

**Gypsy and Traveller Site Provision: The Use of Publicly Owned Land -  
Recommendations from Area Committee meetings**

**Malmesbury Area 1 Committee - Extraordinary Meeting – 5 June 2008**

**Resolved that:**

- 1) That the Committee declined to express a view due to the proposed sites not being located within the Malmesbury Area; and
- 2) That the Executive be requested to continue to seek a method for promoting an appropriate provision subject to the inclusion of a mechanism for ensuring that local needs are addressed first, in a similar manner to exception needs affordable housing.

**Cricklade and Wootton Bassett Area 2 Committee - Extraordinary Meeting – 9 June 2008**

**Resolved that:**

- 1) Neither of the two sites suggested for Wootton Bassett in the consultation paper are suitable for further consideration, and the Executive is recommended not to consider them further.
- 2) As the Council's representative on the South West Regional Assembly, Mrs M.E.M Groom be asked to obtain further information about why the proportion of sites for Wiltshire had both doubled, and increased out of proportion when compared with other areas.

**Chippenham Area 3 Committee Meeting – 2 June 2008**

**Resolved that:**

- (1) This Committee wishes to express the view that the Hardens Mead and Long Close sites are unsuitable for a Gypsy and Traveller site for the following reasons set out below, and wish to submit the attached written and photographic evidence:
  - (a) Residents in adjoining properties and in other areas of Chippenham have enjoyed this area of well kept public open space for over 60 years with a variety of leisure activities that have included picnics, dog walking, play for youngsters and as a walk through into Chippenham from Hardens Mead to Baydons Lane and thus into St Mary Street.
  - (b) Long Close land is in a zone 2 flood plain, with the implications of the loss of the lower part of the site thus pushing any proposed development up nearer to the established houses on Long Close (map attached).
  - (c) Long Close site is known to be extremely wet owing to natural springs and also as it takes the run off water during rain from the hill behind it which continues on down the sloping site to the River Avon.
  - (d) The Hardens Mead site is too close to residential houses, is too small on its own, and is bisected by a tarmac footpath used by schoolchildren and also by pedestrians walking

into Chippenham. In addition it was purchased by the Council in 1971 on the understanding that it be used for open space purposes (letter attached).

- (e) Site access down Long Close and Black Cross is along a narrow sloping cul-de-sac with parked cars and is totally inadequate as a site entrance (photographs attached).
- (f) The site is already in multi use with a BMX track, on a Borough Lands owned site, a children's playground, financed by the Chippenham Town Council, Chippenham Canoe and Sailing Club, the Headquarters for the Chippenham Sea Cadets, and the Headquarters for the Chippenham Air Cadets (photographs attached).
- (g) We would finally bring to the attention of the Executive that the site far from being "untidy brambles" as described by Humberts, is in fact a well maintained green public open space (photographs attached).
- (2) This Committee wishes to express the view that the Stanley Road site is unsuitable for a Gypsy and Traveller site for the following reasons:
  - (a) The road network in this area is unsuitable.
  - (b) The site is too close to residential areas.
  - (c) The establishment of a site in this area would mean that the number of Gypsies and Travellers would be greater than the number of existing residents. This would be disproportionate and unacceptable.

#### **Corsham Area 4 Committee - Extraordinary Meeting – 10 June 2008**

**Resolved that:**

- 1) That the Committee declined to express a view; and
- 2) The Committee note, with concern, the increase in the numbers of pitches and hope that the Executive will, in due course, revisit this issue with the South Western Regional Assembly.

#### **Calne Area 5 Committee - Extraordinary Meeting – 16 June 2008**

**Resolved that:**

- 1) The proposed publically owned sites at Oxford Road and Abberd Lane, Calne be rejected on the grounds of future regeneration and development of Calne and the Stanley Lane sites in Chippenham be equally refused on grounds of unsuitability and the detrimental effect to the surrounding area.
- 2) The Executive be asked to seek privately owned sites and pursue another open and transparent consultation.
- 3) The Executive write to the South West Regional Assembly and the Government Office of the South West seeking clarification on how the numbers of pitches were arrived at and why they have been doubled to 48 and how is it that the Kennet District were selected to receive so few pitches.