

WDC PLANNING
Ref
Officer
26 JUL 2013
SCANNED
CC CR PD MA
PRE GEN DIS



FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE DEVELOPMENT POLICY MANAGER

Dear Sir/Madam

I live in Harbury and expect you have received a deluge of objections to the sites for possible Traveller/ Gypsy pitches.

The vitriol and nastiness, no doubt masking fear and prejudice, has been very sad to encounter here. I would like to make a couple of observations.

Firstly some land on areas designated on the maps near Harbury, does suffer from flooding and those areas would not be suitable.

Secondly, the Fosseyway itself is always busy, but extremely busy at times, especially when Landrover Jaguar and Aston Martin are coming or going to work. ( However a roundabout at Bendigo Mitchell or Harbury Lane would solve that one.) Have the travelling communities themselves been consulted about what they might want or need?

I realise you have a very difficult problem on your hands - to find legal sites. The knee jerk reaction of most people, especially if they have suffered at the hands of the travelling community, is perhaps understandable, but travelling people have to be provided with somewhere to live. In extremis I expect schools could be given a new classroom and teacher (Harbury is pretty full I believe), and doctors can always provide another part time GP if their number of patients increases a lot.

Several of us who have met together to discuss this, are very keen to visit a legal site, to see what it is really like and if possible, perhaps on neutral ground, to talk to some of the travelling people. Could this be a possibility for us? Very few people here have real experience of the lives of Travellers and would appreciate such a meeting. From the Traveller's angle, to know you are always unwelcome and that most settled communities loathe you ( and that is not too strong a word for the emotions I have heard expressed here) must be depressing and may well set them against the settled communities anyway.

All ethnic injustices in the world, seem to start off like this, with antagonism towards a group who are 'different from the main', some even ending in violence. We need a new approach - would you be prepared to help with this in the way I have proposed?

