



27th July 2013

Development Policy Manager
Development Services
Warwick District Council
Riverside House
Milverton Hill
Leamington Spa
CV32 5QH

Dear Sirs,

Re: Objection to application of Development of Site GT04

My husband and I would like to place on record our objection to the selection of the above proposed site for a Gypsy and Traveller encampment.

Firstly we would object to the way in which this has been handled and the fact that the inhabitants of Harbury only became aware of the proposal at a very late stage. The booklet outlining the plans, shown to us by a campaigner who called at our door last week, contains images of a very idyllic caravan life featuring well kept grounds. We have little firsthand knowledge of these designated areas but any we have passed do not seem to look anything like this. We would ask that the Council informs us where these pictures were taken so that we may avail ourselves of the opportunity of visiting them.

We would point out that there is very limited availability of low cost housing within the village area for children of villagers, who have to move out to surrounding areas and further afield to find affordable housing. The building of such properties is very restricted and only comes to fruition following surveys of Villagers opinion and public meetings. Also, for many years there has been talk of more housing for the elderly of the village which has never happened as no land has been found for this purpose. We are now facing the situation where great swathes of land have been earmarked for people who neither have a local connection nor any real pressing need. Surely the word "Traveller" is self explanatory.

Our specific objections to the sites are as follows:-

1. They seem to be where there is already either a business or a charitable establishment. Why in this country do we encourage entrepreneurs and then think that we can take away, by way of a Compulsory Purchase Order, what they have spent years building when it suits Government or the local council.
2. The site is off a very busy road where considerable sums have money have been spent erecting signs to warn us of this fact. Do you now condone the addition of further traffic and entrances which may result in additional accidents?

3. Harbury School is already at capacity and children moving into the village sometimes cannot find a place. The other local schools were pressed when additional housing was erected at Warwick Gates and in Whitnash.
4. What will be the arrangements for any children who need to travel to school? At a time when all council funds are stretched and services are being diluted, where will this money come from?
5. The site has been subject to flooding in the last few years and we are unaware that there are mains, gas, sewerage or drainage. Who will fund these additional facilities?
6. We also object on the grounds that we are local residents, and we object to green belt being used for development.
7. Selfishly, we can also foresee that the damage to wildlife habitat and the visual impact for our village will be immense.
8. Finally, there is the question of equality. My Husband and I have always worked, provided for our children and paid our bills. May we ask if plots on the proposed site will be subject to the normal levy of rates, water rates, electricity and gas?

We are planning to send this letter via email and would ask that an acknowledgement of our objection is sent to us by return.

Yours faithfully,

David and Jacqui Powell