

FUTURE OPTIONS FOR TORLOCHAN TRAVELLERS SITE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At the Bute and Cowal Area Committee in December 2019 a motion was put forward concerning the future options of the Torlochan Travellers Site. The Area Committee requested Officers engage with ACHA to explore all options available at present for the use of this site and to submit a report to the next meeting of the Area Committee.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Committee note the content of the report

3.0 DETAIL

- 3.1 The Bute and Cowal Area Committee were asked to consider the future use of the Torlochan Travellers site at meetings on 5th September 2017 and 4th September 2018. The site is owned by Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) and was one of three Travellers sites transferred to ACHA at Stock Transfer in 2006. The Council retained the statutory duty to assess and meet the needs of the Gypsy Traveller community.
- 3.2 In September 2017 the Area Committee agreed to encourage ACHA to consult with local community groups to identify a community use for the site and, if no such suitable use can be found, agree in principle to support the mothballing of Torlochan site, subject to any future evidence of unmet need in the area.

- 3.3 In September 2018 the Area Committee agreed to ACHA's proposals to take forward discussions with community groups with a view to signing a lease for Torlochan to be used by the community for an appropriate purpose. This was agreed on the evidence that there continued to be no need or demand for the site to be used by the Gypsy Traveller community.
- 3.4 ACHA have advised the Council that they have engaged with community groups to try and get a suitable community use for the site. ACHA's board made a decision to take forward a proposal but this proposal did not work out.
- 3.5 At present the Council do not have an identified use for the Torlochan site. Estates and Amenity Services (including Cemeteries) have considered the site but does not fulfil any operational requirements.
- 3.6 ACHA now intend to put the site for sale on the open market.

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The remit of the Council with regards Torlochan was to establish whether or not there was a need and demand from the Gypsy Traveller community for the site. Over the last three years it has been established that there is not a need and demand. This position was put forward to the Area Committee for consideration. The Area Committee asked that ACHA engage with community groups to establish a community use for the site. ACHA have now taken the decision to sell the site.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Policy - none
- 5.2 Financial - none
- 5.3 Legal - none
- 5.4 HR - none
- 5.5 Fairer Scotland Duty: none
 - 5.5.1 Equalities - protected characteristics – it has been established there is no demand or need for this site.
 - 5.5.2 Socio-economic Duty - none
 - 5.5.3 Islands - none
- 5.6 Risk - none
- 5.7 Customer Service - none

Interim Executive Director with Responsibility for Housing

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