

Wiltshire Council

Full Council

24 July 2024

Item 10 - Gypsies and Travellers Development Plan Document

From Geoff Minshell

**To Cllr Nick Botterill - Cabinet Member for Finance, Development Management,
and Strategic Planning**

Question (P24-16)

After the Consultation Period and the receipt of the Public's response, will Wiltshire Council revise the Plan discounting any unsuitable sites before issuing it to the Planning Inspectorate?

Response

The outcome of the consultation will be reported to Cabinet and Consultation at the end of the year. It is too early to say what the outcome will be and what the implications would be for the draft Plan ahead of the plan being submitted for examination.

Question (P24-17)

How will Wiltshire Council carry out the necessary ecological, foul and surface water drainage, risk of flooding, services connections and highways surveys and impact assessments for the proposed sites before submitting the Plan to the Planning Inspectorate?

Response

The proposed site allocation policies include requirements that proposals will need to comply with before planning permission can be granted. They will not be dealt with prior to the plan being submitted but would need to be addressed by the applicant as part of any planning application process.

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From Caroline Minshell

**To Cllr Nick Botterill - Cabinet Member for Finance, Development Management,
and Strategic Planning**

Question (P24-18)

The map showing the location of existing and proposed sites shows huge swathes of land towards Marlborough and the East and Southern areas have no existing sites or indeed any proposed sites - why is this? Surely this shows unfair bias on other areas with a much more concentrated allocation or proposed allocation as well as a big drain on resources (health & education amongst others). Why is this?

Response

The main reason for why existing and future sites are in this general location is because they are close to travelling routes and populated areas; and there are no constraints such as National Landscapes (Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty), Salisbury Plain or the World Heritage Sites that are present in the other areas.

Question (P24-19)

What Consultation was carried out with Little Somerford Parish Council in 2021 as stated in the Gypsies and Travellers Development Plan consultation report?

Response

The 'Regulation 18 consultation' undertaken in 2021 can be viewed via this [link](#). The consultation report at pages 8 and 9 identifies the methods of notifying the community about the consultation in accordance with the then published Statement of Community Involvement (COVID19 addendum). This included notifications to all town and parish councils (see Appendix 6, p.37) about the plan and how to view consultation documents.

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From Haydn Reynolds

**To Cllr Nick Botterill - Cabinet Member for Finance, Development Management,
and Strategic Planning**

Question (P24-20)

What selection process has Wiltshire Council used for the new proposed sites and on what basis have these been determined?

Response

The site selection process has been informed by a review of the criteria in adopted Core Strategy Core Policy 47 (Meeting the Needs of Gypsies and Travellers) against requirements in national planning policy including the current National Planning Policy Framework and Planning policy for traveller sites (PPTS). This has included the need to ensure that potential sites are within reasonable distance to community facilities (namely primary school and health facility) and that all planning considerations are appropriately addressed similar to other types of housing development. These include highways and transport, utilities, drainage, flood risk, landscape, ecology, heritage, neighbouring land uses etc. Sustainability appraisal has also formed part of the process to ensure that any impacts are adequately understood and have informed policies in the draft Plan.

The new sites proposed in the draft Plan are a mix of private and council owned land. It is normal practice when preparing plans and planning for any type of housing for private landowners to put their land forward for consideration.

Through the preparation of the draft Plan there has been an open call for sites that could be considered for allocation in the plan but only a few private sites were put forward by landowners. It is only because of the limited number of sites that were put forward for assessment that council owned land has been considered. It has therefore not been possible to make choices between sites when identifying proposals for the draft Plan. Technical reports about the site selection process will be published as part of the formal consultation.

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From Jeanne Reynolds

**To Cllr Nick Botterill - Cabinet Member for Finance, Development Management,
and Strategic Planning**

Question (P24-21)

Wiltshire Council has 3 council owned sites within Wiltshire. Why are the council not providing more of their own owned sites on brownfield sites or other council owned land?

Response

The new sites proposed in the Plan are a mix of private and council owned land. It is normal practice when preparing plans and planning for any type of housing for private landowners to put their land forward for consideration. Through the preparation of the plan there has been an open call for sites that could be considered for allocation in the plan. It is only because of the limited number of sites that were put forward for assessment that council owned land has been considered.

To reduce the number of greenfield sites allocated in the plan, the plan seeks to make best use of existing sites through allowing the siting of additional caravans or additional pitches where possible.

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From Clare Beazely

**To Cllr Nick Botterill - Cabinet Member for Finance, Development Management,
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Question (P24-22)

Wiltshire Council have sold off previously owned sites. What is the target market for these and future sites? Who will the sites be sold to?

Response

The sites that have been sold off are now managed as commercial sites for occupation by gypsies and travellers and Policy GT2 of the plan safeguards them to ensure this use continues. One of the sites is also allocated in the plan for the provision of additional pitches (Policy GT11).

The plan proposes that all new sites will be conditioned for use by gypsies and travellers. It is anticipated that the sites on council owned land will be marketed to travellers with identified needs who are based in Wiltshire.

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From Kit Beazley

**To Cllr Nick Botterill - Cabinet Member for Finance, Development Management,
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Question (P24-23)

The term Boaters has been used within the plan but no further mention on the map of intended sites as to how many spaces/pitches are to be allocated within Wiltshire to Boaters. This could reduce the number of pitches/plots required by Wiltshire council within the plan for Gypsies/Travellers/Show People. How many boater sites are there and how many proposed new ones are there?

Response

The term 'boater' is used in the report when referring to the 'Wiltshire Gypsy, Roma, Traveller and Boater Strategy 2020-2025' and the 2019 Health Needs Assessment.

The plan relates to the accommodation needs of gypsies and travellers and travelling show people only. Boaters are addressed within a separate plan, which is also under preparation. Policy 94 (Wiltshire's canals and the boating community) addresses the need of boaters and can be accessed via this [link](#). Notwithstanding this, moorings for boats would not address the accommodation needs of gypsies and travellers and travelling showpeople.