RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

David Leigh-Hunt, LL.B., LL.M., MCIArb. Clerk to the Parish Council

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My Ref: DLH/YLC/52

2 Your Ref:

R- 1608

25th July 2013

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

BY HAND

Dear Sir,

Local Plan - Sites for Gypsies and Travellers

You will be aware there is strong opposition in the locality of Radford Semele to the suggestion that a permanent site for gypsies and travellers should be installed in the areas identified as sites GT02 and GT04 by the consultants who have drawn up the Local Plan for Gypsies and Travellers sites.

You will be aware that on 25th June 2013 over 400 local people attended a meeting at site GT02 when they were addressed by, inter alia, the Leader of Warwick District Council, Councillor Michael Doody.

The Parish Council have taken on board the strong local feeling evidenced by that meeting and subsequent paperwork produced by the organisers of the meeting and, also, their own strong views as Parish Councillors for the area.

I therefore now enclose submissions on behalf of my Parish Council which are independent from any individual submissions made by residents.

I enclose a completed form in respect of site GT02 and another one in respect of site GT04.

These documents are being copied respectively to Councillor Doody, Jeremy Wright MP and County Councillor Wallace Redford.



PAGE SEX

GT 02

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Gypsy and Traveller Site Options Response Form 2013

For Official Use Only	
Ref:	
Ren Ref	

Please use this form if you wish to comment on the Gypsy and Traveller Site Options.

If you are commenting on multiple sites you will need to complete a separate copy of Part B of this form for each representation.

This form may be photocopied or, alternatively, extra forms can be obtained from the Council's offices or places where the consultation documents have been made available (see back page). You can also respond online using the LDF Consultation System, visit: www.warwickdc.gov.uk/newlocalplan

Part A - Personal Details

	1. Personal Details		2. Agent's Details (if	applicable)
Title	RADFORD	SEMELE	MR	
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Last Name			SAVID VEIGH-1	+UNT
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Organisation (where relevant)	The State of			
Address Line 1				
Address Line 2				
Address Line 3				
Address Line 4				
Postcode				
Telephone number				
Email address				
Would you like to be made aware a	of future consultations on	Gypsy Traveller si	tes	
About You: Gender	Alu			
Ethnic Origin	NLA			
Age NA	Under 16	16 - 24	25 - 34	35 - 44
	45 - 54	55 - 64	65+	

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If you are commenting on multiple sites you will need to complete a separate sheet for each representation

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The policy in the Draft Local Plan will list the criteria by which Gypsy and Traveller sites will be judged for suitability and sustainability. These are the criteria:

- Convenient access to a GP surgery, school and public transport;
- Avoiding areas with a high risk of flooding;
- Safe access to the road network and provision for parking, turning and servicing on site;
- Avoiding areas where there is the potential for noise and other disturbance;
- Provision of utilities (running water, toilet facilities, waste disposal, etc);
- Avoiding areas where there could be adverse impact on important features of the natural and historic environment; and,
- Sites which can be integrated into the landscape without harming the character of the area.
- Promotes peaceful and integrated co-existence between the site and the local community;
- Avoids placing undue pressure on local infrastructure and services;
- Reflects the extent to which traditional lifestyles (whereby some travellers live and work from the same location thereby omitting many travel to work journeys) can contribute to sustainability.

Please give your views about site suitability below with reference to this list of criteria.

Which site are you responding to? (e.g., GT01 - Land adj. to the Cobalt Centre, Siskin Drive) What is the nature of your representation? Support Please set out full details of your objection or representation of	GT 02 Lobject support with reference	Comment
PLEASE SEE WRITTEN ATTACHED - COMPRI GERMANE TO SITE	REPRESEISING SU	PATIONS

For	Official	Use	Only

Ref:

RESPONSE BY RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL TO A PROPOSAL BY WARWICKSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL TO CONSTRUCT TWO GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS SITES- 1) GT02 ABUTTING THE FOSSE WAY AT ITS JUNCTION WITH THE A425 (RADFORD SEMELE TO UFTON ROAD) AND GT04 FOSSE WAY AT HARBURY LANE

Site Reference GT02

Radford Semele Parish Council make this statement in response to the proposal put forward by consultants to Warwick District Council to develop a site referred to as GT02 in their consultation document.

A number of residents have analysed the proposals outlined in the WDC document called, Local Plan – Sites for Gypsies and Travellers, issued in June 2013. This group of residents called a meeting on the 25th June 2013 which was attended by more than 400 local people. Included in the attendees were WDC Councillor Michael Doody and the local MP, Mr Jeremy Wright.

