

4th May 2014

Dear Sirs,

Re: Objections to 'Preferred Options for Sites for Gypsies and Travellers

Based on Warwick District Council Document dated March 2014

Utilising your published 10 point criteria – I would like to object to the following sites being considered for the gypsy and traveller sites.

GT04, 05, 06, 12 and 15

General Concerns

In addition to the specific site objections as detailed below, I am also registering two serious and general concerns about the sites now being considered as serious options.

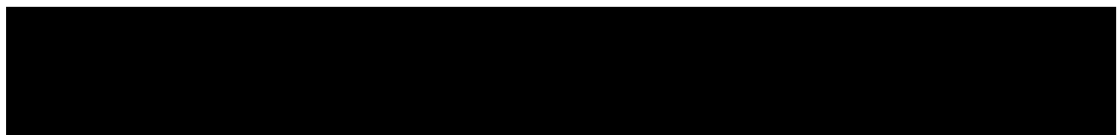
Concern 1: the sites are broadly around the two small rural villages of Barford and Bishops Tachbrook

I am very concerned that the focus of the sites is broadly around two small rural villages whose numbers cannot make enough noise vs. the larger communities, town and city sites where there are many more local residents to object.

Both Barford and Bishops Tachbrook seem to have been disproportionately allocated as potential sites. Both villages are small local communities who do not have enough residents to compare to sites that are within the main conurbations in this region. This seems specifically unfair when reviewing the number of objections specific sites receive.

Concern 1: the schools most affected are not being properly consulted as to their ability to support the children who may be using the transient sites

The sites should be in areas of good communication, and where the school systems can cope with the specific needs of this group. The school in Barford for example doesn't even have enough teachers for each year group and has complex demands on a small over subscribed school. Adding further special complexities of transient children into this equation would have a massive impact on the other pupils vs. placing the children into areas where the school has multiple classes and teachers for each year group and would have the internal flexibility to absorb additional pupils with potentially more complex



supporting requirements. I do not feel that these significant points are being taken into proper consideration and that the schools most affected are being properly consulted in the process.

By law the schools are unable to voice any concerns, however serious, without being seen to be prejudice. So it is the duty of the council to **proactively assess** if the school has the resources to properly look after the children who will be living in these transient sites – **in close and honest discussion** with the schools who will be most effected. I do not believe that this level of consultation is currently taking place.

Specific Site Objections

GT04 - Objection

This site has no convenient access to GP surgeries, schools, public transport, shops, or churches. In addition, schools in the area are mostly small village schools with limited resources, minimal teaching staff and operating on the tightest of budgets (cuts to the pupil premiums). The potential for disruption on other pupils' learning from a transient group of pupils joining their school (especially if they have special needs), is disproportionately higher than in larger town or city based schools that might be better able to accommodate this influx.

Harbury Lane and Fosse Way are notable for the increased road accidents and deaths from speeding drivers. The potential hazard introduced by caravans and other slow moving vehicles with attendant turning would increase the danger still further.

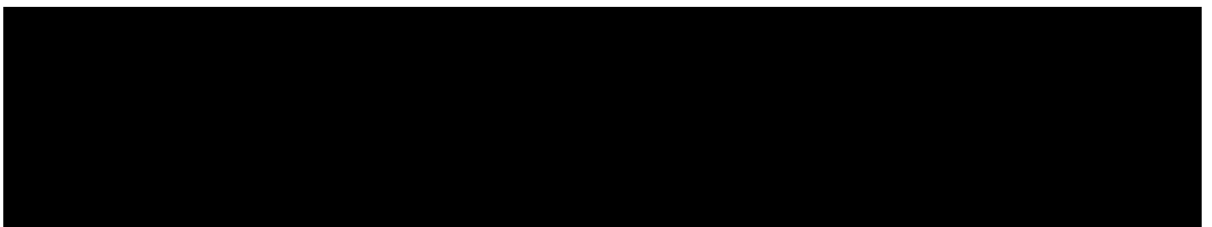
As a rural site, there is no mains drainage available and services would need to be especially brought in at an unnecessarily high cost to the taxpayer.

The site of interest represented by Chesterton Windmill would be potentially blighted by the inclusion of a gypsy site within full view. Integrating a gypsy site into the landscape here would harm the character of this area.

No local infrastructure or services. Danger to Harbury Lane and Fosse way traffic (potential risk of more deaths on this notoriously dangerous stretches of road). Site of special interest at Chesterton Windmill blighted as Gypsy site not in keeping with rural aspects and would be visible.

GT05 - Objection

The nearest GP surgery to this site is a small, part-time surgery serving the needs of Bishops Tachbrook residents. Public Transport is limited and there is one small village shop. In addition, schools in the area are mostly small village schools with limited resources, minimal teaching staff and operating on the tightest of budgets (cuts to the pupil premiums). The potential for



disruption on other pupils' learning from a transient group of pupils joining their school (especially if they have special needs), is disproportionately higher than in larger town or city based schools that might be better able to accommodate this influx.

