

Independent Examination of Cranbrook Plan

PSD27. Provision of Sites for Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation

With reference to Supplementary evidence paper July 2020

Representation on Behalf of Whimble Ward by East Devon District Cllr K McLauchlan

P3.

3.5

Strategy 12 of EDDC local plan clearly states that the gypsy and traveller sites should be located within the Cranbrook plan. This strategy would suggest that the sites would be placed within Cranbrook town. The Treasbare site seems well placed for travellers and gypsies to be a part of a community and will be able to enjoy all that has to offer. With regard to the Cobdens site the occupants will be as far from local amenities and certainly not feel a part of the local community if that is their wish. The land allocated is in the Parish of Whimble which leads me to question who would be their parish and district councillors ? Would they be considered a Cranbrook address or a Whimble address.

3.6.

The phrase “would not fall under an “at Cranbrook” definition has been used, this is with reference to Rockbare being separate and distinct from Cranbrook, Whimble does not seem to have the be offered the same courtesy.

Policy H7 in the local plan states that sites should not be built outside built up area boundaries. This site will be outside that boundary, the natural boundary that is Cobden lane. The local plan H7 states that in order to build a site the proposal has to **Satisfy all 7 of the requirements. PERMENANT SITES should have access to conveniently located community services or facilities. If the traveller and gypsies site is placed on this land they will have no access to sustainable services and facilities**

P5.

6.4

According to this report a ‘major consideration’ of site selection is noise. The road adjacent to the proposed Cobden site is busy and increasing in vehicle usage. The noise from the road would be an extreme intrusion to the quiet lifestyle that a lot of travellers prefer and there would be no way of mitigating that noise. It is suggested that by moving the site back from the London Road would lower the noise levels but unfortunately this will not be the case. The people who are potentially going to live there will have to endure a high level of constant noise which would make this site unfit for purpose.

6.7. ‘Speedy delivery’ may be needed but not at the cost of the communities we are trying to serve. Travellers and Gypsy’s do need sites and pitches but this must not be

an exercise of box ticking, as a community in their own right they deserve the best that can be offered, the Cobdens site seems an afterthought.

In conclusion, the site proposed at Treasbeare it would seem would be a well positioned site 'within' Cranbrook which will ensure a sense of community which is the complete opposite of the site proposed in the parish of Whimble at Cobden lane, no sense of community and very much on the outer edges of Cranbrook ((parish of Whimble). Travellers and Gypsies are often feared by settled communities, if this proposed site at Cobden EDDC will be feeding into that stereotyping. It will strengthen the perception that travellers and gypsies are a community that want to remain on the fringes and therefore Community engagement will be difficult at best.