A volume of factual evidence was presented at the meeting which contradicted the argument that the proposed site is appropriate for a permanent Gypsy and Traveller site. A brief summary of the main arguments which the Parish Council supports are:-

- (1) If sited on the Exhibition site it would eliminate that business which currently employs over forty people, either as full or part time employees and claims to contribute £2m annually to the local economy. This business currently fits well into the local landscape and social environment.
- (2) If sited on the opposite side of the Fosse Way to the Exhibition site, as shown on the Plan, this business would expect to close. The announcement of this site as a potential site for Gypsies and Travellers has already led to the loss of future bookings. The owner advised the public meeting of this fact.
- (3) These locations are both subject to water drainage problems.
- (4) There are ecological concerns particularly as to the effect that uncontrolled and unvaccinated dogs would have on the wild life and local farm animals.
- (5) There were concerns from the local farming community as intensive fresh food production requires to be secure from any form of contamination in order to meet current food standards. It was pointed out that this form of local crop production may well not be able to continue. Owners expressed concern that they would not be able to ensure the protection that is essential.
- (6) The analysis of the location in the report failed to recognise the association with the Roman occupation of this area and therefore the archaeological possibilities once digging commences to prepare a site for the proposed development.
- (7) The area of the proposed site, necessitated by the extensive facilities to be provided, demands a site equivalent to three times the size of the existing Exhibition Hall. The attendees at the meeting were in total disbelief that such a proposal for this site could even be contemplated by anyone having any knowledge of the location.

- (8) Existing traffic density is a concern. There are numerous traffic signs already drawing attention to current dangers. An additional site as proposed would exacerbate the problem.
- (9) The Report prepared by the Consultants for WDC drew attention to the easy access to the town, good bus services, convenient footpaths etc. A more realistic assessment reveals that bus stops in the vicinity are set on the grass verge, there are no safe waiting positions and there are no footpaths in the vicinity, only very busy roads. To make the necessary changes would require considerable infrastructure costs including the acquisition of more land. The nearest doctor's surgery is full and unable to take more patients.

Conclusion- Site GT02

The current character of the site needs to be considered within the context of its history. The origins of the Village at Radford Semele and its perimeters date from Norman times with earlier Saxon influence. 1,000 years prior to Norman times the historic Fosse Way was constructed, passing the precise position now proposed by the consultants for this site. The course of the Fosse Way has the potential for archaeological exploration. The large alluvial plain, resulting from the last ice age, between the two wooded escarpments of Radford Semele on the north side and Ufton on the south, provided the quality agricultural land which is in use today.

An installation of a Gypsies and Travellers site would undoubtedly cause an adverse and detrimental impact upon this outstandingly beautiful countryside.

The above observations summarised in paragraphs 1-9 above contain the main substance of the strongly held views of approximately four hundred people attending the meeting on 25th July. Strong disapproval was expressed from the platform, including a strong objection by our MP Mr Jeremy Wright. Questions and comments from the floor indicated the strong opposition to the proposed change of use for the Fosse Way site GT02.

Radford Semele Parish Council is fully supportive of these views of local residents and makes this statement to give formal opposition to the proposal for site GT02

Site Reference GT04

This site is proposed as a Gypsies and Travellers site, under a reference in the consultants report, as site GT04 at Harbury Lane.

Almost all of this proposed site is located outside of the Parish of Radford Semele. Site GT04 includes only one or two acres of land which are within the boundary of Radford Semele village. Radford Semele Parish Council restricts its comments to the area within the Parish boundary.

The area within the Parish is currently used by a number of commercial organisations including a petrol station and a residential property. Adjacent is the main Birmingham to London railway line which is open to access and therefore a potential hazard. The parish boundary at this point is the small stream, a tributary of the River Leam, which has flooded the surrounding area several times in recent years at times of heavy rainfall. As it is already a fully developed site it is quite unsuitable for redevelopment as a Gypsy and Traveller site.

Radford Semele Parish Council considers this site totally unsuitable for the proposed development and therefore opposes the change of use for this site GT04.

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Sheet 5 of 5

Do you have any other suggestions for land within this district that you think would be suitable for use as a Gypsy and Traveller site, bearing in mind the criteria for site identification? If so, please give the location and the land owner's details below:

RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

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PARISH COUNCIL'S OWN AREA.

Guidance on Making Representations

- Please use this response form as it will help the Council to keep accurate and consistent records of all the comments on the Plan, alternatively complete online at www.warwickdc.gov.uk/newlocalplan
- · If you wish to make comments on more than one site, please use a separate copy of Part B of this form for each
- You may withdraw your objection at any time by writing to Warwick District Council, address below
- It is important that you include your name and address as anonymous forms cannot be accepted. If your address
 details change, please inform us in writing
- All forms should be received by 5.15pm on Monday 29 July 2013
- Copies of all the objections and supporting representations will be made available for others to see at the Council's offices at Riverside House and online via the Council's e-consultation system. Please note that all comments are in the public domain and the Council cannot accept confidential objections. The information will be held on a database and used to assist with the preparation of the new plan for Gypsy and Traveller sites and with consideration of planning applications in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998
- To return this form, please drop off at one of the locations below, or post to: Development Policy Manager,
 Development Services, Warwick District Council, Riverside House, Milverton Hill, Leamington Spa, CV32 5QH or email: newlocalplan@warwickdc.gov.uk

Where to see copies of the Gypsy and Traveller Site Options

Copies are available for inspection on the Council's web site at www.warwickdc.gov.uk/newlocalplan and at the following locations:

