

Notes from Meetings with Councillors:

Each Councillor was briefed on the backgrounds of the review and it was explained that whilst the main investigation indicated that one Councillor had systemically abused the system, the review of other Councillors' claims had not shown this to be the case.

Meeting with Councillor Mrs Gallagher – 30/09/2013

The main query regarding Councillor Mrs Gallagher's claims was that 20 miles were being claimed for each journey made, but a round trip of 17.4 miles was suggested on Bing Maps.

Upon reviewing the suggested route, Councillor Mrs Gallagher suggested that she would not take that route, as it would not be sensible to drive into Warwick to get to Leamington, so she took a slightly different route. She had made a note of her mileage on her way to the meeting and this confirmed that the mileage for the route she took was 10 miles (single trip distance). Based on the route suggested, this was considered sensible in order to avoid congestion, and this was accepted as valid.

The only other issue relating to the Councillor's claims was that one form included a claim for a meeting to which she had sent her apologies. This was evidenced in the minutes and the attendance form for the meeting.

Councillor Mrs Gallagher suggested that there must have been a reason for her to have not attended at the last minute, as she only claimed for meetings that she had highlighted in her diary as having attended. However, she did not have her diary dating back that far.

The Councillor offered to repay the overpayment (20 miles x 45p = £4.50) in cash at the meeting, although it was highlighted that the amount would be adjusted on her next claim.