

9 January 2019

Dear Resident,

Local Plan Objection relating to Gypsy and Traveller Site Proposal at Temperance Hill, Woolley Moor

You may have heard that North East Derbyshire District Council has recently issued a consultation regarding a proposal for four potential gypsy/traveller sites in the District.

One of the proposed sites is located off Temperance Hill at Woolley Moor, within Stretton Parish, and you are invited to a public meeting to discuss the District Council Consultation, with particular reference to the Woolley Moor site.

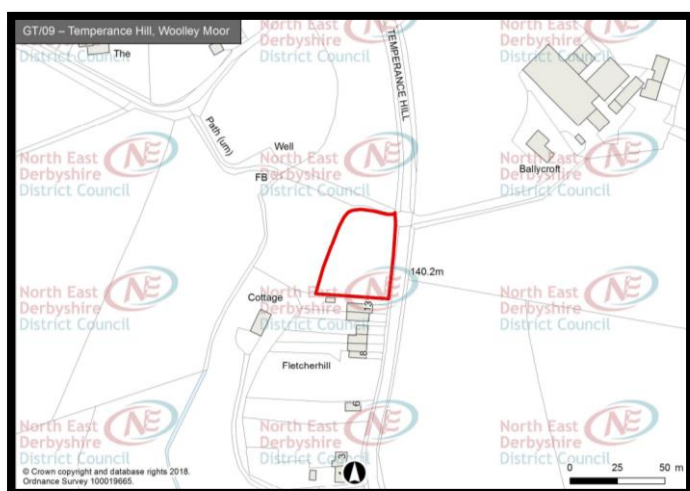
STRETTON PARISH COUNCIL PUBLIC MEETING: 6:30PM MONDAY 14TH JANUARY 2019 AT ST MARK'S CHURCH, ASHOVER NEW ROAD, WOOLLEY MOOR - EVERYONE WELCOME

We fully understand that this issue is causing very significant concern amongst residents. Stainton Planning has been employed by Stretton Parish Council to prepare and submit an objection to this proposed traveller site on behalf of the Parish Council. Charlotte Stainton will also appear at the Examination Hearings to present the case against the allocation of this site for gypsy use.

Stretton Parish Council therefore wishes to reassure residents that the proposal for this traveller site is being treated very seriously and will be the subject of objections in the strongest possible terms.

It is important to explain that this is not a planning application. It is a proposal to allocate the site, shown on the plan below (along with three other sites in the District), for future gypsy or traveller use in the new North East Derbyshire Local Plan, which will set out the future planning policies for the area. It is also important to note that the

consultation has been issued by North East Derbyshire District Council and not Derbyshire County Council as there has been some confusion about this.



Relevant Planning Issues

We understand that many residents will be keen to submit their own objections directly and the following advice is intended to help with this, to give the whole community the best possible chance of resisting these proposals. You should consult the Council website for full details of the procedures.

The consultation documents can be found on the following website, at the NEDDC offices in Wingerworth and in local libraries including Clay Cross, Chesterfield and the mobile library:

<http://www.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk/index.php/local-plan-examination>

It is very important that objections are based on the relevant planning issues.

The Government is clear that Gypsy and Traveller sites should be allocated in Local Plans and therefore we are not going to win an argument that no traveller sites are required. The issue is whether this is a suitable site.

In your comments you should say that you are responding to Local Plan Main Matter 15, questions 28 and 29 (which relate to the location of the site and material impacts in relation to the Woolley Moor site).

Technical issues of drainage, trees, highways and ecology are all relevant considerations and you can make comments on these topics. These issues however can all be addressed by criteria in the relevant planning policy, and objections on these issues alone is unlikely to result in the allocation being removed from the Plan.

The two key issues to focus on are:

1. That the **location of the site is not sustainable** i.e. it is in the countryside a significant distance from shops, doctors, high schools, places of employment etc. The Council's own Local Plan evidence states that Woolley Moor is a

village with limited sustainability and furthermore the site itself is not within the village. You could give first hand evidence about difficulties with the bus service and/or your experience of travelling to shops, doctor or dentist (for example).

2. That the use of this site as a traveller site would have a **significant adverse impact on the landscape**. Again, this is the conclusion of the Council's own evidence although they believe that hedges would overcome this. You could talk about visual prominence, harm to public views across the landscape, the public footpaths nearby (including the audio trail) etc. Impact on residential amenity for local residents is also relevant but we must be careful about making assumptions about noise from the site.

It is crucial that prejudicial comments about Gypsy and traveller communities/sites are not made, to ensure that full consideration is given to your comments.

Comments about property values and the consultation process are also not relevant.

The tone of your comments is important. This is not an opportunity to criticise the Council. The purpose of making comments is to try to work with the Inspector in her assessment of this site i.e. to present a clear, logical argument about why this site is not suitable. This is not a 'done deal'. The Inspector will be considering each site with an open mind, and the way residents present their case will influence the outcome.

Submitting Comments

Your comments can be made in the following ways:

- Using the online consultation portal: <https://bolsover.jdi-consult.net/localplan/>
- By email to the Programme Officer: programme.officer@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk
- By post to the Programme Officer: Louise St John Howe, Programme Officer, PO Services, PO Box 10965, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 3BF

You should note that writing/emailing the Council, or your councillor, directly will not count as a formal response to the consultation unless you also submit comments by one of the above methods.

Comments must be submitted by 5pm on Friday 15th February 2019.

Examination Hearings

The Planning Inspector will be holding hearing sessions to discuss the Gypsy and Traveller sites at NEDDC offices from 9.30am on 13th, 14th and 15th of March 2019.

If you wish to attend these sessions simply to listen to the proceedings, you can do so without registering, as it is a public meeting.

If however you wish to speak at the hearings you must submit a written comment as above and confirm your wish to participate at the hearings, by 5pm on 15th February 2019. The hearings will be structured around the Matters, Issues and Questions set out on the NEDDC website. You should only register to speak at the meeting if you definitely wish to take part and will be able to stick to the relevant issue under consideration by the Inspector. Your written comments will be taken into account whether you speak at the meeting or not.

Charlotte Stainton of Stainton Planning will represent Stretton Parish Council at the hearings to provide detailed objections to the proposed Woolley Moor site.

Stretton Parish Council looks forward to seeing you at the public meeting on Monday.

Yours Faithfully

Charlotte Stainton

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