

We note that WDC has stated that *"(t)he Council does not intend to own or manage Gypsy & Traveller sites itself. Experience of other Local Authorities shows that the best way for sites to be provided and run are by Gypsies and Travellers purchasing and setting them up for themselves."* Again, WDC's intention not to own or manage sites and its preference for sites to be provided and run by Gypsies and Travellers does not override the site's classification as Green Belt; such preferences/unofficial criteria are not contained in the Government's 'Planning policy for traveller sites' or the National Planning Policy Framework.

In addition, we note that the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) for Warwick District, undertaken by Salford University in 2012, identified a need for 31 permanent pitches to be provided over a 15 year period, 25 within the first five years and in addition 6-8 transit pitches over the full 15 years. WDC has already identified sufficient 'green' sites to meet this identified need without consideration of site GTalt03.

2. Co-Existence with the Local Community

It has been suggested that GTalt03 has the capacity of 15 pitches; this equivalent to 45-60 individuals (excluding visitors and/or transient gypsy/travellers) on the site, can be accommodated by a village of approximately 200 individuals.

Such a change to the local community, representing an increase in population of 25-30%, would be disproportionate and the site would dominate the local community.

The development of the 1.66ha site will also substantially change the character of the area. Given the physical and aesthetic nature of the proposal and the fact that the site is highly and clearly visible from both the Henley Road and the Hampton Road - such a development will permanently and substantially change the characteristics of the village. The impact of the site would be accentuated by the ground which is not level being between 1-2m higher than the Hampton Road; making the site eye level to people entering and leaving the village.

The site does not lend itself to the integration and inclusion of the gypsy/traveller into community.