

From: york@iposolutions.online
Sent: 20 December 2023 19:42
To: 'Neil.Ferris@york.gov.uk'
Cc: 'Cooke, Alison(City Development)'; 'Bartle, Laura'
Subject: Email from the Inspectors re. Provision for Gypsies and Travellers

Dear Neil

This evening, I received an email from the Inspectors this evening and they have asked me to pass on the following email to you as a matter of urgency:

“Dear Neil

City of York Local Plan Examination

In the light of recent correspondence, and events, there are two matters relating to the above that need to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

The first relates to the provision in the Plan for Gypsies and Travellers which has been the subject of recent exchanges, principally with York Travellers’ Trust (YTT). Unfortunately, we still have some concerns about the suitability of the Osbaldwick site, given the impacts of activities on the neighbouring site.

Moreover, the approach taken to draft Policy H5 in the Council’s recent handling of application ref.21/02283/FULM (part of SS18) has been drawn to our attention. The allocation allows for two pitches to be provided on this site but, as we understand the situation, the Council’s decision means that no pitches will be provided on it. It is recognised that the intention is to use the financial contribution sought as a means of securing provision off-site, but the question is firstly, where, and secondly, when? We are concerned about the effect this will have on the overall supply and delivery of pitches required to meet the identified need. It also raises questions about the effectiveness of the policy relating to the draft allocation, and others like it proposed for other allocations in the Plan.

To deal with these concerns, and to settle the matter, we ask that you now arrange a Hearing as soon as possible in the New Year. Specifically, we will want to hear from yourselves, and YTT, but all those who have a right to be heard on the matter of provision for Gypsies and Travellers will need to be invited. The required six weeks’ notice of the Hearing will be necessary unless of course an earlier convenient date can be agreed with the various participants.

We will also want to address whether the recent change to the PPTS makes any difference to the approach of the Plan.

The day before the Hearing, we would like you to arrange an accompanied visit to the site of the existing provision at Osbaldwick. We will also want to enter the adjacent site to have a close look at the facilities and activities thereon. It will be necessary for you to make arrangements for that too.

The second, more straightforward, point relates to the Written Ministerial Statement: Planning – Local Energy Efficiency Standards Update of 13 December 2023. We would like to hear whether this has any implications for the Plan as a whole and draft Policy CC2 in particular.

We recognise that these matters, and the need for another Hearing in particular, come late in the process. However, that is largely as a result of the recent correspondence between the Council and YTT, and the changed circumstances discussed above. In any event, we can reassure you that so long as we can reach a satisfactory resolution, there need be no significant delay to the reporting process that is currently underway.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Berkeley and Paul Griffiths
INSPECTORS”

I hope the email is self-explanatory.

I will liaise with your team to identify representors who have made relevant representations on this matter and who should be invited to the Hearing session.

Kind regards

Carole

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