

From Name :

Address :

Date;

M Harrison
Planning Policy Manager
South Kesteven District Council
Council Offices
St Peter's Hill
Grantham
NG31 6PZ

Dear Mr Harrison

**SOUTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK
GYPSY AND TRAVELLER POSSIBLE SITE OPTIONS
CONSULTATION AUGUST 2007**

This letter makes representations upon the Gypsy and Traveller Possible Site Options Consultation Document published in August 2007. These representations relate both to the generality of the consultation proposals and to site-specific considerations. In particular it raises objections to the identification of sites within The Deepings

These representations may be summarized as follows;

- Site reference D1 west of the former Northfields Poultry Farm is considered to be inappropriate for the proposed use as a gypsy and traveller site, both in terms of its suitability for the proposed use and the fact that the use would compromise the potential future development of the site and adjoining land for employment purposes. . The use of the site would impact upon adjoining residential amenity.
- Site reference D2 east of the B1524 is considered to be inappropriate for the proposed use as a gypsy and traveller site, both in terms of its suitability for the proposed use and the fact that the use would compromise the potential future development of adjoining employment purposes. The site is at a prominent location at the entrance to the settlement and its development would detract for the visual amenities of the locality and the setting of the settlement. The use of the site would impact upon adjoining residential amenity.
- Site reference D3 east of the Northfields Poultry Farm is considered to be inappropriate for the proposed use as a gypsy and traveller site, both in terms of its suitability for the proposed use and the fact that the use would compromise the potential future development of adjoining land for employment purposes. The site is at a prominent location at the entrance to the settlement and its development would detract for the visual amenities of the locality and the setting of the settlement. The use of the site would impact upon adjoining residential amenity.
- Site reference D4 west of the B1524 is considered to be inappropriate for the proposed use as a gypsy and traveler site, in terms of its suitability for the proposed use. The site is at a prominent location at the entrance to the settlement and its development would detract for the visual amenities of the locality and the setting of the settlement. The use of the site would impact upon adjoining residential amenity.

- Site reference D5 between Millfield Road and Stamford Road is considered to be inappropriate for the proposed use as a gypsy and traveler site, in terms of its suitability for the proposed use. The site is at a prominent location at the entrance to the settlement and its development would detract for the visual amenities of the locality and the setting of the settlement. The use of the site would impact upon adjoining residential amenity. The site is presently utilized as a showground. The loss of this facility would detract form the amenities of the settlement.
- The Gypsy and Travellers Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTANA) carried out in 2005 (and published in 2006) is based upon a statistically insignificant survey size . The Survey fails to adequately demonstrate how the identified level of need has been derived.
- The GTANA significantly pre-dates the publication of draft practice guidance by DCLG on 'Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments published in 2006. The assessment does not therefore follow best practice guidance
- The approach adopted by the planning authority fails to have appropriate regard to the guidance contained within Circular 01/2006 relating to Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites.
- Since the publication of the report, a planning application has been granted upon appeal at Lazy Acres, Gorse Lane, Grantham permitting 27 pitches. This decision effectively addresses the level of identified need set out in the consultation document.
- The GTANA does not adequately demonstrate that there is any need for Gypsy and Traveller Sites in The Deepings. The primary focus of the report is based upon need within Grantham.
- The identification of potential sites is flawed by concentrating solely upon sites within and adjoining the built up areas of towns. No consideration has been given to sites outside of urban areas that could sustainably meet any identified need.
- Despite the shortcomings of the GTANA, it appears that the level of identified need is largely based upon an unauthorized transit site at Grantham Meres Leisure Centre. The use of this site is infrequent, for a short period of time once a year. Adequate arrangements could be made for this site to be used for this purpose, on a temporary basis every year. This would eliminate the need for sites.
- The authority has not demonstrated that any identified need could not be more appropriately delivered through co-operation with neighbouring authorities.
- Many of the identified sites substantially exceed the site area required to meet the identified need.

I would request that these representations are taken into account in the Council's considerations on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Signature :

Name :