

**Mr D Barber,  
Development Policy Manager,  
Development Services,  
Warwick District Council,  
Riverside House,  
Milverton Hill,  
Leamington,  
CV32 5HQ**

July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013,

Dear Mr Barber,

### **Gypsy and Traveller Site for Warwick – Consultation Options**

On behalf of Warwick Racecourse I wish to make a representation on the Warwick District Council Gypsies and Travellers Options for Consultation Document.

This issue has not surprisingly generated a huge amount of public interest and comment to date and much of it entirely laudable. However, as a business that currently generates a huge amount of interest and revenue for and within the local community I feel it is necessary to add my dissenting voice to those comments already made, albeit from the different standpoint of Biosecurity.

Disappointingly to date, one fundamental point has been by-passed by the Council in their consultation papers, particularly when one considers what we know about the cultural and historical lifestyle of the Travelling community. At a recent public meeting it was mentioned that each pitch will be sufficient in size, to in theory, have room for livestock, but working in a business that depends entirely on the provision of healthy livestock, this prospect of having animals on neighbouring land could have fatal consequences for the 300 year old Racecourse business.

The concern goes beyond possible equine livestock and whether they have been vaccinated correctly, which alone could bring the business to its knees, but what controls will be implemented by the Council in preventing cloven hoofed animals from entering these sites. These animals carry an equal, if not greater, risk to horses and one which horseracing's regulatory body, The British Horseracing Authority (BHA) have already written to me regarding their concerns.

The BHA have made it clear that should any of the proposed Traveller sites GT11, GT17 or GT18, be designated for permanent pitches, they, because of

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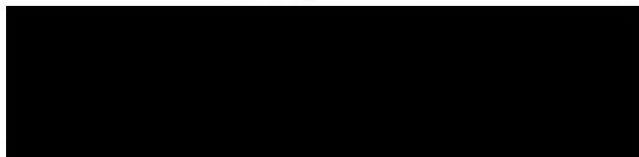
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the proximity and potential disease risks, will find it difficult to grant the Racecourse the necessary licence to stage race meetings in future.

As a business that has been so much a part of Warwick's history over the centuries and continues to bring business to the local community it would be a travesty if common sense did not prevail and more appropriate alternative sites are considered for Traveller pitches.

Yours sincerely,



D Huw Williams  
General Manager  
Warwick Racecourse