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## GYPSY & TRAVELLER DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT (GTDPD) GTDPD MEMBER REFERENCE GROUP

**Date:** 14 September 2006

**Time:** 2pm

**Venue:** Swansley Room

**In Attendance:**

**MRG Members:** Cllrs Bard, Mrs Doggett, Mrs Ford, Kindersley, Mason, Mrs Smith, Mrs Spink and Dr van de Ven

**By Invitation:** Cllrs Batchelor, Edwards, Mrs Muncey and Summerfield

**Officers:** Gareth Jones, Jon Dixon, Kirsty Simmons and Graham King (CDN Planning)

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### Draft Minutes

#### 1. Election of Chairman

Cllr Mrs Spink proposed that Cllr Dr Bard be elected Chairman for the MRG. Cllr Mason seconded this proposal and there being no other nominations;

Cllr Dr Bard was elected Chairman of the MRG.

#### 2. Appointment of Vice Chairman

Cllr Mrs Spink proposed that Cllr Mason be elected Vice-Chairman for the MRG. Cllr Mrs Ford seconded this proposal and there being no other nominations:

Cllr Mason was elected Vice-Chairman of the MRG.

#### 3. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

#### 4. GTDPD Timetable

The corporate projects officer took members through the current timetable for the production of the GTDPD. It was highlighted that there were two Issues and Options stages, one to agree criteria for selecting sites, and one to specifically identify sites within South Cambs. This two-stage approach had been taken in order to engage all interested parties in the full process of meeting Gypsy and Traveller needs in the district.

The MRG endorsed this approach.

#### 5. Review of the Issues and Options Report 1: General Approach

Graham King of CDN Planning, the consultants preparing the GTDPD took members through the Issues and Options Report explaining the approach taken and clarifying any

areas of concern. Members engaged in a full debate and agreed the following amendments would be beneficial to the report:

Page/ Paragraph/ Ref No.	Suggested Amendment	Note
1.12	Amend to refer to 102 villages	
GT1	Another option could be to make no provision.	We are required by the government to make provision; therefore this is not a reasonable option.
GT1B	Add a semicolon between sites and SCDC.	
GT2	Amend the potential for alternatives box following GT2 to; "Current concentration <i>in particular parts of</i> the district."	
GT3	Amend "would" to "will" making the option more specific.	
GT4	Add another option GT4C, which gives the option of locating sites both within and outside settlement frameworks. This then provides for the full range of options.	
GT4	Add to all GT4 options the words "on planning policy grounds" following the words "standard housing."	
4.9	This paragraph to be expanded clarifying why we would allow development outside the settlement framework.	
GT5	Remove last sentence in brackets, referring to the proposed change in flood risk legislation, which has not yet occurred.	
GT6	Remove final word "provided" and replace with "or can be made available"	
4.14	Remove "will be required"	
GT7	Amend to "would not <i>ideally</i> be" and add another sentence to explain that these locations would be considered in the same way as conventional housing, as in some instances they could be appropriate.	
4.15	Insert the paragraph from ODPM Circular 01/2006 on location of sites.	
GT8	Remove "gas" and add "sewage disposal" to this option and all other instances where Gas is referred to, as it is not a necessary resource.	
GT10	Strengthen the proposed approach in order to assist in enforcing against non-compliance with conditions.	The wording was felt to be appropriate at this stage with planning conditions being the method of control.
GT15	Explain in the glossary what a Rural Centre, Minor Rural Centre and Group Village mean.	

GT16	Rather than being a rejected option, amend this to be GT15D, an alternative option.	
GT20	Explain in the glossary what a Major New Development is.	
GT20/21	Replace "within" with "at"	
4.38	Remove the words "Alongside affordable housing provision"	
GT21	Amend to "in <i>very</i> exceptional circumstances" and make GT22B the proposed approach with GT22A the alternative option.	
GT30	Amend to "should <i>generally</i> be for no more than."	
GT35	Replace the wording in this option with those suggested in ODPM Circular 01/2006.	
GT37	Amend to "An area for children to play in should be available."	
GT38A	Amend "would" to "could"	
GT38B	Remove the option for the Council to use compulsory purchase powers.	At this is the Issues and Options consultation stage this should be retained, as it is an approach theoretically available to the Council. The Council can then determine which particular options become part of draft policies, but it will be able to do so with the benefit of public participation, and information on the relative sustainability of that approach.
GTQ1	Rephrase this question	
4.71/4.72	Remove these paragraph's as they are not appropriate.	
5.14	Amend to ensure business uses do not have adverse effects on neighbouring uses.	
GT49	Amend to mention that the Council will only be able to do this whilst funds/resources are available.	
General	Include the fact that the GTDPD includes Travelling showmen as well as Gypsies and Travellers as defined by the ODPM.	
General	Make clear that any planning permission given for a Gypsy/Traveller site will not be converted to any other use if for example the owner was unable to sell it.	

## 6. **Addendum to the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report**

Members made the following comments on the report:

On page 23 there is the following reference, "Sites should not be located on significantly contaminated land" There was a question over why the word "significantly" was included. Officers have since been able to clarify that this is the exact wording set out in the ODPM Circular 01/2006.

There doesn't seem to be any account taken of the effects a site may have on a village in terms of economic issues. For example what impact non-payment of Council tax may have?

The Consultants have taken this point on board but felt that spending by residents, of a site in the locality might offset any economic impact. They have agreed to discuss this issue with the member if more information is required.

There was a question over what "servicing" meant on page 23?

This again is a term used in ODPM Circular 01/2006 to explain such services as refuse collection, sewage tank clearance etc, replacement of gas bottles etc.

## 7. **Sustainability Appraisal**

The corporate projects officer explained that it had not been possible to get the SA to the MRG meeting but that it would be available for the Council meeting. Members requested that it not be delayed too much as it would be a large document to read and would need some time to go through before the meeting.

## 8. **Appropriate Assessment**

The corporate projects officer explained that there was a new requirement from the habitats directive, which requires an Appropriate Assessment to be conducted of all LDF documents. As the Issues and Options report did not look at specific sites, officers were proposing to insert the following words into the Issues and Options Report, but were in the process of having them reviewed by Counsel.

"Directive 92/43/EEC (the Habitats Directive) on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora requires an Appropriate Assessment (AA) to be undertaken to assess the impacts of a land-use plan against the conservation objectives of a European Site where it would have a significant effect on the integrity of that site. Where significant negative effects are identified, alternative options should be examined to avoid any potential damaging effects.

Due to the limited scale of development proposed by the Issues and Options Report, and the only European Site in the District (Eversden Woods) is not proposed for development, there is not considered to be any significant impacts. Once sites have been identified in the next Issues and Options stage, the Council will review the need for an Appropriate Assessment."