

COUNCIL – TUESDAY, 18 JUNE 2024

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR J GEARY TO COUNCILLOR K MERRIE

“Had it not been for the prompt action of the local Police Force travellers would have set up camp on The Scotland’s Playing Field last month. Should they have succeeded this Authority would have once again incurred cost of evicting them along with the costs of cleaning up the site and repairing damage caused to the grounds.

When I submitted a question enquiring when this Council would have a warden controlled site for the travel community in our district back in November 2018, Councillor Pendleton replied, “The need to make provision for gypsies and travellers is something which the Council is aware of. We have been working to identify potential sites” and went on to say, ‘to date over 500 sites have been looked at’.

This is now the sixth time I have asked this question at Council meetings and am now hopeful of a positive answer.

When will this Council have a warden-controlled site to accommodate Gypsies and Travellers passing through our District?”

REPOSENSE FROM COUNCILLOR K MERRIE TO COUNCILLOR J GEARY

“I recognise the concern raised by Cllr Geary in relation to the time it has taken to deal with the matter of gypsy and traveller sites and I’m sure he will recognise the significant difficulties in finding suitable sites in the district. I can confirm that Officers are currently investigating options for addressing the issue of transit accommodation in respect of both permanent and temporary sites as the Local Plan Review progresses. The intention is for Officers to bring forward a report to members of the Local Plan Committee before the end of the year.

I have asked Officers to keep Cllr Geary updated on progress and to make him aware when the issue is to be reported to Local Plan Committee.”