

Notice of Questions to the next Full Council Meeting

Councillor R. Dolphin

The Greenfield Dock and other areas within Flintshire had in April and May been occupied by Travellers. The coastal path was used as an open air public convenience.

The Greenfield Dock Area is a local attraction for residents and promoted as a tourist attraction.

Question 1 Can the Council supply figures for all the financial costs associated with the individual cleansing of the Greenfield Dock and the total cost across the whole of the County for the last financial year

Suggested Response

Greenfield Dock April 2015 £492

Over the last 12 months the cost of the 4 encampments have been as follows:

May 2015 Deeside Leisure Centre £964.78

April 2015 - Saughall Cycle Path £575.43

November 2014 - Dock Road, Connah's Quay £7,403.20

October 2014 - Maes Gwern. Mold £6,376.12

Total **£15,319.53**

All of these are the direct costs to the council and do not reflect the wider financial impact such as lost trade at the Deeside Leisure Centre.

Question 2 Will the Council also comment on the accrued costs and environmental harm deriving from such encampment.

The Council does what it can within the law to ensure that encampments are moved on as quickly as possible which reduces their impact and the cost. I have circulated a briefing note to councillors to show the limits within which the council must work, and why encampments cannot always be moved on as quickly as residents would like.

Sometimes steps taken to reduce environmental harm can be seen as encouraging the encampments and can increase cost e.g. providing porta loos. So it is not always easy to balance the reduction of harm with residents' calls for tough action.

Clearly, the council wants to reduce disruption to residents and to avoid any extra costs at a time of austerity. Councillors will also see from the briefing note that officers are therefore taking steps to:

- make it harder for travellers to access sites and
- speed up and improve the legal process of eviction