

# 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: 16823

Rep. Ref.

Title MRS

First name/initials JOYCE W.

Surname BEASLEY

## 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

**I OBJECT**

~~I 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.

I CONSIDER THIS SITE OPTION TO BE A VERY INAPPROPRIATE PROPOSAL :-

### 1) LACK OF CONVENIENT ACCESS TO LOCAL AMENITIES

a) THE NEAREST DOCTOR'S SURGERY HAS NO CAPACITY FOR THE INFUX OF NEW PATIENTS.

THE NEXT NEAREST AVAILABLE (SURGERY) IS ALMOST FIVE MILES AWAY, WITH NO DIRECT BUS SERVICE.

b) THE NEAREST HOSPITAL (LAKIN ROAD, WARWICK) IS AT LEAST 6 MILES AWAY (I BELIEVE OUTSIDE THE NATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE CRITERIA) WITH NO DIRECT BUS SERVICE.

c) THE LOCAL SCHOOLS (PWRAL TERM) ARE AT CAPACITY.

REGARDING PUBLIC TRANSPORT, THE ADJACENT BUS STOP IS ON OVERGROWN VERGE, WITH NO PAVEMENT - DANGEROUS POTENTIALLY. ALSO SEE ABOVE RE. BUS ACCESS TO AMENITIES.

### 2) TRAVEL & ACCESS TO THE ROAD NETWORK

a) THE SITE IS ON A HIGH RISK TRAVEL ROUTE WITH MORE THAN 12 SERIOUS ACCIDENTS IN THE LAST 3 YEARS.

b) PUBLIC TRANSPORT HAS BEEN REFERRED TO ABOVE (RE. ACCESS TO

Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary

SEE  
A

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 -

I HAVE OPINED - ON 1/2 - THAT SITE OPTION GTO2 IS A VERY INNAPPROPRIATE DEVELOPMENT, SETTING OUT IN PRACTICAL TERMS ON THIS SHEET AND SHEETS A,B&C OBJECTIONS AND CONCERNS WHY THIS OPTION SHOULD NOT BE PROCEEDED WITH.

RESPECTFULLY, I THINK THERE WOULD BE SOME DUPLICATION IN ADDRESSING SOME OF THE AREAS OF CONCERN SET OUT ABOVE. HOWEVER :-

### 6) ANIMAL WELFARE

a) AS FAR AS I AM AWARE, TRAVELLERS LOOK AFTER THEIR DOGS AND HORSES/PONIES BUT ONE PRESUMES SOME FORM OF PROTECTION FOR THE LATTER WOULD BE PROVIDED BY THE AUTHORITIES IE WINTER WEATNER.

b) WILD ANIMAL WELFARE WOULD BE OF CONCERN IE ANIMALS, BIRDS, BATS ETC. AS DEFINED ON SHEET (C) UNDER 4C. WOULD TRAVELLERS ANIMALS CAUSE ANY CONCERNS TO THESE WILD ANIMALS? LIKEWISE, ADVENTUROUS CHILDREN?

Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary

See D

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](mailto:newlocalplan@warwickdc.gov.uk)

(A) (cont. from sheet 1/2)

2) TRAVEL & ACCESS TO THE ROAD NETWORK (cont.)

LOCAL AMENITIES) BUS IS ALSO ADDRESSED IN THE ATTACHED EXTRACT FROM "INFORMATION FOLLOWING WCC HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT VISIT".

- c) CYCLING IS DANGEROUS ON BUSY COMMUTER / ROAD TRANSPORT ROUTES - THE POTENTIAL DANGER IS OF COURSE MOST RELEVANT TO CYCLING BY GYPSY / TRAVELLERS' CHILDREN !!
- d) NO PATH OR PAVEMENT TO WALK ANYWHERE - TO ADDRESS THIS DEFICIT WOULD ENTAIL, BESIDES THE ENORMOUS COST INVOLVED, SERIOUS DISRUPTION TO TRAFFIC ON A VERY BUSY ROAD. SEE ALSO EXTRACT (REFERRED TO ABOVE);
- e) HERE WITH IS THE EXTRACT FROM "INFORMATION FOLLOWING WCC HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT VISIT" SUPPLIED BY LOCAL RESIDENT (FOSSE WAY) MR D. SPECK.

