

Subject: FW: Local Plan for Gypsies and Travellers

From: Waltham, Louise <louise.waltham@york.gov.uk>

Sent: 30 January 2023 12:32

To: Carter, Tracey <Tracey.Carter@york.gov.uk>

Cc: Southall, Denis <denis.southall@york.gov.uk>; Douglas, Ann-Marie <ann-marie.douglas@york.gov.uk>

Subject: FW: Local Plan for Gypsies and Travellers

Hi

I'm not sure if Den will be back in work tomorrow, I know Ann-Marie is at the meeting and will be able to represent the service. I did want to feed in to the meeting though to say that I share the concerns of YTT in regard to the number of pitches planned at Osbaldwick. I gather that Ann-Marie was informed that 5 pitches would have to be put on the site in order to get the local plan through, which would have been just about manageable (although not desirable) however 13 new pitches is far too many, and takes the site well over the recommended maximum of 15 pitches <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designing-gypsy-and-traveller-sites-good-practice-guide>

The location of Osbaldwick has contributed to challenges managing the site – it's not overlooked by housing and the industrial estate closes around pm, which makes issues like fly tipping and illegal scrapping far more challenging to monitor or manage. There are other issues around the site being located on an industrial estate, over the dry weather in summer we had to seek input from environmental health and public health as the dust from brick crushing on one of the units was causing people problems with breathing and was covering washing etc.

[REDACTED] and it's proved difficult/impossible to get additional support from other services so this has again added to the issues of managing the site. As you are aware significant work went into [REDACTED] when other approaches had been exhausted, but this is not a desirable or easily achieved solution, particularly when there aren't other options locally for people, so we're still dealing with the fallout of that as an authority and our ability to effectively manage the site is very much undermined if we have to return people back to site to alleviate challenges that the council is facing elsewhere.

YTT are contending that expecting developers to put traveller pitches on their strategic sites will not be legally enforceable and cite a recent challenge that was upheld as evidence of that argument; they are asking that we include traveller

pitches as a green belt exception along with other affordable housing. I don't know the legal arguments well enough to comment on the legal enforceability, however I think the land at Osbaldwick is greenbelt, so presumably allocating other greenbelt to develop 13 pitches is an option we could explore, and that would allow development of a site in line with good practice guidance. I do understand that there will always be major local objections to any proposed traveller site and from a local plan POV this looks like the path of least resistance, but it really would set us up with an unmanageable site and compound the social issues already present on site.

Thanks

Lou

From: Abbie North <abbie@mhplanning.org>

Sent: 30 January 2023 11:22

To: Waltham, Louise <louise.waltham@york.gov.uk>; Violet Cannon <violet@ytt.org.uk>; Caroline Hunter <caroline.hunter@york.ac.uk>

Subject: Re: Local Plan for Gypsies and Travellers

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Good morning Louise,

Many thanks for meeting with me last week and for inviting Wayne to join us. I found our conversation really useful.

As discussed, York Travellers Trust has very serious concerns about the ability of the Local Plan policy to provide appropriate, private family sites for the Gypsy and Traveller communities in York. We are particularly alarmed by the suggestion, at paragraph 4.5 of document ex-cyc-121a that 13 of the new pitches required in the first 5 years of the plan will be provided at the existing Council site at Osbaldwick. I have visited this site last week to talk to residents there about these plans. I am very clear that should these plans go ahead, we will see a very real and serious escalation and entrenchment of some of the social issues that have become prevalent here. I cannot imagine that this is what any of us want to see.

I have been working hard with other Trustees and staff at YTT to identify workable, sustainable solutions to this issue through the Local Plan process, and have made good progress in establishing what these may be.

I would like to emphasise very strongly at this stage that our intentions in addressing this issue are absolutely not to criticise or condemn the management of the site by your team. Although there are clearly some very real challenges to address, my own view is that the location of the site itself and the allocations policy that has become necessary there due to the complete lack of alternative provision in the city are major factors in these. I would like to assure you that we want to work with you to find and employ real solutions.

I have a number of other teams and individuals to contact in regard to this, including the Planning Team at the Council and developers of strategic sites, but would very much welcome an opportunity to sit around a table with your colleagues and mine to start to get a better understanding of what we can all do to move forward here. It may be that either at this stage or later on we will want to invite members of the Planning Team to join us also.

Could you let me have your availability for this purpose please? I imagine we will want to invite Wayne and Anne Marie to join us if possible. I will ask Violet Cannon and Caroline Hunter - our CEO and Chair to do the same. I don't

have contact details for Wayne or Anne-Marie - I would be grateful if you could please forward this email to them also.

With very best wishes,

Abbie

On Mon, 23 Jan 2023 at 00:15, Abbie North <abbie@mhplanning.org> wrote:

Good morning Lou,

I am writing to you as a Trustee of York Travellers Trust in relation to Traveller Site provision in the City and in particular, the progress of the emerging Local Plan. As you will have understood from my Letter to Councillor Ayre we have very serious concerns about the ability of Policy H5 to deliver the high quality, culturally appropriate homes that are desperately needed for the Traveller communities in and around the City.

Document Ex_cyc_121a, (attached) published in late December 2022 provided responses to the questions asked of the Council by the Planning Inspectorate in (when). It is clear from this document that 13 of the private family homes that are promised by the policy in 'truly inclusive and multicultural' new build communities across the city are intended to translate on the ground to 13 new pitches at the Council run site at Osbaldwick. (See in particular paragraph 4.5)

YTT has been working hard over the past years to try to help to meet the accommodation needs of Gypsy and Traveller people in and around the city in a culturally appropriate and sustainable way through the Local Plan. I would very much welcome a meeting with you to discuss how we may be able to work together to achieve this.

Could you let me know if you'd like to meet please, and give me an idea of your availability.

Many thanks Lou,

Abbie