



Wyre Forest District

Site Allocations and Policies Plan

Examination

Gypsies and Travellers Topic Paper

February 2013

1. Introduction

1.1 This topic paper presents information relating to planning for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople within Wyre Forest District. It summarises the national policy context and sets out how the District Council have addressed the topic. The paper sets out the current position on the 5 year land supply for sites for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.

2 The National Context

2.1 The Government's 'Planning Policy for Traveller Sites' came into effect in March 2012 and replaced previous national planning circulars for Gypsy and Traveller caravan sites and for Travelling Showpeople. It requires that Local Planning Authorities should set pitch targets for Gypsies and Travellers and plot targets for Travelling Showpeople which address the likely permanent and transit site accommodation needs of travellers in their area, working collaboratively with neighbouring local planning authorities.

2.2 Planning Policy for Traveller Sites sets out that, Local Planning Authorities should, in producing their Local Plan:

- identify and update annually, a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide five years' worth of sites against their locally set targets
- identify a supply of specific, developable sites or broad locations for growth, for years six to ten and, where possible, for years 11-15
- consider production of joint development plans that set targets on a cross-authority basis, to provide more flexibility in identifying sites, particularly if a local planning authority has special or strict planning constraints across its area (local planning authorities have a duty to cooperate on planning issues that cross administrative boundaries)
- relate the number of pitches or plots to the circumstances of the specific size and location of the site and the surrounding population's size and density
- protect local amenity and environment

3 The Regional and Local Context

- 3.1 A Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) for the South Housing Market Area of the West Midlands Region was published in March 2008. This established that within the Wyre Forest District almost all need arises from established Gypsy sites. This GTAA identified a need for an additional 30 pitches for 2006-13.
- 3.2 The Worcestershire districts will be appointing consultants shortly to undertake a Worcestershire wide GTAA update. This report is expected to be published in late 2013.
- 3.3 The evidence base for the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) Phase 3 Interim Policy Statement identified a need for a further 5 pitches for the period 2013-17. An indicative need (as established through the Regional Interim Statement) was set at 15 pitches for the longer-term post 2017 period.

4 5 Year Land Supply

- 4.1 There is an established need for 50 additional pitches 2006-2022 (16 years). Which has been calculated as follows:

Time Frame	Number of Pitches	Source
2006-2013	30	Adopted Core Strategy
2013-2017	5	RSS Phase 3 Interim Policy Statement Options Generation
2017-2022	15	Indicative target included within the Phase 3 Policy Statement

- 4.2 By April 2012, 14 additional pitches had been provided as follows:

Site	Pitch Provision	Comments
Meadow Park	7 pitches	Planning permission granted June 2009 Ref: 09/0266/FULL
Nunn's Corner	Additional 2 pitches	Planning permission granted November 2011

		Ref: 11/0195/FULL
Saiwen	6 pitches	Planning permission granted January 2012 Ref: 10/0056/FULL

4.3 This leaves 36 pitches to find by 2022 which is a period of 10 years. This equates to 3.6 pitches per year.

4.4 Therefore, the District's 5 year supply can be calculated as follows:

Pitch requirement 2012-22 = 50 (Pitches required 2006-2026) – 14 (Permission granted and implemented) = 36

36 pitches over 10 years (2012-22) $36/10 = 3.6$ pitches required per annum

The following sites form the 5 year supply:

- 28/29 Sandy Lane (planning permission granted February 2012) – 6 pitches
- Land at Nunn's Corner – 4 pitches
- The Gables Yard – 3 pitches
- Land opposite The Gatehouse – 8 pitches
- 1A Broach Road – 2 additional pitches

The above sites can provide a total of 23 pitches

23 pitches divided by the annual requirement of 3.6 pitches = **6.4 years supply** at April 2012.

4.5 In order to maintain a 5 year supply of deliverable sites throughout the Plan Period, following on from the Worcestershire GTAA which is due to be completed in late 2013, the District Council will undertake a specific Local Plan to allocate further sites for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in accordance with the level of need identified. It is anticipated that a Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Local Plan could be consulted on during 2014 and submitted to the Secretary of State during 2015 working towards adoption in early 2016.