

## SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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**REPORT TO:** Planning Committee

2 March 2011

**AUTHOR/S:** Executive Director / Corporate Manager – Planning and Sustainable Communities

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### **S/2139/10- MILTON**

**Provision of additional caravan plot; extensions to day blocks including air source heat pumps; erection of metal palisade fencing on site boundaries at Blackwell Travellers Site, Kings Hedges Road for South Cambridgeshire District Council**

**Recommendation: Delegated Approval**

**Date for Determination: 1 March 2011**

**Further Information received after publication of the agenda report.**

### **Consultations**

1. **SCDC Travellers Liaison Officer** - Blackwell site lies adjacent to the A14 dual carriageway and is one of only two affordable Gypsy/Traveller sites in South Cambridgeshire. Both sites are in need of update if they are to remain sustainable into the future.

The site has been a permanent site for some years now and, despite some issues in the past, residents are now very settled and expressed in the GTDPD consultation that they were happy living on the site and wanted to continue to live there. This is reflected by the fact that we have not had any pitches become available for rent for almost two years. There is also a waiting list to move onto the site. Two years ago, CLG funding was obtained to carry out improvements to the front of the site, providing landscaping and a site office/community room, which is used by residents and visiting agencies.

The current site arrangements include amenity blocks comprising of a small kitchen and a bathroom, but have no day room accommodation – as recommended in the CLG good practice guidelines. The units do not provide any insulation from the cold, as when originally built they were only intended as use for transit provision. The heating and water heating arrangements are old and very costly to run. Many of the residents struggle with electricity bills, especially during the winter months.

The refurbishment project would mean that amenity blocks would be brought up to a decent standard – sustainable into the future - be well insulated and would include renewable energy solutions that would provide low cost heating and water heating for the residents, therefore impacting greatly on fuel poverty as well as being environmentally friendly.

They would also benefit from additional protection from the environment of the A14. Once the refurbishments have gone ahead, the site will be sustainable into the future providing much needed accommodation for the community.

I therefore support this application.

2. **Highways Agency** – As the application will not adversely affect the A14 at this location, the Highways Agency offers no objection and does not intend to issue a Direction.

3. **Environment Agency** – No objection.

### **Planning Comments**

The additional consultation replies do not lead to any change to the recommendation.

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