

Gypsy and Traveller Stratford Road Preferred Options Site Response Form 2014

For Official Use Only

Ref:

Rep. Ref.

Please use this form if you wish to comment on the Stratford Road Gypsy and Traveller Preferred Options Site.

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 or by letter (address on back page)

Part A - Personal Details

	1. Personal Details	2. Agent's Details (if applicable)
Title	Mr	
First Name	MARK	
Last Name	JONES	
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 on Gypsy Traveller sites?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
About You: Gender		
Ethnic Origin		
Age		
Where did you hear about this consultation e.g. radio, newspaper, word of mouth, drop-in sessions.		

Part B - Commenting on the Stratford Road Gypsy and Traveller Preferred Site

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:

- a) the site is within reasonable distance of schools, GP surgeries, dentists, hospitals, shops and community facilities;
- b) the site has good access to the major road network;
- c) the site is of a suitable size to accommodate between 5 and 15 pitches for permanent sites or 12 pitches for transit sites;
- d) it can be demonstrated that infrastructure requirements can be adequately met;
and
- e) there is potential for the site to be adequately screened.

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.

Having thought about and discussed the issue at length with other members of the local community, the main grounds for my objection are as follows:

1) Consultation Process

From the very beginning, the consultation process seems to me to be deeply flawed. Having lived on the Chase Meadow Estate since 2007, we recently moved to a larger property on the newer part of the estate, investing heavily in our futures in order to do so, and fully intending to remain here for many years to come. We moved at the end of July 2014. Not less than two weeks later, we received a flyer from the Chase Meadow Residents association notifying of the proposal of a traveller site on Stratford road, which is very near to our property. Despite, at the time having only just gone through the conveyancing process including all the relevant searches, no indication had been given to us prior to this date. This in itself made the council's approach seem underhand.

The consultation process has remained less than transparent and possibly even unfair. Even today (08/12/14) the online questionnaire relating to the Stratford Road site has been removed from the council's website, even though there are numerous mentions of it, and the deadline of 12/12/14 which is of course yet to pass at the time of writing.

The council have failed to provide any real detail in their publications relating to the site. In some aspects (such as Impact on Local Economy), the council have provided no information whatsoever. In others you have alluded to further updates which have failed to materialise. The consultation appears rushed and lacking in data, almost desperate.

I fail to understand how the site has been nominated in the final three sites seemingly from nowhere, having NOT appeared anywhere in the short list in early 2014. It has been added with absolutely minimal public consultation. WDC clearly haven't had the time to prepare and so information has been sparse and certainly not sufficient for the local community to make a fully informed decision. It has been readily apparent that many residents were completely

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unaware of the site several weeks into the process and were reliant on social media, word of mouth and the volunteers such as the Chase Meadow Resident's association.

Opportunities for the public to engage with members of WDC have been laughably sparse. The two drop-in sessions both ended at 18:30, making it virtually impossible for most working people such as myself, my wife and the vast majority of my neighbours, to attend.

When local residents took the initiative and organised a public meeting on the 4th of December at Aylesford School, WDC refused to send anyone from the planning dept to represent the plans.

All in all the consultation process clearly falls short of an acceptable level of competence and also the guidelines set out by government.

2) Other factors

From what I can gather, it is not clear that the site is actually available. For instance I have a letter from Severn Trent Water stating that they do NOT support the plans. I understand there is a third party involved also.

Given the location of the site (on a flood plain, next to an industrial water treatment works, near an extremely busy motorway and a busy A road), the cost of mitigating flood risk, road noise, odour would surely be expensive. It would also be of no benefit to the vast majority of local people. Even conservative estimates show that the site is not viable from a financial point of view. Also, guidelines for site selection state that run down or disused locations should be chosen where possible – the proposed site is green field.

There is also no existing access of sufficient quality. STW will not allow access through their site, so significant works would be needed to make safe access from the busy A429.

I fail to see how the site will lend itself to allowing integration with the community. The measures needed to mitigate road noise, sewage odour and flood risk would surely segregate the travellers from the locality. There is also significant risks to any potential residents of the site in terms of the river and roads, again at odds with guidelines for site selection.

The potential impact on the local economy is not clear but it seems likely to be negative given the plans for new employment land on the same site. There are already many vacant units on the Tournament Fields business park and it's difficult to see how the proposal could do anything but make the employment unappealing to investors and businesses.

The site would also dominate Longbridge village in terms of size. The proposed number of pitches for a single site is again at odds with government guidelines- guidelines which are based on experience of sites that have been successfully integrated.

The information provided by WDC thus far and their method of consultation gives me zero confidence that WDC can successfully plan and implement the Stratford Road site. I would like to see the plans dropped based on the readily apparent lack of suitability of the site, or at the very least postponed in favour of proper consultation.

Guidance on Making Representations

- Please use this response form as it will help the Council to keep accurate and consistent records of all the comments, alternatively complete online at www.warwickdc.gov.uk/newlocalplan
- 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 us in writing
- All forms should be received by **4.45pm on Friday 12 December 2014**
- 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 one of the locations below, or post to: **Development Policy Manager, Development Services, Warwick District Council, Riverside House, Milverton Hill, Leamington Spa, CV32 5QH** or [email: newlocalplan@warwickdc.gov.uk](mailto:newlocalplan@warwickdc.gov.uk)

Where to see copies of the Stratford Road Gypsy and Traveller Preferred Options Site

Copies are available for inspection on the Council's web site at www.warwickdc.gov.uk/newlocalplan and at the following locations:

Location	Opening Times
Warwick District Council Offices Riverside House, Milverton Hill, Royal Leamington Spa	Mon – 8.45am – 5.15pm Thurs Fri 8.45am – 4.45pm
Leamington Town Hall Parade, Royal Leamington Spa	Mon – 8.45am – 5.15pm Thurs Fri 8.45am – 4.45pm
Warwickshire Direct Whitnash Whitnash Library, Franklin Road, Whitnash	Mon – Tues 10.30am – 5.00pm Wed 1.30pm – 5.00pm Thurs Closed Fri 10.30am – 4.00pm Sat 10.30am – 1.30pm
Leamington Spa Library The Pump Rooms, Parade, Royal Leamington Spa	Mon – Weds 9.30am – 6.00pm Thurs 10.00am – 7.00pm Fri 9.30am – 6.00pm Sat 9.30am – 4.30pm Sun 12.00pm – 4.00pm
Warwickshire Direct Warwick Shire Hall, Market Square, Warwick	Mon – Thurs 8.00am – 5.30pm Fri 8.00am – 5.00pm Sat 9.00am – 4.00pm
Warwickshire Direct Kenilworth Kenilworth Library, Smalley Place, Kenilworth	Mon – 9.00am – 5.30pm Tues Wed 10.30am – 5.30pm Thurs – 9.00am – 5.30pm Fri Sat 9.00am – 1.00pm
Warwickshire Direct Lillington Lillington Library, Valley Road, Royal Leamington Spa	Mon 9.30am – 12.30pm & 1.30pm – 6.00pm Tues and 9.30am – 12.30pm & 1.30pm – 5.30pm Fri Weds Closed Thurs 9.30am – 12.30pm & 1.30pm – 7.00pm Sat 9.30am – 12.30pm
Brunswick Healthy Living Centre 98-100 Shrubland Street, Royal Leamington Spa	Mon – Fri 9.00am – 5.00pm

Where possible, information can be made available in other formats, including large print, CD and other languages if required. To obtain one of these alternatives, please contact 01926 410410.