Location	Opening Times	
Warwick District Council Offices Riverside House, Milverton Hill, Royal Learnington Spa		8.45am - 5.15pm 8.45am - 4.45pm
Leamington Town Hall Parade, Royal Leamington Spa	Mon – Thurs Fri	8.45am - 5.15pm - 6.15pm - 6.1
Warwickshire Direct Whitnash Whitnash Library, Franklin Road, Whitnash	Mon – Tues Wed Thurs Fri Sat	10.30am - 5.00pm 1.30pm - 5.00pm Closed 10.30am - 4.00pm 10.30am - 1.30pm
Leamington Spa Library The Pump Rooms, Parade, Royal Leamington Spa	Mon – Weds Thurs Fri Sat Sun	9.30am - 6.00pm 10.00am - 7.00pm 9.30am - 6.00pm 9.30am - 4.30pm 12.00pm - 4.00pm
Narwickshire Direct Warwick Shire Hall, Market Square, Warwick	Mon – Thurs Fri Sat	8.00am - 5.30pm 8.00am - 5.00pm 9.00am - 4.00pm
Warwickshire Direct Kenilworth Kenilworth Library, Smalley Place, Kenilworth	Mon – Tues Wed Thurs – Fri Sat	9.00am - 5.30pm 10.30am - 5.30pm 9.00am - 5.30pm 9.00am - 1.00pm
Warwickshire Direct Lillington Lillington Library, Valley Road, Royal Leamington Spa	Mon Tues and Fri Weds Thurs Sat	9.30am - 12.30pm & 1.30pm - 6.00pm 9.30am - 12.30pm & 1.30pm - 5.30pm Closed 9.30am - 12.30pm & 1.30pm - 7.00pm 9.30am - 12.30pm
Brunswick Healthy Living Centre 98-100 Shrubland Street, Royal Leamington Spa	Mon – Fri	9.00am - 5.00pm
Finham Community Library Finham Green Rd, Finham, Coventry, CV3 6EP	Mon Tues, Thurs and Fri Sat	1.00pm - 7.00pm 9.00am - 7.00pm 9.00am - 4.00pm

Where possible, information can be made available in other formats, including large print, CD and other languages if required. To obtain one of these alternatives, please contact 01926 410410.

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Gypsy and Traveller Site Options Response Form 2013

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Sheet 2 of 5

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Please give your views about site suitability below with reference to this list of criteria.

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What is the nature of your representation? Support	Object Comment
Please set out full details of your objection or representation of sup	oport with reference to the criteria above.
PLEASE SEE WRITTEN	REPRESENTATIONS
ATTACHED - COMPRIS	SING SUBMISSIMS
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RESPONSE BY RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL TO A PROPOSAL BY WARWICKSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL TO CONSTRUCT TWO GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS SITES- 1) GT02 ABUTTING THE FOSSE WAY AT ITS JUNCTION WITH THE A425 (RADFORD SEMELE TO UFTON ROAD) AND GT04 FOSSE WAY AT HARBURY LANE

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Conclusion- Site GT02

The current character of the site needs to be considered within the context of its history. The origins of the Village at Radford Semele and its perimeters date from Norman times with earlier Saxon influence. 1,000 years prior to Norman times the historic Fosse Way was constructed, passing the precise position now proposed by the consultants for this site. The course of the Fosse Way has the potential for archaeological exploration. The large alluvial plain, resulting from the last ice age, between the two wooded escarpments of Radford Semele on the north side and Ufton on the south, provided the quality agricultural land which is in use today.

An installation of a Gypsies and Travellers site would undoubtedly cause an adverse and detrimental impact upon this outstandingly beautiful countryside.

The above observations summarised in paragraphs 1-9 above contain the main substance of the strongly held views of approximately four hundred people attending the meeting on 25th July. Strong disapproval was expressed from the platform, including a strong objection by our MP Mr Jeremy Wright. Questions and comments from the floor indicated the strong opposition to the proposed change of use for the Fosse Way site GT02.

Radford Semele Parish Council is fully supportive of these views of local residents and makes this statement to give formal opposition to the proposal for site GT02

Site Reference GT04

This site is proposed as a Gypsies and Travellers site, under a reference in the consultants report, as site GT04 at Harbury Lane.

Almost all of this proposed site is located outside of the Parish of Radford Semele. Site GT04 includes only one or two acres of land which are within the boundary of Radford Semele village. Radford Semele Parish Council restricts its comments to the area within the Parish boundary.

The area within the Parish is currently used by a number of commercial organisations including a petrol station and a residential property. Adjacent is the main Birmingham to London railway line which is open to access and therefore a potential hazard. The parish boundary at this point is the small stream, a tributary of the River Leam, which has flooded the surrounding area several times in recent years at times of heavy rainfall. As it is already a fully developed site it is quite unsuitable for redevelopment as a Gypsy and Traveller site.

Radford Semele Parish Council considers this site totally unsuitable for the proposed development and therefore opposes the change of use for this site GT04.

Radford Semele Parish Council

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Sheet 5 of 5

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