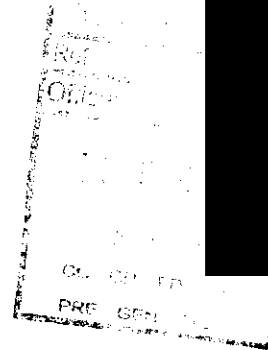


Development Policy Manager  
Development Services  
Warwick District Council  
Riverside House  
Milverton Hill  
Leamington Spa, CV32 5QH



8th December 2014

Dear Development Policy Manager,

I am opposed to the Stratford Road site in Warwick being considered for a permanent Gypsy and Travellers site.

My main oppositions to the site are:

**1) Access to the site**

The Council does not appear to have taken into account the access to the site. The Consultation document states 'Advice expected from WCC soon'. Severn Trent Water indicated they would not permit access across their land, so how would access to the site be gained?

The farm track leading to the site from Longbridge is far too narrow; neither day-to-day traffic, nor emergency vehicles would be able to safely access the site using this track.

Accessing the site from Longbridge would mean the main entrance to the site is next to the Grade 2 listed building, Longbridge Manor, which is located on a dangerous bend in the road with poor visibility for motorists.

These are just some of the access problems the council has not addressed. There are bound to be more that I am not aware of.

**2) Air, water and soil quality**

The fact that the site would be placed on land which is used as sewage works is not suitable for a permanent residential development, particularly one where children will live.

The government's own guidelines on planning Gypsy and Traveller sites state that:

'It is essential to ensure that the location of a site will provide a safe environment for the residents. Sites should not be situated near refuse sites, industrial processes or other hazardous places, as this will obviously have a detrimental effect on the general health and

well-being of the residents and pose particular safety risks for young children. All prospective site locations should be considered carefully before any decision is taken to proceed, to ensure that the health and safety of prospective residents are not at risk'.

### **3) Flood risk**

The proposed site is on a designated flood plain within flood zones 2 and 3. The government guidelines for planning Gypsy and Traveller sites states that 'Caravan sites for permanent residence are considered 'highly vulnerable' and should not be permitted in areas where there is a high probability that flooding will occur (Zone 3 areas)'.

### **4) Effect on the local economy**

The Council appears to be avoiding the whole issue of the negative effect on the local economy that the proposed site could have to Warwick businesses, hotels and restaurants. Tournament Fields Business Park is already struggling to encourage businesses to use the buildings on the site. If a Gypsy and Traveller site is opened opposite to it, the businesses that Warwick desperately needs to boost employment are unlikely to materialise.

In addition, the Council seems to disregard the feelings of many of the Chase Meadow and Warwick residents who have been held to ransom by illegal Gypsy Travellers on too many occasions over the last few years.

Why should the hard-working residents of Warwick have to provide land and access to services for Gypsy Travellers who bring nothing but misery and expense to the community?

Warwick is a great place to live and I welcome all who want to live here and integrate with the community in a positive way. Creating areas for specific sections of people to live away from the rest of the community is damaging for all residents.

It will be a sad day for Warwick if this last minute, ill thought-through proposal goes ahead.

Kind regards,

