

Planning Services

Mrs Deirdre Gill
47 Birchwood Crescent
Grangewood
Chesterfield
S40 2HZ

Please ask for Neil Johnson
Direct Line 01246 345789
Fax 01246 345809
local.plan@chesterfield.gov.uk

Your Ref

Date 04 May 2018

Dear Mrs Gill,

**CHESTERFIELD LOCAL PLAN – GYPSY AND TRAVELLER SITES CONSULTATION
PETITION REGARDING SITE AT BIRCHWOOD CRESCENT**

I refer to your petition received by the Council on 21st March 2018 containing 469 signatures that concerned the above mentioned Local Plan consultation. I can confirm that the Council has considered the petition in accordance with its Petitions Scheme and the following response is provided.

Although your petition individually does not exceed the 750 signatures required under the council's published scheme to require a public meeting of the Council's scrutiny board, or the 1,000 signatures required to trigger a debate by the full council, we are aware of a number of other petitions on this issue that may be submitted. If this is the case and the combined number of signatures meets either of these triggers, your petition will of course be considered alongside any others received on this issue.

It is a requirement of the government's national Planning Policy for Travellers that Council's assess the need for provision for Gypsies and Travellers in their area and, if a need is shown, consider these needs in preparing a Local Plan for the borough. Rather than simply publish a Local Plan showing sites, we felt it was more appropriate to ensure that residents who might be affected had an opportunity to comment on the shortlisted sites, and also to ensure that we made decisions on the best information available.

The Council's formal consultation period on this matter has now ended (although we will continue to take into account any late representations as late as possible) and the officers in the Council's Strategic Planning team are now going through all of the responses that have been received. The Strategic Planning Manager will then prepare a report to the Council's Cabinet that reports on all of the representations received, and will make a recommendation on which, if any, of the sites should be allocated in the council's publication version of the

Local Plan. At present, we intend to make this report before the end of May so as to give clarity to residents as quickly as possible.

Members of the public have a right to attend, but not speak at, meetings of the Council's Cabinet.

If a site, or sites, is allocated in the publication version of the Local Plan, this will be the subject of a further formal consultation where residents may make comments, before it is examined by an Independent Planning Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State.

Right of Appeal on How Petition Dealt With

You have a right of appeal to the Council's Scrutiny Committee if you feel that your petition has not been dealt with properly.

If you do appeal, the Scrutiny Committee must then review the steps that the Council has taken to deal with the petition. If you wish to appeal you must do so in writing or by email (and include your grounds for believing that your petition has not been dealt with properly) within 15 working days from the date of this letter and address it to –

Democratic Services
Chesterfield Borough Council
Town Hall
Rose Hill
Chesterfield
S40 1LP

Yours sincerely,



Neil Johnson

Assistant Director – Economic Growth