

Gypsy and Travellers Site Options Response to Site GT02

Land abutting the Fosse Way at its junction with the A425

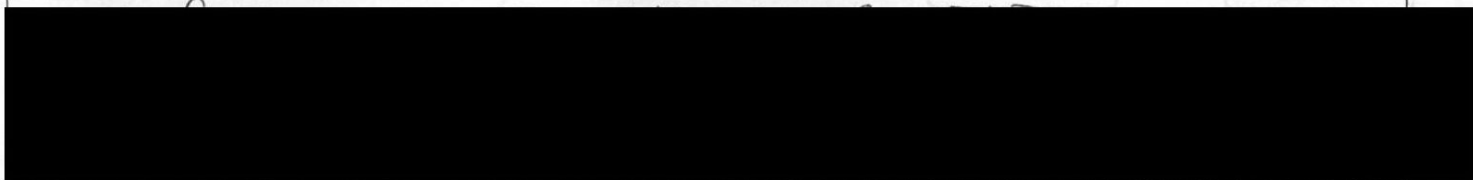
For Official Use Only

Ref:

Rep. Ref.

10045

Title **MR** First name/initials **BRIAN W.** Surname **FOLLETT**



Criteria by which Gypsy and Traveller's sites will be judged for suitability and sustainability by Warwick District Council:

- 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;
- Provision of utilities (running water, toilet facilities waste disposal etc);
- Avoiding areas where there could be an 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.

IT IS IMPORTANT to comment/object adhering to the above criteria and the council provided form follows that process. It is implied that you should use the WDC form or the response form available online. YOU ARE HOWEVER STILL PERMITTED to respond by writing to the Council's Development Policy Manager or you could choose to use this site specific form prepared for GT 02

OBJECT

APPROVE

(Please delete as required.)

Please set out full details of your objection or representation of support with reference to the criteria as outlined by the council.

SEE ATTACHED SHEETS

WDC PLANNING			
Ref			
Office			
29 JUL 2013			
SCANNED			
CC	CR	PD	MA
PRE	GEN	DIS	

Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary

Warwick District Council will judge proposed sites against the nationally accepted criteria. The purpose of the criteria is to seek to meet the requirements of the Gypsy and Travellers community not necessarily local residents, businesses and employment.

Areas of concern could include:

• Agriculture • Animal Welfare • Co-existence • Crime • Ecology and Habitat • Education/Schools • Healthcare/ Surgeries • Highways and Safety • Local Economy • Rural Landscape • Services and Utilities • Tourism • Traffic Density/ Flow • Urbanisation.

OBJECT

APPROVE

(Please delete as required.)

to the proposals on the following grounds –

SEE ATTACHED SHEETS

Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary

Do you have any other suggestions for land within Warwick 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 landowners details below:

Guidance on Making Representations

- 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 WDC in writing.
- All forms should be received by **5.15 p.m. 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 either Riverside House, Leamington Town Hall or your local library or post to **Development Policy Manager, Development Services, Warwick District Council, Riverside House, Milverton Hill, Leamington Spa CV32 5QH** or email to: newlocalplan@warwickdc.gov.uk

Gypsy and Travellers Site Options

Response to Site GT02, Land at Warwickshire Exhibition Centre

I have read the Final Interim Report by Enfusion with respect to the proposed Site GT02 and have also attended a public meeting held at the Warwickshire Exhibition Centre to discuss the consultant's study and their recommendations. I understand that Enfusion has scored site GT02 as equal first out of the 20 proposed sites. A closer inspection of their appraisal summary tabulating the SA Objectives shows that some of the information is incorrect and that 4 of the categories (indicated by a ?) have been either assumed or guessed due to lack of information. Comparing the other proposed sites the GT02 site has the highest number of measurements missing from the report.

I understand that the Council wants to ensure that there are suitable roads and transport networks, local schools, doctor's surgeries and similar types of amenities. However, a closer look at these categories would indicate that site GT02 is not ideal.

