

COUNCIL – 19 NOVEMBER 2019

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR J GEARY TO COUNCILLOR R ASHMAN

Travellers Site within our District

“I would like to refer you to the return of the travellers who were located in Coalville, firstly on the town centre car park until the Police moved them on. They then decided to set up home on the old Snibston Discovery Park site on Ashby Road, allegedly destroying part of the fencing to enable them to gain access, at yet another cost to the Local Government taxpayer.

This will be the third time I have tabled a question at a Council meeting asking just what we are doing to address this problem and when will we have a Warden Controlled Site within our District.

I ask this question of Officers just to be told that they are still looking at sites and how many they have considered to date. Well maybe it's now time for me to say just looking at sites is no longer sufficient, we have been looking at sites for three years or more, we now need to identify and establish a traveller site as a priority so we are able to take some control of this ongoing problem.

Would the Portfolio Holder respond to the points I have made?

RESPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR R ASHMAN

“The identification of suitable sites is a matter for the Local Plan Committee as part of the Substantive Review of the Local Plan.

In March 2018 officers had prepared a draft allocations document which identified a potential site for transit purposes at Ashby de la Zouch. However, members and the local community expressed significant concerns about this and so the plan was not taken forward. The plan had also identified a potential site for travelling showpeople on the former Measham Mine site. A planning application was subsequently submitted on this site for travelling showpeople but due to a change in the circumstances of ownership this was withdrawn. Additional consultancy resource has recently been taken on to undertake a further search for potential sites.

The outcome of this will be a matter for the Local plan Committee in due course as part of the Substantive Review. It is anticipated that a draft plan will be published in 2020 which will identify potential sites.”