

# Gypsy and Travellers Site Options Response to Site GT02

Land abutting the Fosse Way at its junction with the A425

For Official Use Only

Ref: 130

Rep. Ref.

Title MR

First name/initials DAVID

Surname CHATER

Address

Telephone

## Criteria by which Gypsy and Traveller's sites will be judged for suitability and sustainability by Warwick District Council:

- Convenient access to a GP surgery, school and public transport;
- Avoiding areas with a high risk of flooding;
- Safe access to the road network and provision for parking, turning and servicing on site;
- Provision of utilities (running water, toilet facilities waste disposal etc);
- Avoiding areas where there could be an adverse impact on important features of the natural and historic environment; and,
- Sites which can be integrated into the landscape without harming the character of the area.
- Promotes peaceful and integrated co-existence between the site and the local community;
- Avoids placing undue pressure on local infrastructure and services;
- Reflects the extent to which traditional lifestyles (whereby some travellers live and work from the same location thereby omitting many travel to work journeys) can contribute to sustainability.

IT IS IMPORTANT to comment/object adhering to the above criteria and the council provided form follows that process. It is implied that you should use the WDC form or the response form available online. YOU ARE HOWEVER STILL PERMITTED to respond by writing to the Council's Development Policy Manager or you could choose to use this site specific form prepared for GT 02

OBJECT

APPROVE

(Please delete as required.)

Please set out full details of your objection or representation of support with reference to the criteria as outlined by the council.

Having attended the meeting on 25th June, along with 400 other local people, at the Fosse Way Exhibition Centre it is transparent that this site fails every objective set out in the points above. The presenters, at the meeting, demolished the arguments put forward in favour of this site by the authors of the WDC Report. I object on the following grounds:-

- 1) Local surgeries are already stretched beyond acceptable levels to provide the services we expect from them.
- 2) Public transport has no suitable access paths or bus stops. Significant infrastructure expenditure would be needed. This could not be justified as actual usage would be minimum.
- 3) Parts of the land are subject to drainage problems from the escarpment.
- 4) Safe access to these busy roads is impossible. There are warnings now.
- 5) Development here contradicts WDC's stated objectives - To protect:-
  - a) The natural & historic environment.
  - b) Harming the character of the Area.
  - c) Peaceful co-existence with the local community.

Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary

Warwick District Council will judge proposed sites against the nationally accepted criteria. The purpose of the criteria is to seek to meet the requirements of the Gypsy and Travellers community not necessarily local residents, businesses and employment.

Areas of concern could include:

• Agriculture • Animal Welfare • Co-existence • Crime • Ecology and Habitat • Education/Schools • Healthcare/Surgeries • Highways and Safety • Local Economy • Rural Landscape • Services and Utilities • Tourism • Traffic Density/Flow • Urbanisation.

I OBJECT

I APPROVE

(Please delete as required.)

to the proposals on the following grounds -

I share the following concerns expressed at the 25<sup>th</sup> July Meeting :-

- 1) Agriculture - Local growers are concerned for uncontrolled & unvaccinated dogs roaming the area.
- 2) Coexistence - Evidence was given that events had already been cancelled in the future at the Exhibition Centre on the announcement of a proposed Gypsy/Traveller site backed by compulsory purchase powers.
- 3) Ecology - Uncontrolled dogs are concern to farm animals & wild life in the district. The area is noted for badgers, bats, owls, sheep & cattle & horses.
- 4) The loss of the Exhibition Centre to a Gypsy/Traveller site will eliminate 42 full/part time jobs which contributes £2m annually to the local economy.
- 5) Tourism - The Exhibition Centre is part of the Tourist trade, which is part of the "Service Sector" which the country needs to expand.
- 6) Rural landscape - This location is one of outstanding natural beauty as is much of South Warwickshire - <sup>Why</sup> spoil it? Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary

Do you have any other suggestions for land within Warwick District that you think would be suitable for use as a Gypsy and Traveller site, bearing in mind the criteria for site identification?. If so, please give the location and the landowners details below:

There are none within the village of Radford Semele.

## Guidance on Making Representations

- 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 WDC in writing.
- All forms should be received by **5.15 p.m. on Monday, 29 July 2013**
- 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 either Riverside House, Leamington Town Hall or your local library or post to **Development Policy Manager, Development Services, Warwick District Council, Riverside House, Milverton Hill, Leamington Spa CV32 5QH** or email to: [newlocalplan@warwickdc.gov.uk](mailto:newlocalplan@warwickdc.gov.uk)

## Radford Semele

### Sites for Gypsies and Travellers (GT02 and GT04)

As a local resident for a lifetime and one who knows the local area and its history intimately I feel deeply concerned at the proposals being put forward for the two sites in Radford Semele.

The origins of the village and its perimeters date from Norman times and prior to that it had Saxon influence. Almost one thousand years previously the Romans had built the historic Fosse Way between Lincoln and Exeter passing the very position now proposed for this site. Many Roman remains have been discovered locally. The attractive escarpment slopes to the northern edge and a similar escarpment at Ufton are attractively wooded and have their origin in the last Ice Age. Similarly the large alluvial plain dates from that period and has allowed the development of high quality agricultural land which we see today. The Village owes its boundaries not to nineteenth century railway lines or eighteenth century canals traversing the village but to the meandering river Leam and its feeder streams which had their natural courses set before recorded history.

With a history as summarised above and the issues raised on the attached form it is vital that this area covered by the GTO2 proposal is protected.

With reference to Site GT04 at Harbury Lane- This site has only one or two acres of land within the Radford Semele boundary. In total the village occupies 2123 acres. More than 99% of the proposed site falls outside of the Parish. The area within the Parish is currently used by a number of commercial organisations including a petrol station and residential property. Adjacent to the main Birmingham to London railway line and being a fully developed site it is totally unsuited for development as a Gypsy and Traveller site.

It is against this historical and beautiful rural background that I call upon Warwick District Councillors to reject these proposals.

David Cl... 25... 18... Cl... Radford Semele Leamington Spa CV31 1UH