INFORMATION FOLLOWING WCC HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT VISIT -

- i) Concerning public transport, there are two bus stops in the vicinity of the GT02 site. The first is on the Southam Road and the second is on the roundabout on the Fosse Way. These are positioned on the narrow grass verge. I requested a site visit from Peter Garrison from WCC Highways Department to assess the viability of the GT02 site for use by the gypsy and traveller community. He looked at both areas and his immediate thoughts were that the site was not viable and would not have the highway department's support at a *prima facie* level. In other words, Mr Garrison said the site would not pass a fundamental test of highway safety without significant work on line of site and the 'visibility splay'.
- ii) Mr Garrison went on to say that the site was not sustainable when assessing it on bus links, cycle paths, footway links and general amenities. He said the site 'would need to have a pavement built all the way to Radford, and that would have to be lit and maintained and would also introduce urbanisation into the countryside'.

NOTE - ALSO INCLUDED IN INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY MR SPECK (SUPPORTING THE "VERY BUSY ROAD" ASSERTION) IS A TURNING MOVEMENT DIAGRAM FOR THE JUNCTION.

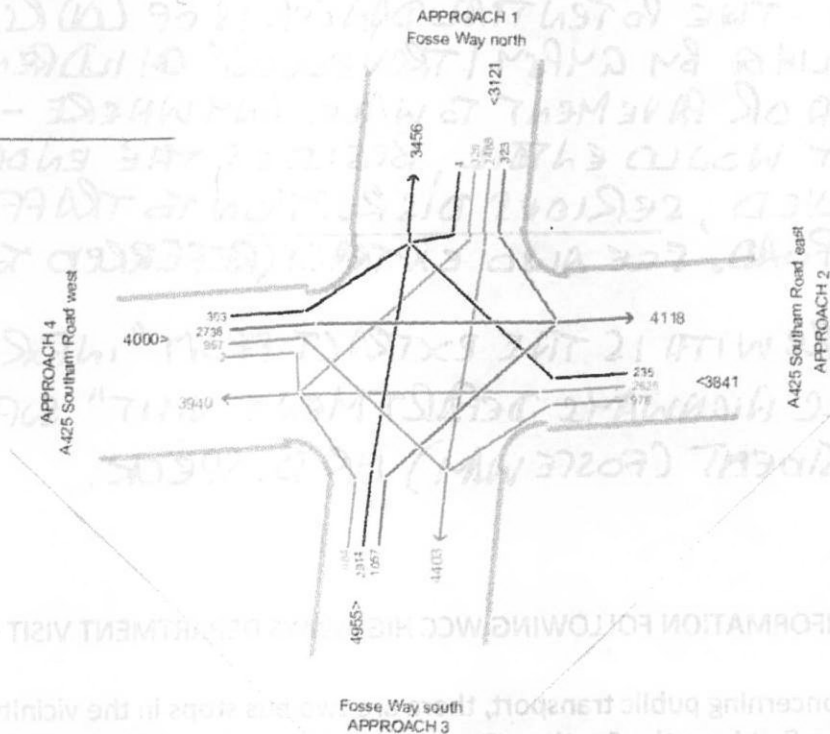
cont. on Sheet B

(B)

## 2) TRAVELL & ACCESS TO THE ROAD NETWORK (cont.)

- iii) Below is a turning movement diagram, supplied by Roger Harding, Principal Technical Advisor, Transport & Highways, Warwickshire County Council, showing the movements at the Fosse Way and Southam Road roundabout. This is a 12 hour survey (0700 – 1900).

