

COUNCIL – TUESDAY, 13 MAY 2025

ITEM 9 – QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR J GEARY TO THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER

“Once again, our travelling friends paid us a visit a couple of weeks ago, this time setting up home on the London Road Park, so I again ask the question as to what progress is being made in finding the travelling community a suitable site within our district.

I last asked this question at the Council Meeting of the 18th June last. You replied by saying “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 progress. The intention is for Officers to bring forward a report to members of the Local Plan Committee before the end of the year”.

You went on to say “I have asked Officers to keep Cllr Geary updated on progress and to make him aware when the issue is to be reported to the Local Plan Committee”, to date no such information has been forthcoming.”

RESPONSE FROM THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER TO COUNCILLOR J GEARY

Unfortunately, it has not been possible to make the progress we had hoped on this issue due to other important work in respect of the emerging Local Plan, including consulting upon additional housing and employment site allocations and addressing responses to the proposed policies consulted upon last year.

We have recently received some additional funding from the Government to support the preparation of Local Plans and we are looking to bring in some additional capacity to help address the gypsy and traveller’s issue. Officers are aware that this is an important issue to be addressed in the preparation of the Local Plan and they will take a report to Local Plan Committee as soon as they are able.