

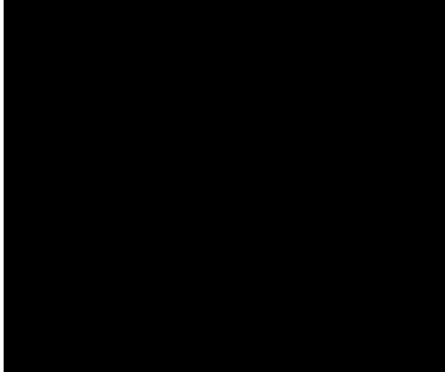
# Ufton Parish Council

2<sup>nd</sup> May 2014

Warwick District Council  
Local Plan Department  
Riverside House  
Milverton Hill  
Leamington Spa  
CV32 5QH

12527

WDC PLANS
Ref
Officer
6 - MAY 2014
SCANNED
CC CR FD MA
PRE GEN DIS



Dear Sir

**Re :- Warwick District Council's Preferred Options for Gypsies & Travellers Sites  
Consultation – Ufton Parish Council Response**

Please find enclosed Ufton Parish Councils response to Warwick District Councils consultation document regarding the "Preferred Site Options for Gypsies and Travellers" within the Warwick District Council area.

If you require any further information or clarification on any point(s) please do not hesitate to contact me on any of the above telephone numbers or email me on



Enc :

# Ufton Parish Council

## Sites for Gypsies and Travellers

### Preferred Options for Sites

## Warwick District Local Plan Consultation

This document is Ufton Parish Council's response to the latest consultation by Warwick District Council's preferred site options:-

#### **Preferred Option Site GT02 – Land opposite Warwickshire Exhibition Centre**

The Parish Council considered this site totally unsuitable for the following reasons :-

- (a) Where the site is proposed, that stretch of the Fosse Way is very dangerous, with numerous accidents occurring.
- (b) The Landowner is **NOT** willing to sell so requiring the council to obtain "Compulsory Purchase Powers". This means permission will have to be sought and the Government recently clarified in a Ministerial Statement that "Permission will **ONLY** be given if **NO** other suitable site (s) are available". It is Ufton Parish Council's contention that there are other more suitable sites available.
- (c) No suitable medical facilities are close to the proposed site, i.e. they do not fall within the catchment areas of Harbury or Southam and will therefore have to travel into Bishop's Tachbrook or Leamington Spa

#### **Preferred Option Site GT04 – Harbury Lane (Leamington Football Club)**

The Parish Council considered this site and expressed serious reservations and these are set out below:-

##### **Healthcare**

In the consultation document it states that medical facilities are available at Harbury / Whitnash 2.6 miles or at Bishops Tachbrook 2.7 miles away. From this it can be seen that Harbury is the nearest medical facility available, however the Parish Council have been informed by the "Harbury Practice" that this site GT04 does **NOT** fall within their catchment area. Added to this, the practice is already struggling to cope with its present workload, so adding further patients will require increasing resources to cope.

##### **Education**

In the consultation documents it has been assumed that the children will attend Bishop's Itchington Primary school. No mention is made of the fact that Planning Permission has

already been granted for 115 dwellings, with a possible further 200 being granted permission on the site of the old cement works.

It can be seen from the above, that it is very unlikely that there will be any spare capacity within this school, added to this, Harbury Primary School is also oversubscribed; it therefore follows that any children from this site will have to travel into Leamington Spa to receive an education.

### **Road Safety**

The proposed GT04 site is sited off the busy Harbury Lane, which has a 50 mph speed restriction and is used as a major route by vehicles travelling to the M40, Jaguar / Land – Rover, Aston Martin at Gaydon. Local villagers also use it as a major access route into Leamington / Warwick. Harbury Lane exits onto the Fosse Way, which is a very busy road via the “Bendigo Crossroads” a notorious accident black spot.

Statistics from the Warwickshire County Council Road Safety Unit show that:-

#### **Fosse Way from A425 – B4100 (Old Banbury Road)**

41 accidents recorded in past 5 years resulting in 68 casualties

#### **Harbury Lane / Fosse Way Crossroads**

8 accidents in the last 3 years resulting in 10 casualties

It is also contended, that with the proposed expansion of Jaguar / Land – Rover the situation will only get worse, add to this Vans, Lorries, Caravans, etc as the travellers enter and exit GT04 will only exacerbate the situation.

### **Conclusion**

Ufton Parish Council considered the consultation document very carefully and decided that neither GT02 or GT04 were suitable for Gypsies & Travellers Sites for the reasons set out below :-

- 1. There are NO suitable educational facilities close to either proposed site.**
- 2. There are No suitable medical facilities close to either site**
- 3. Both sites will increase the dangers to road safety, being sited close to very busy and dangerous stretches of the Fosse Way.**

The Parish Council contends that there are more appropriate sites available that will be better suited as Gypsy – Travellers sites, which can satisfy the required criteria.