Siteno A425031050  
For Vehicle Class MTRVEH  
From 0700 to 1900



### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM MR SPECK (AND HIS MENARDING & MR GARRISON);

- iv) There is a speed camera positioned on the Fosse Way opposite the proposed site, there are also signs advising us of it being a 'High Risk Crash Route', '12 Casualties over 2 miles in 3 years', 'Think Bike'. These enforce the fact that both the Fosse Way (60 mph Speed Limit) and Southam Road (50 mph Speed Limit) are both busy, dangerous road.
- v) Therefore, based on Peter Garrison's observations, information from Roger Harding and my own personal experience, I would comment that the two bus stops are not suitable for regular use and they would require a lit path and pavement structure from the roundabout, on both sides of the road, to the village, to make this area safe for pedestrians. Peter Garrison advised that the verge area was actually too narrow for this in several areas.
- vi) On his visit, Peter Garrison conducted a preliminary survey of the area with a view of positioning an entrance for the proposed GT02 site. His findings were that the 'visibility splay' would have to be maximised to allow for slow moving vehicles which might require issues of maintenance of the 'visibility splay' across third party land. Furthermore, he said significant works would need to be undertaken on access to the site to make it sustainable even for vehicular access.

(C)

### 3) PROVISION OF UTILITIES

IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT SITE GTO2 IS PLANNED FOR THE EXISTING EXHIBITION CENTRE CAR PARK. IF THIS BE CORRECT, THEN OBVIOUSLY THERE IS NONE. CORRECTING THIS SITUATION IS LIKELY TO INVOLVE TRAFFIC DISRUPTION I.E. CONDUCTING WATER & DISPOSAL OF SEWAGE & WASTE WATER PIPES.

### 4) HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT & RURAL ENVIRONMENT

a) THE SITE IS ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL REGISTRY WITH ANCIENT POTTERY FOUND RECENTLY.

b) THE LAND IS ON A HISTORIC TOLL SITE FROM MEDIAEVAL TIMES.

c) THE PROPOSED GTO2 SITE IS ADJACENT TO AN HISTORIC WOOD, OWNED & MANAGED LOCALLY, COVERING 14 ACRES OF LAND. FROM MR SPECK -

in January this year, an independent census and survey was carried out by Richard Finch, a Contractor for the Forest Commission (Site Survey 42856 - Parlour Spinney) to collect data for the National Forestry Inventory.

i) Mr Finch informed us of a badger set in the wood, along with the presence of bats and a honey buzzard nest, with a breeding pair located there. There are also owls, sparrow hawks, woodpeckers and a variety of deer naturalised in the wood. Mr Finch advised me that the badgers were protected and that it was unlawful to develop 30m from their set. He also informed me that by placing any additional lighting on the land below the wood would affect the commuting route of the bats as they fly from the Warwickshire Exhibition site to the wood.

ii) There are also two natural pond areas, one on the lower edge of the wood and one on the road edge, adjacent to proposed site. These contain various reptiles including adders, grass snakes, frogs, toads, aquatic insects and newts.

iii) GIVEN THE ABOVE MENTIONED DETAILS, IT WOULD SEEM THAT OPTION GTO2 DOES NOT CONFORM TO CERTAIN LISTED CRITERIA I.E.:-

- 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.

### 5) SAFETY (OF ADVENTUROUS GIPSY/TRAVELLERS' CHILDREN)

THERE ARE ALSO SPORTING SHOOTING WHICH TAKE PLACE AROUND THE WOOD AREA ON A REGULAR BASIS, WHICH OBVIOUSLY POSES A POTENTIAL DANGER TO ANYONE INHABITING THE SURROUNDING AREA - CHILDREN IN PARTICULAR AS DEFINED.

D (cont. from Sheet 2/2)

## 7) ECOLOGY & HABITAT

THERE IS A CONSIDERABLE QUANTITY & VARIETY OF WILDLIFE ADJACENT TO THIS SITE (PARLOURSPINNEY IN PARTICULAR), THEIR POTENTIAL DISRUPTION BEING A BIG CONCERN. DETAILS ARE SET OUT ON SHEET C UNDER 4 c).

