

Cabinet

7th July 2020

Member Questions (1)

1.	Question from Councillor Bernard Fisher to the Leader of the Council, Steve Jordan
	<p>Recent 'visits' by Travellers breaking into Swindon Village Playing Fields, threats being made to residents, court action, bailiffs, low loaders and clean-up of the site, have cost the Council a great deal of money.</p> <p>Would you look at the following solution? That boulders be placed around the grassed area to enable access on foot, but not for caravans. Local residents and visitors could use the car park and have access to the open space, but caravans would not be able to be sited on the fields.</p> <p>While this would require a relatively small investment, the resulting saving in bailiffs, court action, police presence, officer time and clean-up would be saved many times over.</p>
	Response from Cabinet Member
	<p>The car park already has a robust low level metal rail around its outer edges, and a locked gate onto the grass for Ubico vehicles. In addition to this the car park entrance off the highway has a height restriction barrier with boulders placed either side. Any further placing of boulders will have the effect of restricting access to the site by Ubico maintenance vehicles, and also emergency vehicles such as ambulances that may need access to the pitches from time to time. Following the last traveller occupation of the playing field, officers have installed more secure locks, as it appears they had been able to remove the previous ones despite there being a steel shroud welded around one of them.</p>