

# 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: 10698

Rep. Ref.

Title Mr

First name/initials Diane . H

Surname Aries

## 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.

I object to site GT02 being used for a Gypsy and Travellers site for the following reasons:-

### 1 - Impact to local economy

The Warwickshire Exhibition provides an essential location for business, clubs and hobbyists to stage shows. The Exhibition centre is a thriving expanding business. The shows its hosts bring in 10's of thousand visitors to the Warwickshire area and numbers are increasing all the time. It is estimated that this income brings at least £2m to the local community in the form of B&B accommodation, eating out and fuel to/from the event etc. The centre employs at least 40 people and as the venues expand this number is likely to increase. The increase in numbers to these venues and the number of shows are on the increase and are likely to rise further once the Stoneleigh centre closes due to HS2. Having a Gypsy site in this area is likely to put visitors off coming to the centre forcing the centre to close. There is evidence of loss of prospective business already.

### 2 - Access to local Amenities

The nearest Doctors surgery is in Leamington, some 3 miles away. These surgeries are already full with no further capacity for additional patients. The residents would have to travel at least 5 miles and there is no direct or regular bus service. There are few Schools in the area and the nearest is some 2-3 miles from the site. The nearest schools have no more capacity for children. This is already an issue with further housing developments planned for Whitnash, Leamington, Southam etc.

### 3 - Travel

The site is on a high risk route (Foss Way) on which there have been 12 serious accidents over the last 3-years. The nearest bus stop is in a verge and deemed dangerous by local residents. There is only 1 bus service which runs very infrequently so making travel to/from town very difficult. The area hasn't any paths or walkways so walking would be dangerous. There is no viable access to rail transport.

### 4 - Historic

The site is on the Archaeological Register as ancient pottery has been found and is on a historic Toll site being next to a old roman road. For these reasons a settlement could not be justified.

### 5 - Rural Environment

The area is in a valley and is the gateway into Leamington/Warwick from the east. As a consequence, any new development would impact visual amenity as it would be seen for miles and would be impossible to effectively screen. It would be viewed as not in keeping with the surrounding landscape.

cessary

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.

**OBJECT**

~~**I APPROVE**~~

(Please delete as required.)

to the proposals on the following grounds –

The GT02 area outlined has a diverse wildlife. There is evidence of badgers in the area due to road kill, Also, the area is likely to support door mice, bats, grass snakes. Presently, the Warwickshire Exhibition centre & surrounding dwellings do not impact on this. However, I am concerned that this wildlife habitat would be destroyed if a Gypsy site was established as their continual presence would discourage at best, but may harm wildlife in this fragile environment.

The roads in the area are extremely dangerous with high traffic. Because the area is in a valley traffic speeds are high and the bends in the roads give rise to blind spots. Consequently, any further entrances or increase in traffic in this area is bound to increase the risk of further accidents (already high) and possibly deaths. Children would not be safe playing in this area.

Access to utilities such as gas, water and electricity is either non-existence or, poor at best. Increasing the population and number of units in this area is likely to lead to further construction and the digging up of roads to increase infrastructure into this area. This may have a damaging effect as more overhead lines would be built to increase electricity capacity (affecting visual amenity) and gas/water pipes would be installed.

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 small areas within the Heathcote industrial estate which could be made available. Also, areas of the Stonleigh Park, soon to be ripped up for HS2 may be suitable for redevelopment. There are many suitable sites along the M4 corridor.

## 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)