

COUNCIL MEETING

18 September 2023

PUBLIC QUESTION 1

Name of person submitting the question: Nigel Jacklin

Member to whom the question is to be put: Councillor Doug Oliver

Question

My question relates to the Home Office proposals to use the Northeys site to accommodate 1,200 male asylum seekers. As you will be aware, these plans were announced in March this year with the original plan being to move the men in from September onwards. At the time of writing (21st August) the site still remains in the hands of a private investment company who took ownership of the site in August 2022. This followed a tip off by an employee of the previous owner that the site would be sold and used to house asylum seekers. I am aware that the Council has participated in legal actions on this issue relating to similar use of a site in Essex and am of the opinion that Rother District Council are best placed to make a legal challenge if the proposals go ahead.

My question is: Given the widespread local opposition to the camp, why hasn't the Council stated publicly that it opposes the proposals to use the site for the above purposes?

Answer

The answer to this question will be provided at the meeting.