: 28 October 2022 15:08
To: Braund, Tim <tim.braund@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>
Cc: Purdy, Garry <Garry.Purdy@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>; Shirley, Andrew <Andrew.Shirley@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>; McLaughlin, James <James.McLaughlin@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>; Wilson, Paul <paul.wilson@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>; Donnelly, Tom <Tom.Donnelly@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>; Lees, Stuart <Stuart.Lees@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: [OFFICIAL (SENSITIVE)] Consultation - Urgent Decision - Designation of Matlock Bath Station Yard Car Park as a Temporary Site for a Specific Traveller Family

Tim

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

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Following the resolution at the Council meeting on 29 September, I contacted Dr Spencer at the Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group on 30 September, to explain the decisions taken and to ask for her assistance in persuading the family to leave the site voluntarily. I emailed you, Cllr Hobson, Paul and James about this and you agreed that this was the approach that was agreed at the meeting, albeit it wasn't recorded in the decision.

Officers from the Environmental Health team attended the site the following Monday (3 October) to explain the decision directly to the family and to encourage them to move voluntarily. At this stage the response from the family was one of resignation to the decision, suggesting that they would move of their own accord.

At the same time I asked Ash to arrange for the site at Harrison Way to be cleared as thoroughly as possible, so that the family could view it in the best possible light. This he arranged through the Clean and Green Team. I also asked Ash whether drivers and vehicles could be made available to help the family with the move. He confirmed that up to 8 towing vehicles and 8 experienced drivers would be able to assist. This information was conveyed to both the family and DGLG.

Liaison was maintained with the family and DGLG and it became clear that they were not prepared to move voluntarily. Consequently Directions to Leave were served on the family. These expired on 14 October. The site was visited on 14 October and since the family was still on site and application for an eviction order was made that day to the magistrates' court.

As you know, that application has been challenged through the issue of a JR pre-action letter, through the Community Law Partnership (CLP). This challenge has required the Council to withdraw its current application to the Court. Having spoken with our Legal Team we are of the view that the pre-action letter can be countered and Legal have sent an initial response to CLP. Legal will be following this up with a full rebuttal but I am advised that it is absolutely necessary that this legal issue is fully dealt with before we can recommence legal action.

Taking the legal challenge into account it is very important that we do obtain the views of the family in relation to this new offer. We will need to include this consultation in the documents that we are obliged to submit to the Court as part of a new application for an eviction order – we have to complete a welfare assessment and an eviction rationale, both of which will need to reference the fact that this conversation has taken place. A failure to undertake these steps correctly could lead to further legal challenge with a much higher possibility that such a challenge would be successful, in turn leading to further delays. This is why it is so important that we follow the correct legal process in undertaking evictions.

Paul and I will continue to take advice from our Legal team as to the formal action we can take in light of the unresolved pre-action letter, but in the meantime colleagues will do all they can to secure a voluntary move as quickly as possible.

I hope that this helps to explain the situation.

Regards

Tim

Tim Braund
Director of Regulatory Services



Town Hall | Matlock | Derbyshire, DE4 3NN
tel 01629 761118 | mobile 07775 931052

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From: Purdy, Garry

Sent: 28 October 2022 11:33

To: Braund, Tim <tim.braund@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>

Cc: Hobson, Susan <Susan.Hobson@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>; Shirley, Andrew

<Andrew.Shirley@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>; McLaughlin, James

<James.McLaughlin@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>; Wilson, Paul <paul.wilson@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>;

Donnelly, Tom <Tom.Donnelly@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>; Lees, Stuart

<Stuart.Lees@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: [OFFICIAL (SENSITIVE)] Consultation - Urgent Decision - Designation of Matlock Bath Station Yard Car Park as a Temporary Site for a Specific Traveller Family

Tim

An Urgent Decision Notice has been signed by myself and Cllr Andrew Shirley following an email from James to move the Traveller family from Ashbourne to the Station car park Matlock Bath as soon as the Illuminations at Matlock Bath close on 31 October 2022

Following the Council decision on 29 September 2022 on the Amendment to move the family to the site at Northwood I fully expected that Council approval to be acted upon.

It was not and has added further stress, anger and mental health issues to the people of Ashbourne, and including our Councillors who dare not visit their own Town in the knowledge that they will be further accosted and abused.

It is not a question of what the family think Tim, it is a question now of complying with the Urgent Decision Notice and I therefore expect plans to be put in place for the family to be moved, with the assistance of our Staff on 1st November 2022 and be moved to Matlock Bath.

