

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

COUNCIL HELD ON 08 JULY 2021

Item 12 – GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS

QUESTIONS from Mr Darren Archer, Ashbourne Local Resident

“I wish to submit the following questions for the council meeting to be held on the 8th July I do not wish to appear or speak at the meeting.

- 1. How long they expect it to be until the proposed permanent site will be ready and as such will these temporary stopping places be in place until the permanent site is ready.*
- 2. Under what legislation can the District Council designate a 'negotiated stopping place'. This is not explained in the officer report*
- 3. What happens should the travellers choose not to move on to the next temporary site after the 8 week period on one site has ended and what will be the process and potential costs incurred for forcing the traveller families to move on.*

RESPONSE

- Q1. It is difficult to provide an exact timeframe as there are a number of steps to go through; (i) undertaking the land contamination assessment and responding to any further recommendations (ii) information from utilities (iii) private water supply assessment (iv) completion of an appropriate design, (v) planning application, (vi) if approved, tender for works (vii) construction.**
- Q2. Under the Housing Act 1996 a Gypsy or Traveller is homeless if they do not have a lawful place on which they can put their caravan or living vehicle. If a Gypsy or Traveller is homeless then the local authority must offer them suitable accommodation. If permanent accommodation is not available then the local authority needs to provide suitable temporary accommodation.**
- Q3. If a decision is made that an encampment should cease at one location and move to another it is expected that the family concerned will cooperate. If they do not then the Council may use its existing powers under either the Civil Procedure Rules or the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994**

The cost would depend on whether we applied for an order of possession in the County Court or for an eviction of traveller through the Magistrates Court.

In the County court the issue fee is £355 and bailiff fees are £121

In the Magistrates Court there is no issue fee and we have to use private bailiff firms which is approximately £600-£1000 depending on the number of bailiffs, traveller and time taken. For very large evictions it can be more.

Item 12 – GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS & Item 13 – STIMULATING TOWN CENTRES POST COVID-19

STATEMENT and QUESTION from Patricia Parsons, Bakewell Summertime Local Resident

“We are summer residents in the Bakewell area, but have been unable to come for obvious reasons.

On the subject of fees or parking fines in the town areas, it would seem a sensible plan to allow vehicles parking without fees or fines, just to support the re-growth of town businesses through Covid. For the future’s benefit, holding to current rules, made for easier times, is not practical.

Has the council considered a small multi-passenger vehicle pick-up point to carry shoppers in, if parking in town is tight?

On subject to “Gypsy and Traveller”, an on-going problem, possibly now influenced on a larger scale by out-of-workers. Are there farm of large land-owners interested and helpful to opening any out-of-the-way area for the purpose of these sites? Perhaps encouraged with a small stipend from the local council?

Would very much like to know the outcome of these discussions.

Thanks.”

RESPONSE

In relation to the question about Gypsy and Traveller sites, the Council is committed to helping to find a permanent site for the families to whom it owes a homelessness duty. As part of that commitment we have issued several ‘calls for sites’. So far this process has not produced a single site that could be developed for this purpose. However, we would be pleased to talk with any land owners about this matter.