

CLEHONGER PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs A M Wright
Clerk to the Parish Council

Angela Newey
Senior Planning Officer

26th November 2018

Dear Ms Newey

Consultation on Travellers' Site Development Plan Document – Land at Stoney Street Madley

I am writing in response to your recent communication, sent by e mail on Wednesday 24 October 2018 by Susannah Gilson, in which you sought comments on the Travellers' Site Development Plan dated October 2018.

Clehonger Parish Council is broadly in support of the Government's drive to secure suitable sites for the Traveller community across the country but believe that the proposed site at Stoney Street is likely to be an unsuitable location.

The background to this opinion can be supported by the fact that there are longstanding and historical reasons which cast real doubt over the suitability of the proposed site in Stoney Street. In January 2013, the then Head of Environmental Protection and Licencing commented that "Madley site has proven to be unattractive to Travellers "for a variety of reasons including and again I quote "the current site is out of use. It is not in a favoured location and there are historic problems with drainage". The report goes on to state that "there have been historic problems with drainage and sanitation at the site leading to complaints from neighbouring landowners who have questioned the suitability of this site in the long term".

Later in 2013, in a report produced by the Environmental Health and Trading Standards Health and Wellbeing Service People's Directorate recommended that the site previously used by the Travellers in Stoney Street should be sold for the following reasons:

The Madley site is in the wrong location for travellers passing through the County who tend to use the primary road network. This is because transient traveller communities visiting Herefordshire would benefit from a relocated transit site at a location where it would have easier access....

It is the view of Clehonger Parish Council that these observations remain equally valid today and, in fact, with the development of the industrial estate the proposed site is even less suitable than was the case in 2013 because there has been a considerable increase in traffic and activity in the area. There could be significant health and safety plus welfare issues should land at Stoney Street be used as a site for the traveller community. These factors are likely to be exacerbated as the industrial estate develops further.

The idea of landscaping a bund wall around the site does not make a completely unsuitable plot of land surrounded by industrial and commercial activity suitable for any basic standard of residential accommodation and safe access to community facilities would be a concern.

In conclusion, Clehonger Parish Council does not recommend the adoption of land at the Stoney Street location as a site for the traveller community.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Alison M Wright HNCPA ILM CiLCA
Parish Clerk
Clehonger Parish Council