

JEREMY WRIGHT MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Development Policy Manager
Development Services
Warwick District Council
Riverside House
Milverton Hill
Royal Leamington Spa, CV32 5QH

26th July, 2013

Dear Sir or Madam,

I write in response to the consultation on *Sites for Gypsies and Travellers*. Seven of the twenty sites proposed are located in my constituency. The comments I make are based on the representations I have received from constituents and following my attendance at a public meeting in Radford Semele in June.

First, it is important to stress my view that everyone should be treated equally and evenly-handedly in the planning process. I am pleased that the Government has strengthened enforcement powers so that councils can tackle unauthorised development more effectively and that the provision of sites for local travellers is very much a local issue. The Localism Bill gives communities far greater influence to decide which developments take place in their local area. I welcome this and the opportunity this consultation gives my constituents to submit their comments on the proposed sites.

I hope that as a result WDC will be able to identify a well located and sustainable site that will result in fewer unauthorised encampments.

GT02 – Land abutting the Fosse Way at its junction with the A425, GT03 and GT04

I am aware that a number of representations have been submitted on behalf of Meridienne Exhibitions, TEE Publishing and Warwickshire Exhibition Centre in relation to GT02, and I would like to associate myself with these submissions.

In addition, I would like to set out my own concerns about the proposed sites in Radford Semele area, GT02, 03 and 04.

I question the suitability of all three sites for a gypsy and traveller community. Each location has the potential for fifteen pitches, a number that will have a significant impact on local infrastructure and services, utilities and the landscape.

With regard to local infrastructure and services all three sites are in excess of 4.5 miles from any GP surgery and there is already existing pressure on local schools.



None of the proposed sites have mains sewerage, drainage or gas. The electricity supply is a limited rural line and would certainly need to be upgraded to meet a considerable increase in demand.

A site will have a very real visual impact on the immediate landscape in this area. There is a real risk that siting a community in any of these locations will result in the irreversible urbanisation of the area.

With regard to the road network, all three sites, GT02, 03 and 04 are on or close to the junction of two main roads with high traffic flows. The site will generate a lot of traffic movement daily onto the Fosse Way, which carries fast traffic and is a designated High Risk Route by Warwickshire County Council. Introducing more traffic will simply add to existing peak time delays.

With reference to GT03 and GT04 both areas are prone to flooding – fields are often under water and livestock and ponies moved accordingly and on occasions Harbury Lane has been flooded.

G13 Kites Nest Lane, Beausale.

You will recall that I have written to you about this development in the past and I stand by the representations I made in my letter of 15th May 2013.

Turning finally to the presentation of the document, I have received several representations from constituents who are unhappy with the style of this document and in particular the photographs that have been used to portray a traveller site. My constituents believe they are unrepresentative and, indeed according to WDC, the photos are of tourist sites and were taken from library stock. I have some considerable sympathy with these views and hope that any images in future documentation will be more appropriate and representative.

I hope that you will take my views and those of my constituents into consideration when assessing the suitability of the proposed sites.

Yours sincerely,

JEREMY WRIGHT MP