

Notice of Motion: Ensuring Accountability in Flintshire's Residential Mobile Home Licencing

Proposer: Cllr Sam Swash

Seconder: Cllr Alasdair Ibbotson

This Council notes:

1. that within Flintshire, there are a number of residential mobile home sites, licensed by Flintshire County Council under the Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013.
2. that residential mobile home sites vary in size, with the largest in Flintshire being Willow Park in Mancot, which provides residential mobile housing for more than 200 residents.
3. that site owners are licensed by Flintshire County Council to operate sites.
4. that currently, neither the residents of the parks, nor elected members, are notified when an application for a site licence is made to the local authority.
5. that currently, neither residents of the park, nor elected members, are provided with an opportunity to make representations on the application for a site licence.

This Council believes:

1. that the current process for the granting of site licences for residential mobile home sites fails to sufficiently represent the residents of the sites or locally elected members.
2. that making decisions that profoundly impact the lives of hundreds of residents without their involvement is fundamentally undemocratic.
3. that before granting licences for residential mobile home sites, residents of the site, site owners, and locally elected members should be notified and invited to make representations.
4. that, given the size of residential mobile home sites, and the number of our residents which they home across Flintshire, there is a clear public interest in the decision to grant a site licence, and the conditions attached to it.
5. that the decision to grant a residential mobile home site licence should be one that is taken democratically by the elected members of the Licencing committee, with representations invited from a) the site owner, b) the residents of the mobile home site, c) the elected representatives of the local ward, and d) any other interested party.

This Council resolves:

1. that the decision to issue, renew, extend, vary or not issue site licences for residential mobile home sites should rest with the licencing committee, taking into account the advice of relevant officers;
2. that the schedule of officer delegation be amended accordingly;
3. that advance notice be given to elected members when a residential mobile home site in their ward will be subject to a decision on the issuing, renewal, extension or variation of a licence, to enable them to make representations;
4. that the Constitution and Democratic Services committee shall be tasked with agreeing a policy on minimum standards of resident consultation in respect of residential mobile home licencing ahead of decisions, and,
5. that, pending the completion and adoption of this policy, the Council will welcome and acknowledge any written correspondence received from residents of sites subject to licencing decisions, and recommends that requests to make representations to the licencing committee in person in respect of these decisions be handled in the same way as planning applications.