

North East Derbyshire Local Plan Examination

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Ms Helen Fairfax
Planning Policy Manager
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District Council Offices
2013 Mill Lane
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21 March 2019

Dear Ms Fairfax,

North East Derbyshire Local Plan Examination Follow Up to Hearing Sessions – Traveller Provision

I am writing to follow up the hearing sessions on Main Matter 15, provision for travellers. I am not inviting comments from the Council or anyone else on the matters raised in this letter except where I have indicated the need for a further response from the Council.

Site GT/06 Greenway, Wingerworth

I consider that the proposed traveller site in this location would be harmful to highway safety due to the proximity of the proposed site access to the residential development access opposite and the potential for conflicting vehicular movements on the A61. In coming to this view, I have had regard to the observations of the Highway Authority. Furthermore, the Council has indicated that it no longer wishes to dispose of the site for traveller provision and there is no realistic prospect of the site being deliverable over the plan period. In summary, the allocation of this site for traveller provision would not be soundly based and I therefore do not intend to recommend it as a Main Modification to the submitted plan.

Site GT/09, Woolley Moor

I consider that the proposed traveller site in this location would be highly visible notwithstanding the mitigation measures that have been proposed by the Council. There would be significant changes to the character and appearance of the site arising from the site access, the presence of caravans, changes to landform and hard surfacing on what is presently a grassed area which forms part of the open countryside to the east of Woolley Moor. The proposed development would cause significant harm to the landscape character of the

Peak Fringe and Lower Derwent Landscape Character Area. In short, the allocation of this site for traveller provision would not be soundly based and I therefore do not intend to recommend it as a Main Modification to the submitted plan.

It follows that the plan would not contain sufficient allocations for traveller sites to meet the 'backlog' of need identified in the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment over the five year period to 2019 nor over the plan period as a whole. However, discussion at the hearing sessions indicated that arrangements are in hand to progress an update to the Assessment which may lead to other work to address the needs identified. Furthermore, the Main Modifications to Policy LC8 discussed at the hearing sessions would provide a more positive approach to assessing proposals that come forward on other sites. In the circumstances, I consider that further work on assessing needs and identifying sites as part of a plan review or as a separate document on traveller provision is a matter for the Council to decide in due course.

I am awaiting the Council's response to my letter of 18 February 2019 following which I will confirm the arrangements for the remainder of the Examination including consultation on Main Modifications.

Please let me know via the Programme Officer if there are any queries in the meantime.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Housden

INSPECTOR