

JEREMY WRIGHT MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

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Mr Dave Barber
Development Policy Manager
Warwick District Council
Riverside House
Milverton Hill
Leamington Spa CV32 5HZ

WDC PLANNING
Ref
Officer
02 MAY 2014
SCANNED
CC CR PD MA
PRE GEN DIS

28th April 2014

Dear Mr Barber,

Sites for Gypsies and Travellers: Preferred Options Consultation May 2014

I write in response to the above consultation. My comments here should be read in conjunction with my response to the previous consultation in my letter dated 26th July 2013.

None of the five preferred options identified by the Council are within the boundaries of my constituency. Three of the remaining alternative sites identified by the Council for suitability as 'green' or 'amber' are in my constituency and I will confine my comments to these sites.

Site GT02 – Land abutting the Fosse Way close to its junction with the A425

My comments in my previous response on this site remain relevant in the current consultation. There are strong factors pointing to the site's unsuitability relating to increased traffic and the inadequacy of basic utilities at the proposed site.

I have received detailed representations from the owners of the Warwickshire Exhibition Centre which is located opposite the proposed site. The proposals have already had a damaging effect on the Exhibition Centre through loss of business and have occasioned significant delays in planned developments.

The owners are concerned that the proposed site will have a continuing commercial impact on the centre. The nature of the business requires that long term contracts are entered into with clients so the current uncertainty may have a long term impact. The owners received planning permission for extension of the venue and whilst this had to be delayed pending the outcome of the initial consultation they have now been obliged to proceed to meet contractual obligations. This represents a considerable investment, notwithstanding the blight to the business occasioned by its specific identification.

In addition, I have received representations from the Harbury Community Group (comprised of local councillors and residents), who point out that the site is non-



compliant with the National Planning Policy Framework. They also highlight that the site does not meet guidelines for availability of good infrastructure (roads, pavements, sewage, street lighting, broadband or cell phone reception).

The two remaining alternative sites within my constituency are both rated as 'amber' for the purposes of suitability. The Council's own observations within the consultation document point to a number of deficiencies within each –

Site GT08 – Depot west side of Cubbington Heath Farm

The site is remote compared to many other alternatives. The potential land and groundwater contamination issues are noted in the consultation document, as is the potential impact on protected wildlife in the area, its proximity of the site to the planned route for HS2, and the fact that the site would have to be compulsorily purchased due to the unwillingness of the landowners to sell.

Site GTalt02 – Wood Yard, Rugby Road, Cubbington

This site is if anything even more remote from local services. The consultation document notes its proximity to replanted ancient woodland in North Cubbington Wood, as well as the potential detrimental effects to the highway and the doubt on the site's viability through the necessary purchase of the nearby timber yard business.

The Council will no doubt have received a number of responses from my constituents which state their individual views directly. I hope that my observations and the views of my constituents who would be most affected by these proposals will be given full consideration when the suitability of these options comes to be determined.

Yours sincerely,

