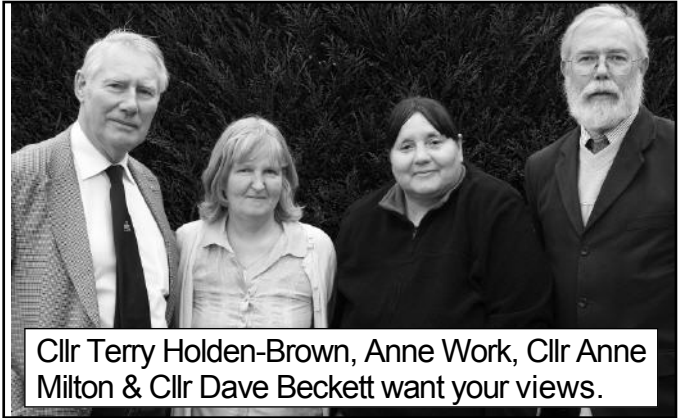


swaythling FOCUS

Delivered free to Swaythling, Hampton Park & Mansbridge
www.southampton-libdems.org.uk



Cllr Terry Holden-Brown, Anne Work, Cllr Anne Milton & Cllr Dave Beckett want your views.

Have your say on transit site...

Your local FOCUS team want your views on the proposal for a short stay site for gypsies and travellers (for up to twelve pitches) at Monk's Brook. There is a survey with this special edition of FOCUS, which you can complete and return to us. Before you complete it you might want to consider some of the facts on the back page of this newsletter. We are elected to represent your views and will do this throughout the process.



Sandra Gidley MP
wants your views

Sandra Gidley MP
01794 511900
Cllr Terry Holden Brown
0845 3453968
Anne Work
80550434
Cllr.A.Milton@southampton.gov.uk
Cllr.D.Beckett@southampton.gov.uk

**...by returning the
survey delivered with
this FOCUS by end of Feb**

Taking Action



Your local LIB DEM
Councillors have arranged for:

- an **independently chaired public meeting** to enable people to express their concerns and receive accurate information and answers to their questions,
- the **Cabinet decision to be deferred** until after the public meeting,
- ◆ a **Drop-in session at St George's School, Sat. 10th Feb. from 9.00 – 11.00 am,**
- ◆ a **Public Q & A at St George's School, Sat. 10th Feb. at 11.00 am,**
- ◆ a **Drop-in session at Mansbridge School, Sat. 10th Feb. at 14.00 - 15.45**
- ◆ **Cabinet decision on seeking Government funding, Civic Centre, NOW Mon. 26th Feb. at 4.00pm so you can send your views.**
- ◆ **Planning Committee hearing: date to be announced.**

Your Lib Dem ward councillors will keep you informed of the date of the Planning meeting, and how you can make your views known.

Before YOU decide

a few helpful facts to consider

- ① Many residents want to know why the city needs a transit site. The **Labour Government** requires all local authorities to make provision for travellers.
- ② A **Council Scrutiny Committee consisting of Conservative, Labour and Lib Dem councillors recommended establishing a Transit Site**, which travellers could use for not more than 3 months of the year, as the best way of meeting the need.
- ③ Councils that set up a Transit site will be able to use **extra powers to move travellers from illegal encampments**.
- ④ There are an average of 25 illegal encampments each year in Southampton, costing around £100,000 of Council Taxpayers money.
- ⑤ **There have been 9 illegal encampments in Swaythling over the past 3 years.**
- ⑥ Until the end of February, there is a Government fund to meet the costs of establishing a Transit site.
- ⑦ **A well managed Transit site, with proper facilities, will save money, reduce mess, protect more sensitive sites, and enable supervision.**
- ⑧ The Conservatives agree Southampton needs a Transit site – they are just not prepared to be honest about where such a site might get planning permission and Government funding.

and a few false claims

- ① The Conservatives have proposed, at the last minute, that the Transit Site be located alongside the Council's Permanent Travellers Site at Kane's Hill. **They know this is not possible.** The present site is fully occupied with a waiting list, and expansion would have no prospect of planning permission.
- ② The Conservatives claim they were not consulted. This is untrue. **A confidential briefing was held for all councillors, with senior Conservatives present, at which the full list of sites investigated was revealed.**
- ③ A 'residents meeting', announced by **anonymous circular, turned out to be a Conservative led meeting**, 'chaired' by a Tory councillor with no connections with Swaythling.
- ④ Other anonymous circulars have been full of inaccurate claims – for example: 'The Council...specifically mention that one of the reasons this area was selected was its proximity to local residential property.'

