



WDC PLANNING
Ref
Officer
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CC CR PD MA
PRE GEN DIS

10/3/2014

Developmental Policy Manager

Developmental Services

Warwick District Council

Riverside House

Milverton Hill

Leamington Spa

CV32 5QH

Dear Sir/Madam

Concerning the preferred options for Gypsy/Traveller sites in Warwickshire.

I wish to register my objection to the planned development of a traveller/gypsy site (GT19) on the Birmingham Road, Budbrooke, Oaklands Farm site.

- 1) The policy document describes the above area as having an urban feel.
Urban is related to towns and cities and is a geographical area distinct from rural. (Rural / Urban Classification Oct 2013). Budbrooke has a population of 2,319 (Census 2001). Hatton Park has since been developed but has a high probability of not making up the required numbers to meet the 10,000 required to define it as urban. Whilst there are a number of elements which may contribute towards the appropriate classification, urban does not appear to be appropriate. The classification suggests that the local area may be described as a rural town or fringe.

The rural aspect of the area raises the following concerns should a Gypsy/Traveller site be developed.

1a) Environmental factors.

The landscape character is unique to the area –Hatton Locks is a special setting attracting many visitors and locals. The scenic setting and walkways alongside the locks is a fundamental and historical aspect of the area. Any further development on the fringes of this environment may impact adversely on the area.

The site as it currently exists is not cared for and there appears to be some ambiguity concerning the history of previous planning applications for the development of Oaklands Farm.

1b) Sustainability.

What is the contribution to sustainability for the area? The lifestyle of the gypsy/ traveller community is very transient. Work is usually off site and when permanently housed the additional issues of extended family and friends visiting the site will result in frequent movement on/off site on the busy Birmingham Road.

Many adults and older children in the gypsy traveller community are not literate and to some extent this is due to lack of schooling. The difficulties in getting children to attend school on a regular basis may in part, be due to the travelling aspect to and from sites and the difficulties traveller children can have with integration. Getting children to school in Hampton Magna and other neighbouring villages is reliant mainly on the adults transportation, many of whom do not envisage this as a priority.

1c) The planned site is close to other private residential property to the north of the petrol station. The development of a traveller/gypsy site adjacent to these properties and others can devalue properties and ultimately change the present population makeup in the area.

I hope you will consider these comments prior to making a final decision as to the future of the local area.

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Yours faithfully

