

REPORT TO PICKMERE PARISH COUNCIL

3rd October 2017

PART B AGENDA ITEM 10 – Performance of Cheshire East Council on various matters

1 Background

1.1 This topic has been the subject of considerable discussion at recent Parish Council and Parish Planning Committee meetings. This report summarises the current position with regard to key aspects.

2. Report

2.1 There are two particular areas of concern in relation to CE's performance:

1. Dealing with the Spinks Lane issue;
2. Reaction to planning enforcement issues generally.

2.2 As members are aware, on Spinks Lane, the Parish Council has for some months been requesting senior management at CE for a meeting to discuss what action CE was to take on expiry of the court-granted moratorium period granted to the travellers on this site. The latest attempt was a letter sent to the Chief Executive of CE on 10 September 2017. Various holding responses have been received, the latest of which, received last week from Councillor Ainsley Arnold via Councillor Hunter, stated:

"I have contacted Nicky Folan and requested an indication of the timescale regarding our receiving the external legal advice regarding this matter.

As soon as I have received that information then we can get a firm date in the diary, so the issues can be fully discussed. I will let know as soon as I have a heard back from Nicky (sic)."

2.3 On other enforcement matters, again a meeting has been requested with a senior officer of the Planning Department but this has been refused.

2.4 In respect of the latter aspect, you have previously resolved to make a formal complaint to CE, but no action has yet been taken on that. In respect of your previous discussion of the Spinks Lane matter, and the potential option of approaching the Local Government Ombudsman, your Clerk has contacted the Ombudsman's office and they have confirmed that a complaint may only be submitted by an individual who has been directly affected by the problem in question. A Parish Council is unable to submit a complaint to the Ombudsman.

3. Recommendation

3.1 That members consider the issues further and decide on any future action to be taken.