

## Traveller Site Management

Portfolio	Community
Ward(s) Affected:	Chobham and Bagshot

### Purpose

**To provide a report on the management of Traveller Sites in the borough.**

### Background

1. There are two official traveller sites in the Borough each with 15 pitches. One is located in Swift Lane in Bagshot and the other is located at a site known as Kalima in Chobham.
2. The Swift Lane site is owned by the Council and is leased to Surrey County Council. The Kalima site is owned by Surrey County Council. Both sites are managed by the Council under a management agreement which expires in April 2016.
3. The agreement clearly specifies duties for Surrey Heath Borough Council and those of Surrey county Council. Essentially, Surrey County Council is responsible for the maintenance of the sites and Surrey Heath is responsible for the collection of rents; collection and payment of utility charges; and liaison with tenants.
4. Electricity at both sites is supplied to individual pitches by card meter. The cards are purchased from Chobham Post Office, Guildford Rd, Lightwater Post Office and Brons Newsagent, Guildford Road. The retailers retain 10% for the selling of the cards.

### Current Position

5. Swift Lane was built in 1981 and apart from window replacements in 2010 there has been no substantial refurbishment. Kalima opened in 1990; it has not had any substantial refurbishment since this date. Both sites are now very tired and require continual maintenance.
6. A major redevelopment scheme has been planned for the Kalima site. This will include the provision of a 16<sup>th</sup> pitch .This is currently going through the planning application process.
7. Swift Lane is imminently awaiting the change over onto new electricity key meters therefore handing over the responsibility for their domestic electricity to them, the tenants. This should happen before the 31<sup>st</sup>

March 2015. Eventually tenants will be able to choose their own supplier and tariff. Surrey Heath will then be no longer for electricity charges at Swift Lane.

8. There are currently 18 families on the Surrey Heath waiting list. Vacant pitches for applicants on the waiting list to move into come up very rarely. In the last 5-years only 3 pitches have become available.

#### Options

9. The Community Services Scrutiny can note the report; request further information or make recommendations to the Executive.

#### Proposal

10. It is proposed that the Committee notes the report and requests a progress report on the redevelopment of Kalima in 12-months' time.

#### Resource Implications

11. The agency agreement with Surrey County Council funds a Neighbour Officer for 15-hours per week and contributes towards the management and support costs. In addition the Council receives an agency fee of 10% of the income which amounts to £14,809.

#### Recommendation

12. It is recommended that the community services scrutiny committee:
  - a. Notes the arrangements for managing the two permanent traveller sites in Surrey Heath.
  - b. Requests the Executive Head – community to provide a progress report in 12-months' time on the redevelopment of the site in Kalima.

#### Annexes Nil

#### Background Papers: Nil

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