



Gypsy and Traveller Site Options Response Form 2013

For Official Use Only

Rep. Ref. 10357

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	MRS	
First Name	MARY CHRISTINA	
Last Name	MURPHY	
Job Title (where relevant)		
Organisation (where relevant)		
Address Line 1		
Address Line 2		
Address Line 3		
Address Line 4		
Postcode		
Telephone number		
Email address		
Would you like to be made aware of future consultations?		
About You: Gender	FEMALE	
Ethnic Origin	IRISH	
Age	<input type="checkbox"/> Under 16	<input type="checkbox"/> 25 - 34 <input type="checkbox"/> 35 - 44
	<input type="checkbox"/> 45 - 54	<input type="checkbox"/> 65+
Where did you hear about this consultation e.g. radio, newspaper, youth, exhibitions, bin hanger?	WORD OF MOUTH	

Part B - Commenting on the Gypsy and Traveller Site Options

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

Sheet of

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)

GT19 land off A'ham Rd, Budbrooke, Cucklands Farm

What is the nature of your representation?

☐ Support

☒ Object

☐ Comment

Please set out full details of your objection or representation of support with reference to the criteria above.

Please refer to attached 3 page letter setting out our objection in detail.

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Mr & Mrs T Murphy



Proposed Development/Gypsy Traveller Site in Budbrooke

Individual response linked to collective response under BRRAG(Birmingham Road Residents Action Group) which covers 325-407 Birmingham Road. (We are just yards from the Proposed Development/Gypsy Traveller site at Oaklands Farm)

Traffic

The traffic using Ugly Bridge Road as a "rat run" has increased beyond measure in recent years, as evidenced by the fact that we now often have to wait to exit our drive. This was never an issue prior to the development of Warwick Parkway and Hatton Park.

We are situated on a bend and there are deep ditches on the other side of the road. On many occasions my husband has had to tow cars out of these ditches, especially when there are icy weather conditions. The roads around here do not get gritted in winter and black ice is a problem.

The Proposed Development/Gypsy Traveller site at Budbrooke would further exacerbate these problems in terms of the obvious increase in traffic in the immediate area. There would be a clear danger to any children walking along these roads to school.

Gaining access to the Birmingham Road from Ugly Bridge at peak times is already challenging. It seems to be a very dangerous stretch of road when one takes into account the number of accidents/fatalities that have occurred over the years. The increase in traffic from the proposed developments would only add to these problems. In fact, planning permission for various development schemes put forward by the owner of Oaklands Farm have been previously refused in part because of a heightened risk to road users.

Flooding

Stretches of the A4177 have been prone to flooding, especially since the development of the Hatton Park estate. The area outside Oaklands Farm is one of the worst affected parts and the flooding of Oaklands Farm itself is a very real prospect and not something that any community, traveller or otherwise, should be subjected to when there are other, safer, alternatives available.

The loss of Greenbelt

Of great concern to us is the possibility of "ribbon development/infill" along the Birmingham Road and we are strongly opposed to such development on Greenbelt. We feel that there are alternative "Brownfield" sites available to meet the housing and Gypsy/Traveller needs without having to sacrifice the wildlife, arable productivity and visual amenity of Greenbelt sites.

Demographics

In terms of how a Gypsy/Traveller site may affect the community, I think you need to take into account the relatively small number of residents in this area. We understand that 5 pitches does not mean just 5 caravans: it means 5 family units. This could mean that the incoming community would easily outnumber the present community. In any walk of life this could cause problems for both communities and we strongly object to any such demographic shift.

Facilities/Infrastructure

We understand that the local Budbrooke school is already over subscribed to the point where they are building an additional classroom just to reduce the numbers in each class. The Budbrooke Medical Centre is unlikely to be able to absorb significant numbers of new patients. The one general groceries store has no apparent facility to expand.

Trying to park to visit the shop or the doctor is already a problem at the best of times but nigh on impossible at school opening/closing times. The present infrastructure is not sufficient to serve the additional demands that will arise.

Aesthetics

Presumably the visitors attracted to Warwick by the Hatton Flight/Stairway to Heaven on the Grand Canal are of immense benefit to the local economy? A considerable amount of time and money has gone into upgrading the facilities to make it a pleasurable experience to walk/run along the towpath, to fish and to holiday on narrow boats in this "natural and historic" environment. Is it really in keeping with this well-honed and expensive marketing image to site a Traveller camp in full view of the towpath? Is it not also dangerous to young children to be so near to exposed waterways?

This proximity to the towpath also leads to the fear of crime in the neighbourhood, whether real or imagined. Several people who regularly use the towpath are concerned that walking in such close proximity to a Gypsy/Traveller site could result in their being victims of verbal abuse.

Also, the establishment of a new estate/Traveller site at such a prominent location on the main A4177 approach into Warwick seems to be at odds with the image one would like to portray of our great town to visitors and tourists.

Dangers to children

I have the same fears for the safety of other children as I have for my own. I would not countenance living on a site like Oaklands Farm which is in such close proximity to unguarded waterways. Children being children will always go where they see adventure, without considering the attendant dangers.

The site is also in close proximity to the main Birmingham to London railway lines and various bridges that could pose a hazard to young lives.

No less of a concern to young lives is the very close proximity of the Shell Garage on the Birmingham Road, adjacent to the proposed site. This has always been a very busy service station and the current refurbishment is presumably designed to make it even busier in future. Cars have been known to queue for the forecourt out on to the main road. The attendant fumes, emissions and pollutants cannot be under estimated, not to mention the danger from traffic along the main road trying to bypass the hold-up.

Views of our local MP

I endorse the views of our local MP, Chris White, as expressed in his open letter to Councillor Doody on the Local Plan

"We need a Local Plan which can balance both the need for affordable homes for local residents and their families alongside environmental sustainability. This is a difficult balance, but we should not accept any Plan which is not able to achieve this."

Going forward

We were present at the BRRAG meeting on 18th July and will continue to be involved in their efforts to mount a strong and sustained opposition to the plans should it be necessary.