Access to the site on two sides (the main Banbury Road to the M40 turn off, and Oakley Wood Road coming over the Motorway bridge) both represent significant hazards to traffic from turning vehicles; Banbury Road already has speed bumps in an attempt to slow traffic further to try and prevent accidents caused by traffic turning into and emerging from Bishops Tachbrook.

As a rural site, there is no mains drainage available and services would need to be especially brought in at an unnecessarily high cost to the taxpayer.

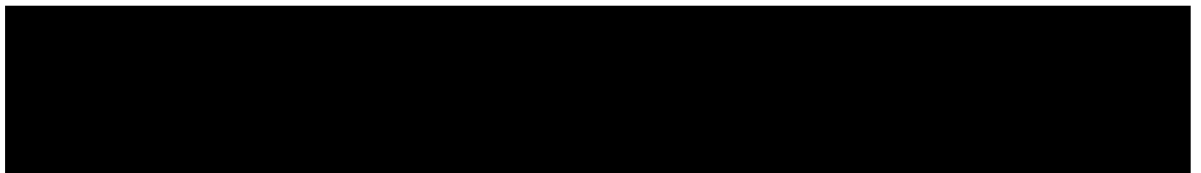
Also:

- This section of the Banbury Road and its junction with Mallory Road are known accident black spots including a history of fatalities. A gypsy and traveller site here may lead to regular movements/ manoeuvres of large articulated vehicles. This would worsen road safety and lead to an even greater incidence of accidents.
- Access from Mallory Road has been deemed unsuitable and access onto the Banbury Road cannot provide adequate sight lines.
- In addition constructing infrastructure to provide access onto Banbury Road will require the removal of a number of mature oak trees.
- The site is highly visible from a long stretch of the Banbury road in both directions and also from Mallory Road. This is supported by the WCC Landscape Sensitivity, Ecology & Geological Report for the New Local Plan. This assessed the landscape sensitivity to housing development as High.

GT06 - Objection

This site has no convenient access to GP surgeries, schools, public transport, shops, or churches. In addition, schools in the area are mostly small village schools with limited resources, minimal teaching staff and operating on the tightest of budgets (cuts to the pupil premiums). The potential for disruption on other pupils' learning from a transient group of pupils joining their school (especially if they have special needs), is disproportionately higher than in larger town or city based schools that might be better able to accommodate this influx.

The traffic at peak times on the Warwick By-Pass and on Banbury Road is extremely busy and would present a challenge for turning vehicles.



As a rural site, there is no mains drainage available and services would need to be especially brought in at an unnecessarily high cost to the taxpayer.

No local infrastructure or services. Traffic at peak times on Warwick By-Pass and on Banbury Road is extremely busy and turning vehicles would exacerbate this. As a rural site, there are no services.

Plus:

- Visual input is a general issue which is likely to be made worse by the creation of a new access.
- There are concerns about the potential impact on the setting of the historic Castle Park
- This site is very remote from key amenities and services meaning they can only be accessed by car, or by bus but only after a ½ mile walk to the nearest along a major road with no footpath.

GT12 - Objection

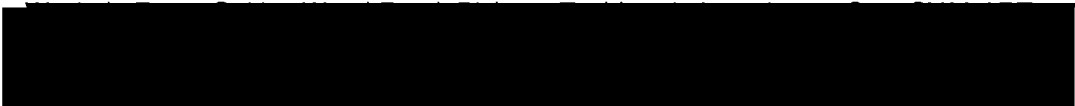
Schools in the area are mostly small village schools with limited resources, minimal teaching staff and operating on the tightest of budgets (cuts to the pupil premiums). The potential for disruption on other pupils' learning from a transient group of pupils joining their school (especially if they have special needs), is disproportionately higher than in larger town or city based schools that might be better able to accommodate this influx.

GT15 - Objection

This site has no convenient access to GP surgeries, schools, public transport, shops, or churches. In addition, schools in the area are mostly small village schools with limited resources, minimal teaching staff and operating on the tightest of budgets (cuts to the pupil premiums). The potential for disruption on other pupils' learning from a transient group of pupils joining their school (especially if they have special needs), is disproportionately higher than in larger town or city based schools that might be better able to accommodate this influx.

Also:

- Traffic at peak times on Europa way can often be at a standstill – turning vehicles would further inhibit traffic flow. Major infrastructure would need to be provided to allow large articulated vehicles to access and exit the site safely.
- As a rural site, there is no mains drainage available and services would need to be especially brought in at an unnecessarily high cost to the



taxpayer. The site does not have easy access to utility connections and it has been stated by WDC that both HV and LV power network changes would be needed to make the site viable. It is remote from basic services and amenities and no access to the site on foot, leading to sustainability concerns.

- The site is small and sloping and it may not be possible to construct the on-site access roads and hard-standings required for a gypsy and traveller site.
- Site infrastructure would require extensive clearance of flora and fauna. This will have an unknown ecological impact.
- This removal of this vegetation would create visual impact through views created into the site from a historic footpath on the south side of the Tachbrook Valley and from the proposed country part on the northern side of the Tachbrook Valley.
- The potential for flooding has not been assessed.

Thank you for considering my objections,

Yours sincerely

