

**Draft Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Malmesbury Area (1)
Committee Meeting held on Thursday 5 June 2008 at Malmesbury Town Hall,
commencing at 7.00pm.**

Present:

Councillor JPSS Thomson (Chairman)

Councillors C Berry, VH Greenman, IJ Henderson, R Sanderson, TR Sturgis and VA Vines

Other Members Present:

Councillor RL Tonge

County/Town/Parish Council Representatives:

Councillor G Lyme	Alderton Parish Council
Councillor E Blacker	Dauntsey Parish Council
Councillor C Soden	Wiltshire County Council

Officers Present:

J. Densham (Democratic Services Assistant), L Pullin (Democratic Services Officer), L Robertson (Head of Policy and Performance) and L Tilsed (Spatial Plans Officer)

M13. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received after the meeting from Councillor O Gibbs (Brinkworth Parish Council).

M14. Public Question/Receipt of Petitions

There were no public questions or petitions.

M15. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

M16. Gypsy and Traveller Site Provision

Consideration was given to Report No. 6 (circulated with the Agenda) which introduced the Gypsy and Traveller Issues and Options Consultation, set out the background to this issue and the potential for addressing the needs in the short term and advised on the long term future for dealing with the issue within the Local Development Framework Process.

The Head of Policy and Performance gave a presentation regarding gypsy and traveller site provision covering the following issues:

- The number of pitches required;
- The location of current pitches in Wiltshire;
- Unauthorised sites;



- Policies regarding the provision of sites for gypsies and travellers;
- Public sites being considered for the location of a gypsy and traveller site;
- The assessment process; and
- Timeline for site provision.

The Committee was also informed that the Government had now stated that 48 pitches (as opposed to the original proposal of 24 pitches) were required in North Wiltshire.

It was noted that privately owned sites could also be considered if put forward by landowners. Any private sites put forward would be subject to a separate consultation process at the end of the summer.

Members of the public then asked questions and made comments on the proposals put forward in the consultation document. Details of the question and answer session are **attached in Appendix 1** to these minutes.

The Committee discussed the following matters:

- There is a need to allocate sites to travellers and gypsies in order to gain control over unauthorised land use;
- Travelling show people do not come within the scope of this consultation as their needs differ from that of the Gypsy and Traveller communities;
- There is a need to look after our own Gypsy community before other travelling communities;
- There is an intention to challenge the recent 100% increase requirement for pitches;
- The Minety Appeal Hearing was raised, particularly what would happen in the event of the Appeal being lost by the Gypsies; and
- North Wiltshire District Council is currently investigating the availability of other possible land options – suggestions from the public (farmers/landowners) would be welcome.

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.

The meeting started at 7pm and finished at 8.05pm.

There were 19 members of the public present.