



Solihull MBC – Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocation Plan

AGENDA

17 December 2013

Timing and Programming

In order to make efficient use of time whilst allowing each participant the opportunity to put their case, the hearing will be run as a “Rolling Programme” with no set timings for agenda items. The Hearing will run from 10:00 am with mid morning, lunch and afternoon breaks to be agreed by participants.

General

1. Inspector’s Opening.
2. Any questions / procedural or programming matters.
3. Council’s Opening Statement.
4. Legal & Procedural Matters

Matters & Issues

The Council’s Strategy (Matter 2)

5. Sites in the Green Belt

- Is the identification of sites in the Green Belt the most appropriate strategy, when considered against all reasonable alternatives?
- What other alternatives have been considered?
- Is this approach justified and supported by robust evidence?

6. Scale of Sites

- Does the total number and type (tenure) of pitches on each site (existing and proposed), reasonably and effectively reflect the accommodation needs identified in the GTAA?¹

7. Community Safety

- Suggested modifications – GTS1 & GTS6

¹ Please note the slight change in wording to the Inspector’s Matters and Issues document (Q5 of Matter 2).

8. Specific Allocations (Matter 3)

Please note that since the submission of the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocation Plan for examination planning permission has been granted for eleven permanent pitches at Old Damson Lane (GTS2) and 4 permanent pitches at 74 Dickens Heath Road, Shirley (GTS4)

- Can the remaining allocated sites each deliver and reasonably accommodate the number of pitches proposed given the constraints that exist on these sites and the various policy requirements that need to be satisfied including impact on local wildlife sites, flooding matters, tree preservation orders etc?
- Is the Site Allocation Plan consistent with National Policy? In particular, Policy B of the PPTS requires that local planning authorities should ensure that traveller sites are sustainable economically, socially and environmentally. Local planning authorities should, therefore, ensure that their policies, amongst other criteria, provide for proper consideration of the effect of local environmental quality (such as noise and air quality) on the health and well being of any travellers that may locate there or on others as a result of new development. The Haven (GTS5) is in close proximity to Birmingham Airport. Will this site provide a reasonable standard of living conditions for future occupiers?
- Is the allocation of the proposed sites the most appropriate strategy when considered against the reasonable alternatives?
- Is the Site Allocation Plan sufficiently flexible to address the accommodation needs of gypsies and travellers, ensure delivery and monitoring?²

9. Temporary Stopping Places (Matter 4)

- Will the suggested policy for temporary stopping places be effective in delivering sites?

10. Travelling Showpeople (Matter 5)

- How will the needs of Travelling Showpeople be monitored and addressed in the wider area?

11. Any other Matters

12. Closing Remarks & Close

[If necessary the Hearing will adjourn and continue on Wednesday 18 December]

Participants: Solihull MBC, Heine Planning Consultancy, Dickens Heath PC, National Association of Gypsy Liaison Groups and Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group, Mrs Pedley

² An amendment is incorporated in the Submission document to replace text in paragraph 9.1.2 of the Submission Draft (See Matter 1 – Q8 of Inspector's Matters & Issues)