

Goodall, Gail

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Apologies. On behalf of the Traveller community in York, we would respectfully ask you to accept this late submission by York Travellers Trust.

The arguments are already well documented and centre around the request for the council to consider Traveller sites in the Green Belt as affordable housing. This approach has backing in Guildford and has been well reasoned throughout the consultation process.

The council continues to argue that due to Policy (e) of the PPTS, Traveller sites cannot be positioned in the Green Belt. Though national policy suggests the likelihood of movement on this, our previous submissions show that the same goal can be achieved through affordable housing provision, as in Guildford.

Since the hearing more of the strategic sites have failed to deliver any Traveller pitches, as YTT had predicted, since the very beginning of the consultation process. Most recently Land adjacent to Hull Road (ST4), which has instead resulted in commuted sum payment.

YTT have frequently argued that money received via commuted sum must be used to establish a self build register, allowing Travellers in York access to allocated sites in the Green / Grey Belt. Failing this there will be no provision for Gypsies & Travellers in York, other than the existing, poorly maintained council sites such as Osbaldwick, Commuted Sum payments will fail to result in the delivery of pitches, and the local plan will not be sound, failing to deliver adequate Gypsy & Traveller Provision in the city.

YTT again asks the inspectors and the council to reconsider this approach, when evidence is clear that pitches provided by urban extension are not being delivered, and private sites are not forthcoming in the city without inclusion within the Green Belt.

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Professor Caroline Hunter
Chair of York Travellers Trust

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