Feelings are running extremely high in Ashbourne and a Public meeting is being called for and such action could possibly stir tempers more to the point of concern for some vigilante action.

Enough is enough for Ashbourne and so take due notice that I fully expect the action I have detailed to be carried out with the backing of the Emergency Decision Notice signed off.

Sent from my iPad

CLlr Garry W Purdy BSc(Hons)
Leader Derbyshire Dales District Council
Representing Masson Ward

On 28 Oct 2022, at 11:10, Braund, Tim <tim.braund@derbyshiredales.gov.uk> wrote:

CLlr Hobson

Thanks for the email. The Environmental Health team will be visiting the encampment today to discuss the new offer with the family. We should gain some idea about whether they will view this more positively then.

Regards

Tim

Tim Braund
Director of Regulatory Services



Town Hall | Matlock | Derbyshire, DE4 3NN
tel 01629 761118 | mobile 07775 931052

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From: Hobson, Susan

Sent: 28 October 2022 10:52

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

Cc: Shirley, Andrew <Andrew.Shirley@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>; McLaughlin, James <James.McLaughlin@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>; Wilson, Paul <paul.wilson@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>; Braund, Tim <tim.braund@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: [OFFICIAL (SENSITIVE)] Consultation - Urgent Decision - Designation of

Matlock Bath Station Yard Car Park as a Temporary Site for a Specific Traveller Family

All

Thank you for agreeing to this urgent decision.

I am told this morning that the mood in Ashbourne is febrile and that there is a lot of negative activity on social media.

Ashbourne members, and their families, are being verbally abused in the town and this cannot be tolerated.

For the sake of the safety of the Traveller family, and also the concerns of the settled community this move must be initiated as soon as possible.

I would like to thank Councillor Purdy for his earlier initiative and, although this was not progressed, he was trying to balance the needs of all those concerned.

It would only be common courtesy for Mr Pugh to be informed officially.

Kind Regards

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

On 28 Oct 2022, at 09:17, Purdy, Garry
<Garry.Purdy@derbyshiredales.gov.uk> wrote:

James

As you know I suggested previously that after the close of the Illuminations at the end of October this year that the Traveller family at Ashbourne should be moved to the Station car park Matlock Bath but with the stipulation that they should be moved off at the end of January 2023 (you have the date 2022) prior to the School terms opening of the Heights of Abraham Matlock Bath and so I am pleased to see the stipulation that I requested in your email. I only ever saw the Northwood site as a temporary- temporary situation pending the end of October.

I therefore agree this Urgent decision

Garry

Ps I would like a letter being sent to Mr A & R Pugh, Heights of Abraham in order to reassure them of the stipulation at the end of January

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

On 27 Oct 2022, at 22:19, Shirley, Andrew
<Andrew.Shirley@derbyshiredales.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear James,

Thank you for this email which I have read, together with the attached notice. It is my view that you are correct that this is an urgent matter and therefore I approve the designation of the Matlock Bath Station Car Park as a temporary site for a specific traveller family.

Regards

Andrew

Cllr Andrew Shirley
Clifton and Bradley Ward
Derbyshire Dales District Council

Sent from my iPad

On 27 Oct 2022, at 17:20, McLaughlin, James
<James.McLaughlin@derbyshiredales.gov.uk>
wrote:

Good afternoon Cllrs Purdy and Shirley,

I am writing to you as Vice-Chairman of the Council (in the absence of Cllr Mrs Bull) and Leader of the Council because the Gypsy and Traveller Site Provision Working Group has recommended that the coach park within the Matlock Bath Station Yard Car Park be designed as a temporary site for a specific Traveller family from 1 November 2022 until 31 January 2022.

This proposal emerged during a meeting of the working group held on 19 October 2022 following site visits across the district, including the site at Harrison Way, Northwood, which had previously been agreed by the Council on 29 September as a temporary site. 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 an alternative.

Given that there is an existing Council decision to direct the specific Traveller family to Harrison Way, the Council would need to take a further decision to designate the land at Matlock Bath Station Yard. There is no scheduled Council meeting or possibility of making arrangements for an extraordinary meeting of the Council in time, so it would be necessary for an officer (in this case, me) to take an urgent decision on behalf of the Council to give effect to this recommendation so that arrangements can be made to seek the voluntary movement from Clifton Road Coach and Car Park or secure the eviction of the specific Traveller family with a direction to go to Matlock Bath Station Yard Car Park as a designated site. This decision is subject to consultation with you as Vice-Chairman and Leader of the Council.

