



Dickens Heath Parish Council

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Dear Sir

Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Development Plan Document

The Parish Council of Dickens Heath **objects** to the inclusion in this document of the Uplands site on Dickens Heath Road. It was not suggested as a suitable site in the LDF of July/August 2011, the area already has its fair share of traveller sites nearby, and it is only included now to reduce the number of unauthorised sites in the Borough.

This site is of unauthorised development which is still subject to enforcement action. If it is included, it sets a dangerous precedent that the Local Authority does not enforce unauthorised development adequately, and allows it to be regularised.

The Development Plan Document includes 3 pitches at this site, but the site could easily accommodate many more caravans in the future if this site is designated. Indeed, a planning application has already been submitted for 4 pitches on this site. Even if the Borough Council restricted the number, at Appeal, a strong case for expansion of the site could be made and upheld by an Inspector.

The site is in the Green Belt and Government Policy is to protect the Green Belt from inappropriate development. This is an important consideration because this area of Green Belt separates Dickens Heath from Shirley. Development within this area will erode the nature of the green space and result in blurring of the boundaries of Dickens Heath and Shirley thus reducing the 'village' identity of Dickens Heath.

The owner of the site has not complied with the planning system and has undertaken unauthorised development and resisted enforcement action by the local authority. The fact that enforcement proceedings are still extant gives justification to resist regularisation, no matter how long the state of affairs has been existence. Neither has the Applicant shown a

case for 'special circumstances' as required for such development to take place in the Green Belt in this Policy Document.

We strongly urge your Committee to delete the allocation of this site from the Plan.

Yours Sincerely

Helen Marczak
Parish Clerk and RFO