- *Access to Local Amenities* – the report implies that there is a doctor's surgery's within 1.5 miles from the site whereas the nearest available doctor's surgery is almost 5 miles away with no direct bus service. Also, the nearest doctor's surgery has no capacity for new patients. I believe that the local Church of England school at Radford Semele is also full
- *Travel* – the site is on a high-risk travel route (the Fosse Way) with more than 12 serious accidents in the last 3 years. The Enfusion report states that there is a bus stop adjacent to the site, but this is on an overgrown grass verge with no pavement and is potentially dangerous on such a high-risk road. There is no path or pavement to walk anywhere and cycling is dangerous on busy commuter routes. Similarly there is no street lighting. To provide these facilities to link to the nearest villages (Radford Semele or Harbury) would be very costly and a huge drain on the Council's budget.
- *Rural Environment* – the site lies in a valley and is approached from higher ground at Radford Semele, Ufton and Princethorpe and the visual intrusion would be great. No amount of hedgerow screening or landscaping would help to blend the site into the landscape to mitigate the visual impact. The site is adjacent to protected ancient woodland and there would be damage to wildlife habitat including impact on protected species.
- *Historic Environment* - this category was unmarked by Enfusion in their report but the site is adjacent to the Fosse Way, a Roman Road, and is listed on the County Council's Archaeological Register noting that ancient pottery has been found recently. Also, the land is on a historic toll site dating from mediaeval times.
- *Mains Services* – the proposed site does not have a gas supply or mains drainage, and to provide these services would involve considerable cost.

Gypsy and Travellers Site Options
 Response to Site GT02, Land at Warwickshire Exhibition Centre

I have read the Final Interim Report by Entusion with respect to the proposed Site GT02 and have also attended a public meeting held at the Warwickshire Exhibition Centre to discuss the consultant's study and their recommendations. I understand that Entusion has scored site GT02 as equal first out of the 20 proposed sites. A closer inspection of their appraisal summary tabulating the 2A Objectives shows that some of the information is incorrect and that 4 of the categories (indicated by a ?) have been either assumed or guessed due to lack of information. Comparing the other proposed sites the GT02 site has the highest number of measurements missing from the report.

I understand that the Council wants to ensure that there are suitable roads and transport networks, local schools, doctor's surgeries and similar types of amenities. However, a closer look at these categories would indicate that site GT02 is not ideal.

- Access to Local Amenities - the report implies that there is a doctor's surgery within 1.5 miles from the site whereas the nearest available doctor's surgery is almost 5 miles away with no direct bus service. Also, the nearest doctor's surgery has no capacity for new patients. I believe that the local Church of England school at Radford Semele is also full.
- Travel - the site is on a high-risk travel route (the Fosse Way) with more than 12 serious accidents in the last 3 years. The Entusion report states that there is a bus stop adjacent to the site, but this is on an overgrown grass verge with no pavement and is potentially dangerous on such a high-risk road. There is no path or pavement to walk anywhere and cycling is dangerous on busy commuter routes. Similarly there is no street lighting. To provide these facilities to link to the nearest villages (Radford Semele or Harbury) would be very costly and a huge drain on the Council's budget.
- Rural Environment - the site lies in a valley and is approached from higher ground at Radford Semele, Upton and Princeshorpe and the visual intrusion would be great. No amount of hedgerow screening or landscaping would help to blend the site into the landscape to mitigate the visual impact. The site is adjacent to protected ancient woodland and there would be damage to wildlife habitat including impact on protected species.
- Historic Environment - this category was unmarked by Entusion in their report but the site is adjacent to the Fosse Way, a Roman Road, and is listed on the County Council's Archaeological Register noting that ancient pottery has been found recently. Also, the land is on a historic toll site dating from medieval times.
- Mains Services - the proposed site does not have a gas supply or mains drainage, and to provide these services would involve considerable cost.

- *Impact on the local Economy* – again this category was unmarked by Enfusion but I think that this is the most important factor in deciding that Site GT02 is inappropriate. If the plan goes ahead the owners have said that it will result in the closure of the Warwickshire Exhibition Centre. The Centre has lost prospective business already due to the fact that the land has been specifically linked to a proposed Gypsy / Travellers site. The Centre has a massive contribution to the local economy. During exhibitions up to 40 jobs, now at risk, are provided for the local community. The Exhibition Centre attracts visitors from all over the country and an economic impact assessment suggests that the Centre contributes more than £2m to the local economy each year with local associated businesses (retail shops, accommodation, bars, restaurants) at risk due to loss in trade.

To conclude, I consider that the consultant's report has glossed over a number of key issues which, if explored in more detail, would clearly show that Site GT02 is totally unsuitable for this proposed development. Therefore, I object to this proposal.

[Redacted signature block]

Brian Follett,

[Redacted address block]

Dated, 24th July 2013