Before commencing the formal consultation process required by the Constitution, the working group instructed me to consult Political Group Leaders on their views and to establish a further level of political support for their proposal. Having consulted all five group leaders, there is unanimous (albeit reluctantly from Cllr Purdy as a ward Member for this site) acceptance of the proposal. Following the specific feedback from Cllr Purdy, the proposed period of designation as a temporary site would be from 1 November 2022 to 31 January 2023, during the winter months where there is reduced demand for the parking spaces at this site. The date of 31 January 2022 has also been submitted to the Community Law Partnership, which is acting on behalf of the specific Traveller family, as the period when the Council will not seek eviction from Matlock Bath as an incentive to secure their vacation of the Clifton Road Coach and Car Park by 4 November 2022. It will not be possible to revisit this date if the specific Traveller family comply with the request.

I have prepared a decision notice, which is attached, that seeks to confirm the urgent decision to designate the land at Matlock Bath Station Yard as a temporary site for

occupation by a specific Traveller family from 1 November 2022 until 31 January 2023. I am required to consult you before formally and seek your consent to the urgency of this decision, so I would appreciate your response to set out your agreement or otherwise to the proposed decision and its urgency. I am unable to take a decision without your consent to urgency. I would also seek your agreement to the wording of the attached decision notice in respect of this matter, as this is the document that will be published on the Council's website.

Following consultation with the Chairman of the Council and the Leader of the Council I am required to notify the ward Members for Masson Ward of the decision. This is not consultation, but a notification of the decision.

Subject to your consent to the urgency, the decision may be taken and implemented by officers and we will confirm this to the Gypsy and Traveller Site Provision Working Group and other political group leaders.

I am on leave from today until Monday 7 November, so Paul will be able to assist with or coordinate a response to any queries in the meantime.

Best wishes,
James

James McLaughlin
Director of Corporate &
Customer Services
and Monitoring Officer

<image001.jpg>

Town Hall | Matlock |
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(01629) 761281

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<image002.png> <image003.png>
<image004.png> <image005.png>
<image006.jpg>

<DRAFT_Record of
Decision_Temporary Traveller

Site_Matlock Bath Station Yard
Car Park.docx>

McLaughlin, James

From: Murphy, Dermot
Sent: 01 November 2022 14:50
To: Wilson, Paul
Subject: Re: [OFFICIAL (SENSITIVE)] Urgent Decision Notice : Designation of Matlock Bath Station Yard Car Park as a Temporary Site for a Specific Traveller Family
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.png; image003.png; image004.png; image005.png; image006.jpg; Urgent Record of Decision Temporary Traveller Site Matlock Bath Station Yard Car Park November 2022.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Thank you Paul

I have spoken to several folk in the area and they are not happy, no surprise there then. As you say your advising rather consulting. I would prefer the Temple site myself but officers and others have deemed it agreeable that the Station Yard Car Park to be the next site of occupancy.

How are we going to stop others joining the camp as they have done so in the past, this is when most of the issues start. The businesses locally are going to suffer from the coaches not wanting to turn up as before, the message will soon get out. On the 31st January where are the travellers going to be moved on to?

Sent from my iPad

On 28 Oct 2022, at 13:55, Wilson, Paul <paul.wilson@derbyshiredales.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear Cllr. Murphy,

I am writing to you in your capacity as Ward Member for the Masson Ward to inform you that in accordance with the Council's Constitution, an urgent decision has been taken in consultation with the Vice-Chairman of the Council (in the absence of Cllr Mrs Bull) and Leader of the Council, to implement a recommendation of the Gypsy and Traveller Site Provision Working Group to designate the coach park within the Matlock Bath Station Yard Car Park as a temporary site for a specific Traveller family from 1 November 2022 until 31 January 2023.

This proposal emerged during a meeting of the working group held on 19 October 2022 following site visits across the district, including the site at Harrison Way, Northwood, which had previously been agreed by the Council on 29 September as a temporary site. 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 an alternative.

Given that there is an existing Council decision to direct the specific Traveller family to Harrison Way, the Council would need to take a further decision to designate the land at Matlock Bath Station Yard. There is no scheduled Council meeting or possibility of making arrangements for an extraordinary meeting of the Council in time, so it would be necessary for an officer (in this case James McLaughlin) to take an urgent decision on behalf of the Council to give effect to this recommendation so that arrangements can be made to seek the voluntary movement from Clifton