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Cyfarwyddwr Gweithredol - Pobl
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Dyddiad / Date : 9th September 2014
Os yn galw gofynnwch am /
If calling please ask for : Dafydd Evans

Dear Mr Singleton,

Re: Travellers' sites document – issues and options paper: "duty to co-operate"

I refer to your letter received on the 28th August 2014.

My comments as requested in your letter are as follows:

1. We are presently completing an update to our Gypsy Traveller Needs Assessment (GTNA) which has been undertaken in accordance with Welsh Government guidance. The update will demonstrate the possible need for a transit site in the Machynlleth area of north Powys, we have not identified a need or issues in relation to our border with Herefordshire.
2. In Wales, Welsh Government have issued its own guidance and there are provisions in the Housing Bill Wales which will be implemented from April 2015 in relation to Gypsy and Travellers'. Although we are awaiting confirmation of details every local authority in Wales will be required to carry out a GTNA during 2015 and will then be required to update the GTNA every 5 years. Any identified need will have to be met. As stated above we are updating our GTNA this year which will put us in a good position when the new legislation is implemented. In Powys, over the last few years we have refurbished our Traveller site in Welshpool and earlier this year completed a new site in Brecon, a need identified in the GTNA we partnered with English authorities including Herefordshire. Powys County Council is in the process of delivering its LDP and this is one of the reasons the GTNA is being updated this year as it will inform the LDP as to the requirements for the Gypsy and Traveller community in planning terms. We expect to be able to meet the needs identified in Powys for permanent sites.

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3. As stated above we have not identified a need in areas bordering Herefordshire Council however we are happy to be involved in any further discussions.

If you have any queries regarding this letter please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Dafydd Evans
Service Manager Housing Solutions

Policy M4.

Attended 20/8/14.
JK.

Reeves, Jane

From: David Clarke <david.clarke@malvern hills.gov.uk>
Sent: 08 August 2014 17:09
To: David Clarke
Subject: Worcestershire GTAA - Stakeholder Briefing
Attachments: Agenda.doc

Dear Sir / Madam,

Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) for Worcestershire - Stakeholder Briefing

2:00 – 3:30pm on Wednesday 20th August 2014 in the Council Chamber, Malvern

I am writing to invite you to a stakeholder briefing on Wednesday 20th August to inform stakeholders of the findings of the new Worcestershire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA). The meeting will be held in the Council Chamber at Malvern Hills District Council, commencing at 2:00pm.

In addition to informing stakeholders of the findings of the new GTAA, the meeting will also provide an opportunity to consider whether there any wider issues or implications for neighbouring authorities as part of our duty to cooperate.

As background to the briefing, the six Worcestershire District Councils (Bromsgrove District Council, Malvern Hills Districts Council, Redditch Borough Council, Worcester City Council, Wyre Forest District Council and Wychavon District Council), together with Worcestershire County Council, commissioned consultants arc⁴ to conduct the new GTAA last year.

The objective of the research has been to provide a robust evidence base to assist the Worcestershire Districts determine an appropriate level of pitch and plot provision to 2030.

As part of the GTAA, you may recall that arc⁴ invited you to comment in an online stakeholder survey last August. The stakeholder briefing will provide feedback from the stakeholder survey. An agenda for the stakeholder briefing is attached for information.

Capacity in the Council Chamber at Malvern is limited so I would be grateful if you could let me know whether you will be attending the briefing by midday on Monday 18th August.

Yours sincerely,

David Clarke
Planning Officer
Malvern Hills District Council
The Council House
Avenue Road
Malvern
Worcestershire WR14 2AF

Telephone: 01684 862370

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Thank you.

Policy Hk .

From: Nigel Gibbons [mailto:Nigel.Gibbons@fdean.gov.uk]

Sent: 29 August 2014 14:48

To: Newey, Angela

Subject: Unclassified: RE: Duty to Co-operate

Angela,

Thank you for your note. I too am keen to co operate and welcome the dialogue. At present there are no issues that we have identified where we need to do anything other than keep each other informed. As you may know we have a draft Allocations Plan on an informal consultation at present (ends 15th September).

The Gloucestershire Planning policy officers (CPOG) which you may recollect (!) has a memo of understanding too and is naturally keen to co operate with neighbours so if its ok I will refer to your draft memorandum at the next meeting.

I have also received a letter form Kevin Singleton re Gypsies and Travellers. That is one area where there may be cross boundary matters we can usefully discuss. I wonder if you could pass on the following;

We are aware of no major cross boundary movements but our largest site (near the M50 at Bromsberrow) is very close to the boundary. It has a presently unimplemented consent to convert some of the "transit" pitches into permanent ones and is something that we count in our future supply of permanent pitches.

Given the above we are intending to meet the identified requirement within our boundaries. The requirements are derived from the 2013 study

(<http://www.fdean.gov.uk/media/Assets/ForwardPlan/documents/Gypsy%20Sites/2013dec12GloucestershireGTAAFINAL.pdf>)

We would be happy to discuss the above further and also to take part in any wider group.

Best wishes,
Nigel.

Policy 114.