All the Council's statements make it perfectly clear that one of the reasons is that this site is furthest from residents and businesses.

WHAT LOCAL RESIDENTS SAY ABOUT KANE'S HILL TENANTS

Our travellers are as good as gold. 'There's no problem with travellers here at all.' Thornhill residents on Kanes Hill caravan site, quoted in 'The Echo'.

Please send us your views

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Cllr Terry Holden-Brown, Anne Work, Cllr Anne Milton & Cllr Dave Beckett want your views.




Return to: Liberal Democrats, FREEPOST,
Southampton, SO19 7WA

Dear Resident,

Please complete this survey so your local Councillors and MP can hear your views on the proposal for a transit site at Monk's Brook and keep you updated on the issue. Your Councillors have already called on Council officers to answer some key questions raised by local residents. These include:-

- What level of **supervision** will the site have? What measures will be taken to ensure **community safety**?
- Isn't the **railway line** dangerous?
- Won't local **footpaths** expose residents to risk?
- Can the site be **landscaped** so as to be invisible from nearby homes?
- How will the **extra traffic** be handled?
- Won't there be unreasonable pressure on **local schools** etc.?
- Isn't **flooding** a serious problem?
- Will **natural habitats** be affected?
- What about the effect on the **value of houses** locally?

Stay updated by returning
this survey.

Special Edition: 
Transit Site
Residents' Survey

About You...

Householder 1:

First name:.....

Surname:.....

Householder 2:

First name:.....

Surname:.....

Email:

Address:

Phone:

Your Concerns?

Which of the following issues concern you most if there were to be a transit site at Monk's Brook?
(Please put as many as you wish in order of importance, 1 – 2 – 3 etc.)

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Community Safety | Safety of travellers | Level of supervision |
| Landscaping | Traffic | Schools etc. |
| Flooding | Habitat | House Prices |
| Other (please specify) | | |

**Please return to: Liberal Democrats, FREEPOST,
Southampton, SO19 7WA**

Which Location ?

Which factors should be most important in deciding the location for a transit site? (Please put as many as you wish in order of importance, 1 – 2 – 3 etc.)

- Distance from homes to be screened Distance from businesses Cost Ability
- Traffic management Safety
- Prospect of Government funding Environmental impact
- Other (please specify)



A City Site?

Should the Council cut down on illegal encampments by establishing a Transit site in Southampton? (please tick one option)

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Follow the funding?

If it is the site most likely to gain Planning consent and Government funding, would a well-managed and landscaped site at Monks Brook be acceptable? (please tick one option)

- Yes
- No
- Don't know



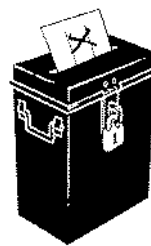
My suggestion

What alternatives would you suggest?

My views

Which of the following parties are you most likely to vote for in the next City Elections? (please tick one option)

- Householder 1 & 2
- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Lib Dem |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Lib Dem or Labour |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Lib Dem or Conservative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Labour |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Conservative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Green |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other _____ |



Keeping Updated

I would like to help keep residents updated on this issue and can help them by:

- Delivering FOCUS newsletters in my road (It takes only 30-40 minutes to deliver every 6-8 weeks.)
- Making a donation (cheques payable to 'Southampton Liberal Democrats')
- Helping out with clerical work at home
- Helping survey fellow residents in my area

Your FOCUS Team



Sandra Gidley MP

01794 511900

Cllr Terry Holden Brown

0845 3453968

Anne Work

80550434



Cllr Anne Milton

Cllr.a.milton@southampton.gov.uk

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