

In view of the latest developments regarding the arrest and subsequent charging of Mick & Mairead Philpott, we would like to make the following statement.

The DJ Trust was established by the community to support the community deal with the grief of losing 6 young children in such tragic circumstances. The role of the trust was to receive and manage the many generous donations of support both in kind and financial from the local and wider community. The trusts intention has and continues to be to use the money to honour the memory of those 6 young children. The money collected will be used to cover the costs of the funeral of those 6 children, and contribute towards the cost of headstones. Any residual money will be pledged in the memory of the children to one or more charities that assisted or supported the children.

We would like to reassure those who have and continue to donate through the DJ's trust's Llyods/TSB account, that they may have confidence the money will only be used for these purposes, and that it never has, nor ever will be given to any individual, nor will the family themselves receive any of the funds. We would also ask you not to be judgemental of the circumstances that have fallen onto the wider family, and to have some consideration towards a horrifying situation that the family find themselves in through no fault of their own.

It is understandable that attention will now turn to the police enquiry, and we would urge the community to continue to support the police as their investigation continues as all parties want to see justice for the children. However despite the ongoing investigation may we not forget the 6 young children that must now be laid to rest, and which remains the focus of the DJ's trust - to honour the memory of 6 beautiful young lives lost in such tragic circumstances.