



15.11.2018.

Councillor Philip Price.



Dear Councillor Price.

I write to you to express my objection to the development of a proposed Travellers site at Stoney Street, Madley, Herefordshire.

I worked for 15 years at the adjacent British Telecom site as a security guard and witnessed firsthand the wanton destruction of such previous sites on three occasions. The access gates were broken to the site, purpose built shower facilities were destroyed, ceramic washbasins and toilets were smashed apart, copper piping was stripped out and electrical wiring was taken on all occasions. The adjacent woods were used for elimination of bodily excrement, posing a serious threat to health for local residents (who use the woods for walking) and wildlife in the area.

There is also the question of the local infrastructure being unable to support such a proposal. Currently the local GP surgery and schools are already at capacity and unable to cope with current demands. They would not be able to cope with the increased demand on local facilities that such a proposal would entail.

Currently the area is well-maintained by Allensmore Nurseries and Brightwells. The addition of such a proposed site would not be in keeping with the current environment, and having previously witnessed personally the level of destruction and mess that these sites produce it would not be in the interests of the local residents to pursue such a proposal (especially in light of the potential health and safety issues highlighted earlier in this letter). You will be aware that the DCLG (2008) Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites : Good Practice Guide recommends that " 3.8 Consideration must be given to the relationship of sites to the surrounding community" and also "3.9 the site must be sustainable offering scope to manage an integrated co-existence with the local community". The geographical location of the proposed site supports neither of these recommendations.

Also there is the impact on the local wildlife to consider. I understand that the existing facility now has a colony of bats in residence. As you will be aware, legislation dictates that any structure which is used by bats as a shelter or protection are protected from destruction irrespective of whether occupied or not (*Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017*).

I wish for this letter of objection to be acknowledged and I await your response to the above points raised.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A.D. Watson.

*Copy posted to Councillor Philip Price.
Traveller Sites Document – Additional Pitches Consultation completed and attached.*