

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 22 JULY 2021

**Question to Cllr Wilson
Cabinet Member for Communities and Culture**

By Cllr Pardesi

Question

Our Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community members live in small confined spaces next to the Walleys Quarry Landfill site. What steps are being taken to ensure their smaller living situations are not more adversely compounded than those of house dwellers? What is being done to make sure that our GRT community is being fully consulted and updated in order that it is able to contribute to the current process and plans for this site?

Reply

The Environment Agency is responsible for regulating the Walleys Quarry Landfill site and has held three virtual public engagement events, they also provide weekly updates via the environment Agencies 'Citizen Space'.

Staffordshire County Council continues to work with other public agencies as part of a Strategic Co-ordinating Group (SCG) convened by the Local Resilience Forum, to co-ordinate activities to try and mitigate the risks to the health of all local people.

The SCG held a further a community engagement event on Tuesday 6 July to which all members of the community were invited. Representatives from the Environment Agency, Public Health England, the NHS, and officers from Staffordshire County Council and Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council were part of this, with the event chaired by the deputy SCG Chair, Rob Barber Deputy Chief Fire Officer from Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service.

The Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee are also considering the important matters further next week (26 July), relating to Walleys Quarry Landfill Site with a focus on health implications for all residents.

All local people can make their views known through complaints to the Environment Agency, representations to Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council or their Elected Members. They are also encouraged to report odour and symptoms to the County Council's 'smell and symptom tracker' to help further inform the SCGs approach.