

## **Treacle Valley Camp Site Meeting 11:00 am 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**In attendance**            Mr Steven Hobbs (Senior Planning Enforcement Officer) (SH)  
                                 Mr Graham Smith (Scientific Officer Environmental Control) (GS)  
                                 Mr John Pilgrim Site Manager (JP)  
                                 Parish Cllr Vince Flower (VF)  
                                 Alan Bristow (for latter part of meeting) (AB)

### **Background**

VF met with SH and GS briefly outside and set the background for the gathering. VF explained that the Parish Council was not opposed to the existence of the camp site, but we did have a number of concerns about the way in which it is being managed and the deteriorating relationships between the site management and the local community. VF said that, from our perspective, the meeting was aimed at clearing the air, discussing the main areas of concern, with a view to resetting matters and agreeing a way forward, ahead of this coming summer season.

AB was not present for the first half of the meeting, which lasted 50 minutes.

The conversation took place in the top field between the toilet block and the shop at the entrance.

No members of the public were present.

The following issues were discussed:

### **Second Field Use**

SH made it clear that their permission to use the second field for 48 days per year came with a number of conditions, that the authority both expected and required the owners / operators to fully comply with.

SH also asked JP if they didn't want to comply fully with all the conditions, then they did have the option of forfeiting the permission of using the second field for 48 days, reverting to the old 28-day rule. This proposal was flatly rejected by JP. SH reaffirmed the point that they had to therefore fully comply, and the authority would ensure that they did so.

There was a great deal of anecdotal talk from JP about the various "one-off" incidents from last year plus the various confrontations they had with the neighbours. Nothing new was mentioned here though.

GS suggested it might make sense for JP to publish, in advance, the planned operating dates for the second field, making them available to the community. JP said that this simply wasn't practical.

SH asked that we, the Parish Council, maintain a detailed record of the number of days the second field is used each year.

### **Environmental Requirements**

SH asked where they were, in terms of their compliance, with all the environmental requirements and JP confirmed that apart from the installation of the bat signs, they were now compliant.

### **Resident Manager**

GS asked JP directly about the night management arrangements. GS asked whether they would be prepared to have someone live on site to manage the campsite at night. JP explained why this wouldn't work, stating they are normally there until late etc.

JP did say that AB was considering moving back to the farm for the summer.

AB later confirmed, in a side conversation with VF, that he was planning to do so.

VF also challenged JP when he stated that they always answered any calls made to them at night regarding incidents. When challenged that this was not correct, JP conceded that they had stopped doing this, due to the level of abuse they were getting from the neighbours.

### **Noise**

GS updated all on the guidance regarding noise, after JP indicated that he wanted someone to explain what was and what was not acceptable.

GS said that loud music pumped out from amps was not acceptable. He also said that people had the right to enjoy themselves and he made it clear that the authority would not act in response to single one-off incidents. He mentioned that unlike Torbay and some other local councils, Teignbridge District Council did not have any resource dedicated to measuring noise nuisance, so they were not in a position to send anyone out to measure incidents.

JP agreed to give GS direct access to the webcam, which is located on the shop, in order that he could take a look and monitor activity, from time to time. JP stated that the camera also picked up sound. GS agreed to exchange contact numbers with JP in order that they could speak directly, if necessary.

We discussed the sign which read that noise is not an emergency and they were told to take that down.



VF mentioned the comments made on the PitchUp site encouraging customers to annoy the neighbours, stating that this was both totally unacceptable and ill-advised from a business point of view. SH & GS also stated that this was not acceptable behaviour.

### **Late Arrivals**

We discussed at length the issues caused by people arriving late at night. Both SH and GS expressed a view that they should not allow people to arrive after a certain time. JP would not accept that this was feasible. JP kept blaming the M5 being closed by accidents for people turning up late! The discussions around this point were not conclusive.

VF mentioned that the website and PitchUp did not make it clear, the rules / guidance regarding times to arrive etc. This point was accepted by JP and AB; the latter adding that he had / would ensure that this would be done.

### **Glamping Pod**

JP mentioned at the end of the meeting that they are considering installing a glamping pod on the site. SH told them that they would have to apply for full planning permission for that.

### **Conclusion**

Overall, it was a useful and productive meeting which hopefully will help matters. Both JP and AB indicated a desire and willingness to try and rebuild their relationship with the community.

VF thanked all for attending.