



Dickens Heath Parish Council

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December 19th 2012

Dear Ms Owen-Roberts,

Dickens Heath Parish Council – Comments on Solihull Local Plan

In connection with the EIP of the Solihull Draft Local Plan, we wish to make additional comments in support of our previous statement objecting to the allocation of the Travellers' site at The Uplands, Dickens Heath.

Policy P6 States,

“Sites in the Green Belt will not be permitted unless other locations have been considered and only then in “very special circumstances”.

This site is in the Green Belt and would adversely affect the openness of the countryside in this vulnerable area which could set a precedence for future development and contribute to coalescence of the settlement of Dickens Heath with the outskirts of Shirley.

At a recent public meeting there was considerable local objection to this site, therefore the Localism Act should be taken into account in this case.

The site was not suggested as suitable in the LDF July / August 2011 and only suggested to reduce the number of unauthorised sites in the Borough.

The area already has its fair share of traveller sites nearby.

The site is currently only for 3 pitches, but could easily accommodate more caravans in the future if the site was designated. Even if the Council restrict the number to the existing units, at appeal a strong case could be made for an expansion and upheld by an inspector.

Just because this pitch and industrial use has been unauthorised for many years does not mean that it should stay.

In the event that the Inspector decides that a ruling be given that this allocation be accepted, we respectfully suggest that a statement is made restricting the number of pitches to three only with no commercial or industrial use.

We trust that the above comments will be taken into consideration at the E.I.P.

Yours Sincerely,

Helen Marczak
Parish Clerk and RFO