

# Council adopting 'strategy of neglect'

BY ANGELA McCORMICK

**An encampment of up to 20 Traveller caravans on the site of the burnt out Old Mill Hotel in Julianstown, is 'not surprising,' according to residents who maintain the village has been 'abandoned' by the authorities.**

The caravans moved onto the site in large numbers on Friday last. Councillor Pat Boshell says he has been told the Travellers are in the area to attend a wedding locally.

The Old Mill hotel has been the scene of two serious fires since it closed over a year ago and is now a burnt out shell.

Julianstown residents are 'deeply unhappy' about the hotel's derelict state and what they call the 'neglect' of the village, which earlier this year lost

its post office.

'It is not surprising that the Travellers have moved into the Old Mill. It is just part of a bigger picture where the village is being abandoned and run down,' said Fred Logue Chairman of the Julianstown Residents' Group.

He maintains Meath County Council are adopting a 'strategy of neglect,' towards the east Meath village.

'They have refused to do anything about huge numbers of cars travelling through Julianstown every day. This could be a beautiful place but people don't want to live here because of the traffic. People can't operate businesses because of the traffic.'

A council spokesperson told the *Drogheda Independent* that as the Julianstown travellers are on private property, the council has 'no role to play.'

'The Old Mill is private property and it is up to the owner of the property to deal with any problems that may arise,' she said.

But the residents maintain the council is 'evading its responsibilities.'

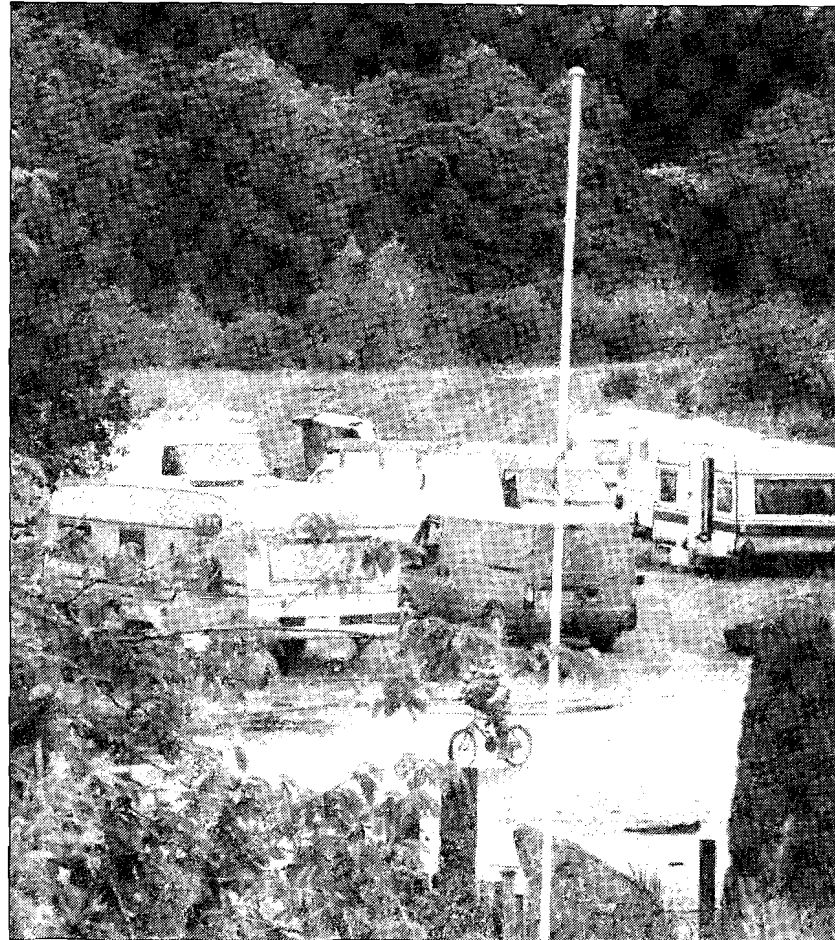
'To say the council has no role is a disgrace. These people don't have planning permission to operate a caravan site. There is also littering and illegal burning going on, the council has a role in all of those matters,' said Mr Logue.

The problem of the burnt out Old Mill and other derelict sites in the coastal area, was raised at the May meeting of the local Slane Area Council.

Derelict sites officer Noleen Doggett told the meeting she was aware of people's concerns about the old hotel in Julianstown.

She said the council is adopting 'a zero tolerance policy' on derelict sites and she planned a visit to the villages of Laytown, Bettystown, Mornington and Julianstown shortly.

However at the meeting Ms Doggett described the legal process of dealing with derelict sites as complex and 'very, very lengthy.'



Caravans on site of Old Mill Hotel Julianstown.

## IN BRIEF

### Alleged shooting

Gardaí are investigating an alleged shooting at a house in Moneymore earlier this month. The owner of the house has said that a pellet gun was fired at the front door which was damaged.

The incident happened on June 12th and was reported to gardaí at 11pm.

### Traffic accident

There was a traffic accident on the Dublin Road on June 16th at 2.30pm.

### Criminal damage

Gardaí are investigating two criminal damage incidents at Shrewsbury Manor on June 16th.

### Poignant ceremony

From page one

'The Minister apologised for the delay in awarding the medals and I want to thank him for that,' said Monica. Mrs Mooney was taking a positive view of the long hold up in honouring the dead men.

Mark was only two