

Inspectors Matthew Birkinshaw and
Steven Lee
The Planning Inspectorate
c/o Programme Officer
Helen Conlon

Your Ref:
My Ref:
Dealt with by: Tim Wood
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By email only
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Dear Inspectors,

Hambleton Local Plan

Thank you for your letter of 22nd March 2021 regarding the progress of the Local Plan and the approach to moving the examination forward relating to Policy HG6 Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.

The Council acknowledge the need to amend the policy to address the matter of soundness set out in paragraph 5 of your letter. Of the options set out in paragraph 6 the Council consider that the second bullet point is an appropriate approach; to

- Modify the submission version Local Plan to include a commitment to carry out an urgent review (within 6 months of adoption) and include a timetable for submission any subsequent update.

The revised wording for Policy HG 6 upon which the Council will consult is:

HG 6 Gypsies and Travellers, and Travelling Showpeople

A proposal for a new, expanded or intensified site for Gypsies and Travellers, or a new, expanded or intensified yard for Travelling Showpeople who meet the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS) definition for a Traveller, and also for those who do not meet the PPTS definition of a Traveller but who are covered within the duties under the Equalities Act 2010, will be supported where:

- a. there is an identified need that cannot be met through the supply of existing vacant pitches or plots;
- b. the site is within, or well-related to, a settlement defined in the settlement hierarchy (see policy S 3 'Spatial Distribution') with access to a reasonable range of services and facilities including schools and health services;
- c. where the site is located outside the existing built form of a settlement identified in the settlement hierarchy, it has been demonstrated that the proposal:
 - i. cannot be accommodated within the main built form of a settlement and in rural areas the size of the site respects the scale of, and does not dominate, the nearest settled community;

- ii. demand placed on local infrastructure can be accommodated within existing or planned provision; and
- iii. would not have a detrimental impact, individually or cumulatively with other existing and/ or permitted development, on the landscape character of the area.
- d. the site is of an appropriate size to be able to provide acceptable living conditions for residents through the provision of an adequate range of on-site services and facilities including access roads, amenity blocks, parking (including space for commercial vehicles), children's play areas, water supply, drainage, power, the storage and collection of waste and recycling and telecommunications;
- e the proposal incorporates satisfactory measures for screening and landscaping; and
- f in respect of proposals for travelling showpeople, the site includes adequate space for storage and/ or the keeping and exercising of any animals associated with the occupants' needs.

Proposals which fail to protect existing Gypsy and Traveller, and Travelling Showpeople sites or involve the loss of pitches or plots will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that the pitches or plots are no longer required or equivalent alternative provision has been identified.

The Council will carry out an urgent review (within 6 months of adoption) of this Local Plan to identify that there is a supply of specific, deliverable sites to meet the needs for gypsies and travellers and travelling showpeople (as identified in the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment January 2021) over the plan period and to submit the updated policy within 14 months of adoption of this Local Plan.

As noted in your letter there are a series of documents that are new evidence and these are to be the subject of consultation. The Council will consult on this revision to Policy HG 6 alongside the other evidence.

Notification was missed in September 2020 to a small number of representors on the subject of Local Green Space. The Council would be pleased to agree date(s) and to assist in the arrangements to allow any outstanding representors to be heard, this could be towards the end of May 2021 or as soon as can reasonably be arranged.

I trust that this addresses all the matters from your letter of 22 March 2021, if not please do contact me.

Yours sincerely



Tim Wood
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