

CONSERVATIVE COUNCILLOR CALLS FOR ALL TO BE TREATED EQUALLY BEFORE LAW



■ Encampment - close to schools in Prettygate, Colchester. Inset is Roger Buston

Schools assured of safety after travellers pitched up

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THREE secondary schools have been given safety assurances after travellers pitched up close to their premises.

Caravans, 4x4s, lorries, vans, tents and dogs arrived on the land off Irvine Road, Colchester, late on Wednesday.

The site is close to Philip Morant School, St Benedict's School and the Colchester County High School for Girls.

Roger Buston, Conservative councillor for Prettygate ward, said: "I have visited the heads of all three schools to reassure them their councillors will try to assist them to safeguard and secure the positions of their schools and in particular their pupils who use this field to get to and from their premises."

"All of the schools' representatives expressed their concern to me apropos the safety of the children under their care as a result of this development."

Mr Buston spoke out about travellers after they stayed on Hilly Fields in Lexden earlier this month, leaving rubbish

and causing damage.

He said: "It has been suggested, in seeking to respond to residents' calls for these travelling folk to be moved on and to pay for the damage they cause, I am perpetrating oppression on a deprived minority group."

"That is not so. I simply call for all to be treated equally before the law. No one and no group should be exempt from the legal consequences of their actions. The police seem to be opting not to enforce the law, thus these groups are not discouraged."

"I find it difficult to reconcile the concept of the deprived down-trodden and oppressed minority group being able to afford the giant new caravans, lorries and vans."

The travellers are understood to have accessed the site via the approach road for Philip Morant secondary school.

Travellers stayed at the same site, leased by Colches-

ter Council from Essex County Council, last July.

Tina Bourne, borough councillor responsible for public protection, said: "We are aware of an unauthorised encampment on land between Irvine Road and Reynolds Avenue."

"We have advised the Essex Countywide Unit and they will be visiting the site to carry out the initial welfare checks."

"If there are no immediate concerns they will be asked to leave."

Will Emrich, of Irvine Road Residents' Association, said they accessed the land because bollards had been removed. He said: "I have asked the council why this keeps happening."

No-one and no group should be exempt from the legal consequences of their actions



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Let Beat Box Games begin!

A BID to get people in Tending to become more physically active has been launched in Clacton.

Beat the Street is a six-week challenge which turns the district into a real-life game.

People form a team and see how many miles they can clock up by walking, cycling or running.

They log their journey by

tapping cards against 100 sensors called Beat Boxes, which will be found on lamp posts across the area, about half a mile apart.

More than 50,000 people have already played the game this year in places such as Wolverhampton and Hounslow.

The challenge runs from June 8 to July 20. To get involved visit beatthestreet.me



Andrew Weavers

Dear Andrew

He has not heeded any advice that may have been given to him regarding stigmatising whole communities, and worse he directly refers to conversations he has had regarding his comments that I found offensive last week. A councillor is a community leader, Cllr Buston has wrongly used the phrase 'deprived minority group' to gain favour with local residents which is mocking and unkind. He also makes reference to this group being able to afford 'brand new lorries and vans', further inciting fear and loathing in local residents and the wider population.

The 'I pay my Council tax and other taxes' phrase is equally distasteful. Do we as an authority allow Members to stray from the Code of Conduct with such blatant glee?

I would craft a better complaint but I'm doing something productive with my life in teaching young children the values of tolerance and mercy.

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