

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: 7900

Rep. Ref.

Title **MR** First name/initials **IAN HOLT** Surname **CROWTHER**

Address [Redacted]
Telephone [Redacted]

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

I 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.

- 1 There is no convenient access to a GP surgery, the nearest (Croft Medical Centre, Sydenham) is 3.3 miles and the Primary School in Radford Semele is 1.8 miles – that may have capacity now, but the further 100 houses proposed in the local plan will absorb that and Harbury's is outside the catchment.
2. The site is within 50m of the busy junction of a 'A' and 'B' main roads with high traffic flows at peak times and one of them clearly signed as a High Risk Crash Route. There are no pavements and no provision for bus shelters; the current bus stop is on a grass bank – pedestrian safety particularly that of children will be compromised.
- 3 There is no main gas, sewerage or drainage at the site and I believe the electricity may not be able to cope. The considerable cost of providing these utilities is clearly a waste of tax-payer's money.
- 4 The Gypsy & Travellers' site between Tredington and Moreton in Marsh, further south on the Fosse Way is similarly in a valley and at a crossroads; there the similarity ends. One of the roads is a minor one and the site contours mean that it is well screened from the road. This would be impossible at GT02 where 3/4 of the road views are from hills on high. The expression "blot on the landscape" comes to mind, rather than a site which will be integrated into the landscape without harming the character of the area. In addition GT02 is located in a rural setting; residents at the proposed site would far outnumber local residents – hardly a good basis for integration.

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 –

Quite frankly I am amazed that WDC had the temerity to select the GT02 site in the first place when it already was aware of the business that was being run on the site. Did WDC not consider what the impact would be from Day 1? I believe the Centre has already lost one booking since exhibitions are planned well in advance and no potential user would wish to book a venue that might be closing.

In many ways the Warwickshire Exhibition Centre has taken over from the Stoneleigh Exhibition ground and by so doing it has created a venue that is readily accessible from the M40 rather than putting pressure on the quieter and more rural roads around Stoneleigh. A BENEFIT.

In 2012 it had 33K visitors which could rise to 40K this year; it contributes significantly to the local economy by using local hotels, pubs, restaurants, petrol stations and shops. The very fact that it provides a bus service to Leamington for non-exhibition visitors is indicative of its contribution which is estimated to add some £5m to the local economy over the next 5 years. A BENEFIT

WDC's consultants, Enfusion have overlooked that adjoining the Centre are 5 other businesses and were it to close in excess 40 jobs could be lost; in fact this is only one example of the consultants' failure to do their job properly. The Open Meeting held at the Centre on 25th June, attended by nearly 400 people including Jeremy Wright MP heard a catalogue of their failures in this respect. The high attendance at an initial meeting is indicative of the local community's depth of resistance to GT02.

Enfusion had a duty to produce an ACCURATE report and WDC has to NURTURE its rural business community – SHAME ON YOU BOTH.....

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:

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,**