

Cllr Francine Haeberling  
Conservative Group Leader  
Bath and North East Somerset Council

Tel: 01225 872199  
Email: francine\_haeberling@bathnes.gov.uk

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Dear Resident,

**RE: Traveller site proposal, Old Colliery, Stanton Wick**

The search for appropriate locations for authorised gypsy and traveller sites has been utterly mishandled by Bath and North East Somerset Council.

As a councillor on this authority, and leader of the opposition Conservative Group, I am ashamed of the way residents have been treated.

The B&NES Liberal Democrat Cabinet has shown a complete disregard for the genuine concerns of local residents and has proposed sites which are wholly unsuitable.

The Stanton Wick site clearly fails to meet Government criteria for the allocation of gypsy and traveller sites; it is within the Greenbelt, is on contaminated land, has inadequate access to local amenities, and its scale would dominate the nearby community.

**This site should not, and must not, go ahead.**

Conservative councillors are totally opposed to the allocation of the Old Colliery as a traveller site. We applaud the efforts of the local community in fighting these proposals and the excellent arguments made by local people at public meetings.

To support these efforts, Conservative councillors have spoken out against the Council's plans at Cabinet and Council meetings, and at a recent Council Scrutiny Panel meeting voted to call on the Cabinet to halt these plans.

But the Liberal Democrats are still not listening. Despite these calls, they have decided to plough on regardless.

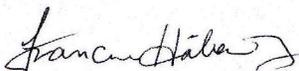
**Conservatives have therefore taken the rare step of calling for a Special Meeting of the Full Council to debate these plans.**

This will give all councillors the chance to hear the views of residents, properly debate the proposals, and hopefully force the Cabinet to go back to the drawing board and come up with a more appropriate list of sites.

With the support of the whole community, I believe that we can win this argument. We will continue to keep the Parish Council and Stanton Wick Action Group up to date with information on the Special Council Meeting and any other developments.

If you would like to discuss this matter any further, please do not hesitate to get on contact with me.

Yours faithfully,



Cllr Francine Haeberling,  
Leader, Bath and North East Somerset Conservative Group