

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

18 July 2013

Dear Sirs

## Re: REVISED DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR GYPSY & TRAVELLER SITES

We are very concerned as to how much thought has gone into the feasibility of the sites identified by the Council for use by gypsies and travellers in the area, especially when one considers that Site 16 is actually the flood compensation area from the Barford bypass and contains a central pond.

Along with Site 16, Site 12 has been identified by the Environment Agency as being either within or adjacent to areas of significant flood risk.

Additionally, access to and from Sites 12 & 16 is via the A429, which has a 60mph speed limit is unsafe. There have been a significant number of accidents, and indeed a fatality, on this road.

Further sites, namely 6, 9,10 and 20, are on or adjacent to historic landfills, which given the potential for the release of greenhouse gases, make them unsuitable for occupation.

Sites 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 15, 16, 17 18 and 20 do not offer easy access to local facilities, and increased traffic to and from these sites would put undue pressure on already busy roads and highways.

We would also query the availability of the proposed sites: only Sites 15, 17 and 18 are, I understand, available. Indeed, it would appear that your strategy has taken no account of adverse effects to the local landscape nor to the communities affected.

Re: Revised Development Strategy for Gypsies and Travellers (cont...)

On personal levels, we are concerned that in these harsh economic times, our taxes are being used to provide such an extensive number of permanent or transitory pitches for this group of people. Will they be paying any rent? Is the infrastructure able to cope with such an influx?

Would not a better option be to take the Milton Keynes example, which I believe has worked well, and incorporate sites within the new housing developments proposed in Kenilworth, Warwick and Leamington, where facilities such as schools, doctors and shops, together with vehicular and pedestrian access, will be readily available?

Additionally, why are so many of the proposed sites concentrated in such a relatively small area of Warwickshire and not developed over a greater area within easier reach of the facilities required by this group of people.

Hopefully the Council will listen to reason, and reconsider the viability of its strategy.

Yours faithfully

C K Broadfield Carolyn Broadfield