

26 July 2013

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

Ref: Draft Gypsy and Traveller Site Options

Dear Sir

With reference to the above potential sites, I feel very strongly that the District Council should not relinquish ownership of any land allocated for Gypsy/Traveller Sites.

From factual evidence and experience (i.e. Meriden etc) any land owned by the Gypsy/Traveller communities becomes incredibly difficult for the District Council to exercise any control over with regard to planning regulations, including buildings, sanitation, noise, dogs running loose causing road accidents (as near Marton), unauthorised buggy racing on the highway, (as near Marton), etc.

I can only speak for the areas I know and for Bishop's Tachbrook a peaceful, safe, trouble free place to live, struggling to maintain its 'Village' status with potential planning for more housing estates engulfing us, our chosen way of life is already very much under threat. With Gypsy/Traveller sites in such close proximity we would lose our 'Village way of life'. Discrimination works both ways and one community's chosen way of life should not encroach and destroy another community's chosen way of living.

If these 'currently agricultural' sites are to be purchased by the Gypsy/Traveller Communities and planning is going to be passed for static homes, plus mobile homes, plus vehicles, plus working on site, will planning laws be relaxed for other land owners?

The proposed site in close proximity to the new Breeding Centre for Guide Dogs for the Blind GT10 is of course totally unacceptable for obvious reasons!

GT05 site would cause havoc on the Banbury Road B4100 junction with Mallory Road, Bishop's Tachbrook, this junction is and always has been very dangerous with a past history of many fatal accidents. With the constant movement of Gypsy/Traveller homes and vehicles, trying to negotiate any point of access on this site would be a recipe for disaster.

GT06 and GT09 would also cause very hazardous congestion as they would interfere with the very busy flow of traffic to the M40 Motorway. If any of these sites are chosen it would completely ruin the approach to historic Warwick as to date Gypsy/Traveller sites never prove to enhance the beauty of the countryside.

Bishop's Tachbrook School intake is already full to capacity as is the Branch Surgery with waiting times to see a Doctor already increasing. With the potential housing estates for this area and potential Gypsy/Traveller sites increasing the demand for places at both how will priority be exercised?

With reference to the District Council information Brochure 'Local Plan helping shape the district June 2013 Sites for Gypsies and Travellers'. Under section 4 What are the issues? Paragraph 4.2 referring to the GCSE or equivalent results it would seem the children of the Travelling community may need additional support in education, who will fund the village school if it needs to make additional provision of Special Needs Teaching Assistants to support any intake of children from the travelling community with these needs?

Will there be any provision by the Government/District Council for compensation resulting from theft, damage to property and vehicles that can be attributed to the residents of the Gypsy/Traveller sites? The current residents of Bishop's Tachbrook will inevitably find an increase in insuring their property, belongings, vehicles etc.

The price of house sales will be dramatically affected by any sites in close proximity of any dwellings, according to local estate agents prices have already dropped by 10% in Bishop's Tachbrook since the release of the potential intended sites.

Am I correct in understanding that a site for 15 static pitches will also be able to accommodate 15 mobile pitches plus the potential 30 vehicles plus turning areas?

Whilst it is only right to safeguard the safety and welfare of 'all' people it is also only right for the Government, County and District Councils to exercise the same right to 'all' people to expect the Government, County and District Councils to enforce the same laws and regulations, policing and justice systems for all communities! Evidence to date proves this does not happen! It is still one law for Ratepayers and another for the Travelling Community!

The District Council need to remain in control of their district by ownership of any land for Gypsy/Traveller sites and renting/leasing the land, for periods of perhaps five years, with conditions/restrictions that need to be adhered to and reviewed prior to re-renting/leasing.

With the knowledge that the District Council are in control of the land for Gypsy/Traveller Sites the affected Villages, Farms and Towns etc (rate paying communities) might be far more accepting of Gypsy/Traveller Sites!

I thank you in the hope that you have read and considered my concerns!

Yours faithfully



P E Hunt (Mrs)