

Hatton Parish Council

Chairman

Dr M C L Le Tocq
3, Hatton Green
Hatton
Warwick CV35 7 LA
01926 484329

Clerk

Mrs Katherine Skudra
The Granary
Beausale
Warwick CV35 7NZ
01926 484612

Tracy Darke

Head of Planning Services
Warwick District Council
Riverside House
Leamington Spa CV 32 5HZ

03.08.15

Dear Ms Darke

Gypsies and Travellers - Briefing document for Executive meeting, 29th July 2015

This document was discussed at the meeting of Hatton Parish Council on 27th July attended by our District Councillors and MP, Chris White

We understand that Oaklands Farm on the Birmingham Road at Budbrooke has been recommended for consideration for the location of a Gypsy and Traveller site for fifteen pitches.

Although not in Hatton Parish, this site is adjacent to Hatton Park, and the proposal is therefore of concern to us.

We were unable to reconcile some elements of this document and would be grateful for your further explanation and clarification:

- The Council recently refused permission for a comparable development at Kites Nest Lane (about a mile from this site) and successfully fought two subsequent appeals, primarily on the grounds of infringement of the Green Belt. We were not able to understand why, therefore it is now proposing similar development at Oaklands, also in the Green Belt.
- The NPPF clearly states that such development in the Green Belt may only take place in 'exceptional circumstances', and it has been made clear in ministerial statements that lack of any other available sites does not constitute such circumstances. We would be interested to learn what exceptional circumstances the Council feel make this site eligible for development.
- The previous proposal was for five pitches on the land adjacent to Ugly Bridge. This proposal is for fifteen pitches on the same site, identified in Appx 2, an area of about 1400 sq m. We would be grateful for further detail as to how it is proposed to accommodate fifteen pitches on this area of land
- The document refers to two sites on Europa Way. The first (para 3.4) is dismissed as the land is required to provide affordable housing, but the second, (para 3.7) appears suitable and has 'received little opposition'. It is therefore difficult to see why it is not preferred to Oaklands, which when last proposed provoked vigorous opposition from local residents.
- If, as proposed, this land is removed from the Green Belt in the process of the Local Plan, could it legitimately be reserved for development as a Gypsy and Traveller site, or might competing applications be submitted?

While the Council's problems in finding a suitable site for itinerants are accepted, it is inevitable that placing such a site in an already settled community will provoke opposition.

We understand there will be a public consultation on this matter.

The Parish Council will be holding a public meeting to gauge the feeling of local residents (who are already deeply concerned by the proposed development on the Birmingham Rd adjacent to Hatton Park, also in the Green belt) and if, as anticipated, this is contrary to the proposal, to organise our response.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Martin Le Tocq

Chairman, Hatton Parish Council