Meeting Notes for Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs discussion with Shropshire Unitary Authority

27/3/14

Present:

Jane Reeves (HC); Nick Griffiths (HC); Richard Wilding (HC);

Anna Jones (SC); Rebecca Underdown (SC)

General points re Shropshire's Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA):

- Inspectors are looking for robust evidence bases of less than 5 years old
- Shropshire have liaised with South Staffordshire in their GTAA production and have used the same consultants as S.Staffs for their own GTAA survey work (the consultants use a team of fieldworkers from the Gypsy and Traveller community)
- Shropshire's Gypsy Liaison Officer provided the consultants with the list of travellers to survey in the first instance
- At the time of the meeting 116 interviews have been successfully received (from 107 pitches) providing information about existing and emerging need
- The bricks and mortar assessment of need was admitted to be a more challenging task
- No information re transit sites. This need not met by Shropshire and hoping that new GTAA will shed light on need. Shropshire Council also aware of unmet need for travelling show persons plots
- Shropshire were not currently aware of any specific cross boundary movements of travellers between Shropshire and Herefordshire at present, but more information may arise from the survey results. The area of most movement and application activity was in the north of Shropshire.
- The cost of the survey for Shropshire was around £15,000 and the methodology was based on the 2007 government guidance. The survey will take approx. 6 months to complete.
- Anna explained that pressure for GTAA was Development Management driven and that the evidence base became critical and expedited because of controversial appeals. No formal brief but business case made and research done with adjoining LAs especially S Staffs and we had significant interaction and had closely read draft reports. We discussed issues that had been experienced so that we were aware of strengths and weaknesses. Strength of consultants is use of G & T interviewer with greater acceptance on sites than local authority officers. Good response rate from interviews and Gypsy liaison office had been able to

identify locations of pitches and bricks & mortar for the consultants. We were able to check and feed into the questionnaires prior to them being used, however we had confidence in consultants in that experienced and have developed methodology and approach through learning with other authorities. Also helpful that as they have done a number of studies that they are able to identify emerging trends- i.e. reduced rural need more broadly.

- Early findings were that the G and T population were becoming more elderly and this was reducing the emerging need. The consultants felt that this correlated with evidence from elsewhere with more need in urban areas rather than rural areas.
- Herefordshire had responded as a stakeholder to Shropshire GTAA
- Shropshire's need at 2007-17 was 93 pitches and 50 pitches had been implemented.. 43 pitches (plus 4 travelling showpeople plots and 20 transit pitches) still need to be found but GTAA is likely to reduce this number.
- Timetable for completed GTAA was Spring 2014 and hoped that the report as well as providing 5 year picture will provide figures to support longer term picture allied with Core Strategy/SamDev time frame.
- Shropshire had funding from the HCA for some Local Authority owned pitches.
- John Taylor is the contact Gypsy Liaison Officer for Shropshire. Shropshire officers would send through a contact name for Powys re GTAA.

General comments re Herefordshire's position:

- Herefordshire had delivered 49 pitches since 2008, although some of these were previously tolerated sites.

GTAA 2007-12: showed need for 83

DRAFT GTAA 2012-17: identified need for 31 (Policy H4 of the Core Strategy)

- HCA funding has been obtained to refurbish and provide additional 8 pitches at the Council's Bromyard site but this was already recognised required by the existing GTAA and cannot be set against the target. Herefordshire will be looking at Council G & T sites and the scope for travellers to buy private land to meet need.
- Currently working on an update to the 2008 Herefordshire GTAA in house, although considering whether to use consultants.
- A questionnaire survey was carried out in 2012 based on the existing GTAA. The robustness of this survey is currently being considered.

- HC considering a desk based approach based on past trends/waiting list information/census data and planning applications as an indicator of need. It is considered that this could provide a fuller picture to add to the 2012 survey information. Noting that the survey had a max of 10 questions and was therefore much simpler in scope than the GTAA being done by Shropshire consultants.
- Looking at application trends – Herefordshire considered G & T activity more limited in area adjoining Shropshire. No significant evidence of high levels of need along A49 but GTAA should clarify. Concentration of activity is mainly to S & E Herefordshire - also experiencing mainly applications for 1 to 2 pitches (similar to Shropshire trend).
- Herefordshire did a call for G & T sites in 2012 but had a limited response – again like Shropshire.
- Core Strategy pre-submission publication aimed for end of April/May 2014 . This includes broad urban extensions. Aim to demonstrate that they are progressing with G & T allocations to support Core Strategy. Need to progress evidence before Core Strategy examination. Site allocation document only planned for Hereford & G& T. 60/70 parishes signed up to do Neighbourhood Plans agreeing around 15% growth.
- G & T options paper has been drafted – to highlight current need and asking questions about how sites could come forward
- Herefordshire currently working on housing need surveys per Parish to feed into neighbourhood plans
- Information from census shows G & T population generally younger in Herefordshire than the general population.
- Not many unauthorised encampments

Signature/Date of representative from Shropshire Unitary Authority:

Annal M. Jones Annal M. Jones SENIOR POLICY OFFICER, SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL
8th July 2014

Signature/Date of representative from Herefordshire Unitary Authority:

Jane Reeves Jane Reeves Senior Policy Officer, Herefordshire Council
15 July 2014