## 8) EDUCATION / SCHOOLS

THE LOCAL SCHOOLS APPEAR TO BE AT CAPACITY - THE BUS STOP ADJACENT TO SITE GTO2 IS ON AN OVERCROWN VERGE - CYCLING IS DANGEROUS ON VERY BUSY ROADS. ALL THESE ASPECTS HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY COVERED.

## 9) HEALTHCARE / SURGERIES

THE NEAREST DOCTORS SURGERY HAS NO ADDITIONAL CAPACITY - THE NEXT NEAREST AVAILABLE SURGERY AROUND 5 MILES AWAY - THE NEAREST HOSPITAL (WARWICK) OVER 6 MILES AWAY - A&E FACILITY AT THIS HOSPITAL IS OVERLOADED (CURRENTLY).

## 10) HIGHWAYS & SAFETY

CONCERN HAS ALREADY BEEN EXPRESSED ON SHEETS A & B

## 11) LOCAL ECONOMY

a) IT IS OF GREAT CONCERN THAT TO ADOPT SITE OPTION GTO2, IN ADDITION TO NON CONFORMANCE OF CERTAIN LISTED CRITERIA, A SUCCESSFUL NATIONALLY RENOWNED BUSINESS (WARWICKSHIRE EXHIBITION CENTRE) WOULD BE KNOWINGLY DESTROYED.

b) IN ADDITION TO STAFF EMPLOYED IN THE PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS, PUBLISHED BY THIS BUSINESS, UP TO 40 JOBS ARE PROVIDED DURING EXHIBITIONS FOR THE LOCAL ECONOMY

c) DURING EXHIBITIONS, EXHIBITORS (AND TO A CERTAIN EXTENT VISITORS) ADD TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY THROUGH THE USE OF ACCOMMODATION, RESTAURANT FACILITIES, SHOPS, FUEL (PETROL & DIESEL), ETC.

d) IT HAS BEEN ASSESSED THAT <sup>THE</sup> CENTRE CONTRIBUTES OVER £2M EACH YEAR TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY, NO DOUBT

CONT ON SHEET E

(E)

## 11) LOCAL ECONOMY (cont.)

d cont.) PLUS WHATEVER BUSINESS RATES APPLY. IN THE NICEST POSSIBLE WAY, CAN WE COLLECTIVELY AFFORD TO WILLINGLY LOOSE THIS?

## 12) NATIONAL ECONOMY

RESPECTFULLY, IN ADDITION TO THE LOSS TO LOCAL ECONOMY AS PER 11) ABOVE, THE DESTRUCTION OF THIS BUSINESS WILL AFFECT TREASURY RECEIPTS - LOSS OF VAT & NATIONAL INSURANCE CONTRIBUTIONS, PLUS ADDITIONAL OUTLAY (ONE COULD GUESS) OF WELFARE BENEFITS TO THOSE NO LONGER ABLE TO EARN A LIVING (FULL TIME OR PART TIME) FROM THE CENTRE.

NOTE - IT IS BY NO MEANS CERTAIN THAT THE BUSINESS COULD / WOULD BE RESURRECTED, ONCE DESTROYED, AT AN ALTERNATIVE LOCATION.

## 13) RURAL LANDSCAPE, SERVICES & UTILITIES, TRAFFIC DENSITY / FLOW, URBANISATION

THESE CONCERNS HAVE ALREADY BEEN ADDRESSED IN THE PREVIOUS PAGES.

## 14) TOURISM

THIS AREA OF CONCERN IS INTEGRAL WITH TRAFFIC DENSITY / FLOW PREVIOUSLY ADDRESSED. IN ALL DIRECTIONS AT THIS JUNCTION, BESIDE LOCAL AND ROAD TRANSPORT, THERE IS CONSTANT TRAFFIC FLOWS - NORTH IN THE LEICESTER DIRECTION, SOUTH IN THE LINCENESTER DIRECTION, EAST TO THE M46, DAVENTRY & M1 & BEYOND AND WEST TO VARIOUS DESTINATIONS - DURING THE TOURIST SEASON.