



BURTON LATIMER TOWN COUNCIL

Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Options Paper Consultation

Burton Latimer Town Council's response to Kettering Borough Council's consultation document is set out below:

The Council unanimously strongly **opposes** the potential site in Burton Latimer (Options Paper Site Reference: BUR017a – Site Location Map pp 17 – Land Off Higham Road) for the following reasons (not necessarily in priority order):

1. 'Boggy' ground, subject to flooding – contrary to National Planning Policy Framework para. 10
2. Poor drainage
3. Security issues
4. Containment of site
5. Does not integrate with surroundings – would significantly detract from the landscape and important features unlikely to be retained and mitigation is not possible
6. Does not comply with para. 2 subsection (e) pp 7 in the Options Paper – 'Planning Policy for Traveller sites should protect local amenity and environment'
7. Surrounding area of site may be dangerous
8. The potential access via Jacques Road is unsafe due to the likely heavy volume of traffic for a quiet residential road
9. Above situation further compromised by the close proximity of two cul-de-sacs, Addis Close and Ashby Close
10. Ecological quality of the site is such that it is unsafe due to marshy ground and unprotected sink hole
11. The site was cleared of the sewage station but the underground infrastructure is still in situ
12. Access to the potential site is for farmer and allotment holders only
13. The need to preserve the interests of the allotment holders
14. The site is unstable and contaminated and containment could not be viably mitigated
15. A number of criteria indicate that there is an ancient hedgerow (traced back to 1803) – ecological feature that is included in the BAP Priority Habitat (PPS 9)

16. There is evidence that the Gypsy and Travellers preference for location in the Borough does not include Burton Latimer
17. Closeness of the site to Westley Close is overbearing on current residents and any future development and would adversely affect their quality of life
18. Well documented spring adjacent to the existing hedgerow could cause further problems with flooding
19. General concern regarding the capacity of the brook to take additional run-off
20. Health Centre – no scope at present to take new patients
21. Primary Schools – no scope at present to take new pupils above existing planned growth
22. Existence of Great Crested Newts – photographic evidence (PPS 9)

In addition to the comments made above, the Council addressed the relevant questions in the Options Paper that require the Town Council's response and those responses are set out below:

Pp 10 Question 1 – “The Site Specific Proposal LDD will need to identify specific sites to meet the need for Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation to 2022. Do you think specific sites should be identified to meet the estimated need for the period 2022 to 2031 or should a criteria based policy be used to identify broad locations where sites may be considered appropriate in the period 2022 to 2031?”

Town Council's Response: “That a criteria based policy be used to identify broad locations where sites may be considered appropriate in the period 2022 to 2031; consequently only 15 pitches need to be identified during the current consultation process to meet the established/quantified need until 2022”.

Pp 10 Question 2 – not relevant (see answer to Question 1 above)

Pp 13 Question 3 – (a) Do you agree with the potential sites identified? (b) Which of these do you think should be allocated as Gypsy and Traveller sites?

Town Council's Response: Response to (a) “No” and response to (b) “Cannot comment as the Council does not have the relevant information/knowledge of specific constraints relating to sites other than BUR017a”.

Pp 21 Question 4 – (a) Do you think any of the alternative options should be processed as potential sites. (b) If yes, how do you think the constraints set out in the ‘Gypsy and Traveller Site Search and Assessment Background Paper’ could be overcome?

Town Council's Response: Response to (a) “Yes”, all of the alternative sites should be processed as potential sites” and response to (b) “Cannot comment as the Council does not have the relevant information/knowledge of specific constraints relating to sites other than BUR017a”.

Pp 33 Question 5 – (a) Do you agree that the discounted sites identified should not be progressed as potential Gypsy and Traveller site? (b) If you do not agree how could the constraints 'Gypsy and Traveller Site Search and Assessment Background Paper' be overcome?

Town Council's Response: Response to (a) "Agree", the discounted sites identified should not be progressed as potential Gypsy and Traveller sites and response to (b) "Not applicable".

05 July 2013