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Leicestershire
LE67 1DN

Planning Department
Hinckley and Bosworth Borpugh Council
Argents Mead
Hinckley
LE10 1BZ

DEVELOPMENT
SERVICES
30 APR 2009
RECEIVED

Wednesday, 29 April 2009

Dear Sir or Madam

Ref Number : (09/00280/COU)

I would like to register my objection to the proposed development on the land to the north of Bagworth Road Nailstone Leicester.

The basis of my objection is

- the close proximity of other similar sites within the area
- my concern about the preservation of the area environmentally particularly as an area within the National Forest
- the visual impact on an area of natural beauty
- the potential impact on sustainability with increased use of highways and access to the site and demands on public services

I am sure that legal obligations will have been met within the terms of public consultation but it doesn't feel like it. A letter from the Parish Council to advise us of this development received on 27th April with a response by 1.5.09 does not give adequate opportunity for us to comment and this is the first notification we have had from any arm of local democracy. Surely we deserve better from our consultative processes. We are also in a period leading up to County Council elections and in effect we are without representation. Surely we must need a voice at this time before decisions are made.

At a time of economic down turn with a new duty on local Authorities to promote community cohesion and economic development there must be an opportunity to consider this request within the broader duties of the Council rather than an isolated planning application. Residents must surely have a voice to be heard in this arena. I would ask what additional resources the Council will bring to support the additional costs in services and infrastructure to support this development and if there are none then the application should be refused.

I hope that my voice will be heard and that the objections outlined will be considered. Obviously I would wish that my personal identity is preserved within the objection process.

Yours sincerely

Shelagh Rumbelow

Ms T Darke
Development Services and Policy Manager
Council Offices
Argeants Mead
Hinckley
Leicestershire, LE10 3DP

23 April 2009
E/V/7069/4

J Green
0116 305 6974
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jagreen@leics.gov.uk

Dear Ms Darke,

PLANNING CONSULTATION 09/00280/COU

I refer to your letter dated 15th April 2009 concerning the planning application for: Change of use from keeping of horses to keeping of horses and residential caravan site for ten Gypsy Families with two caravans and amenity block, including access improvement, access road and laying of hardstanding on land to the north of Bagworth Road, Nailstone, Leicestershire.

I visited the site on 16th April 2009 and spoke to several Families and today met with Mr Philip Brown, their Planning Consultant, all of whom gave me permission to provide the following information:

- The families that will live on this site fall under the definition of a Gypsy for the purposes of the planning circular 01/2006.

- The site would accommodate the applicants and their families as follows:-

    1. Margaret Connors – A 74 year old lady with mobility problems who has previously had a hip replacement operation that had not worked, she is diabetic and suffers from both high cholesterol and high blood pressure. Also resident on the plot is her 47 year old son, William, discharged from hospital on 16/04/09, who suffers from chronic liver disease, kidney disease and has heart problems. The Family were previously sited on an unauthorised encampment at Battram Turn, Ellistown and have been accepted as Homeless by NWLDC for over five years.

    2. Patrick and Mary Reilly - Both 76 years of age, the husband suffers with his nerves and the wife has a hereditary heart condition and angina. Also on the plot is Anne Marie Price, niece of Patrick and Mary, eight months pregnant and in general poor health with her15 month old son Fagin.

The site would accommodate Travelling families in need of a place to live, some of them are from unauthorised roadside encampments, some are a result of overcrowding, but all are in desperate need of accommodation and if the application were not successful would have no where to legally park their caravans.

Site provision will significantly improve the access to services such as health and education for these families and will provide a more stable environment for their children's development.

I would also point out that the Aston Firs Caravan Site, which is owned and managed by the County Council and provides accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers, is currently full with an extensive waiting list, also there are a number of families living on site that have grown up children who would like to start there own families with no where to move to.

My general observations are as follows:

The Housing Act requires Local Authorities to take account of the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers and to create strategies for meeting those needs in the same way as they do for the settled community. The Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland Gypsies' and Travellers' Accommodation Needs Assessment was published in April 2007 and the recommendations for Site provision within the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough area are to provide 26 additional 'pitches' before 2011 and a further 16 before 2016 the definition of a pitch being:

- Area of land on a Gypsy and Traveller caravan site developed for a single family.

It also defines that the average number of caravans per family is 1.9 and identified that families would like to have more space if they could, large families may have 3 or 4 caravans, many are overcrowded and families have a need to separate boys & girls sleeping arrangements. This site would contribute 10 pitches towards that need.

These figures are an estimate of need where it arises and not necessarily of need where it should be met, but consideration should be given to suitability of locations and an element of choice for the families seeking accommodation.

In the Black and Minority Ethnic Communities Housing in the East Midlands: A Strategy for the Region', recommendation 8 states that "It is imperative that local authorities make immediate progress in site identification to meet the needs of Gypsies and Travellers rather than relying on the development of policies through the local development framework."

- To underline the importance of assessing needs at regional and sub-regional level and for local authorities to develop strategies to ensure that needs are dealt with fairly and effectively;

- To ensure that DPDs include fair, realistic and inclusive policies to ensure identified need is dealt with fairly and effectively; and

- To reduce the number of un-authorised encampments and developments and the conflict and controversy they cause and to make enforcement more effective where local authorities have complied with the guidance in this circular.

The recent independent report of the Task Group on Site Provision and Enforcement for Gypsies and Travellers 'The Road Ahead' published by the Department for Communities and Local Government in December 2007 recommends

'Communities and Local Government should monitor the pace of delivery by local planning authorities. The Secretary of State should be prepared to direct local authorities which are not making adequate progress to prepare Gypsy and Traveller DPD's.

The report also recommends a mixture of private rented sites such as the one proposed alongside local authority/registered social landlord run sites and the GTAA recommends that, in Leicestershire as a whole, around 75% of the identified need should be met by Gypsies and Travellers developing there own sites.

I trust that the above will be of assistance to you in determining the application.

Yours sincerely

Jacqui Green
Assistant Travellers Sites and Liaison Officer

C.C Mr Philip Brown