

Ref Item 14 – Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Site Allocations Development
Plan Document (DPD) – Statement by Karen Abolkheir

My name is Karen Abolkheir and I make this statement on behalf of myself and on behalf of the Stanton Wick Action Group.

Given our extensive experience and professional input I would like to comment on the proposed changes to the selection criteria set out in your officers report. We are very concerned that despite the recent history of consultation and serious flaws exposed in the assessment criteria, the proposals will not improve the performance or correct the flaws.

There is no reason to abandon the use of a scoring matrix, a method of evaluation and comparison which is most appropriate for this use, providing that it is carefully scoped, consistently applied and not ignored within the appraisal process. Our suggestions, if applied with evidence base, will provide a fair and open result. Whilst there is not sufficient time to detail all of the base criteria, the following provides the base structure.

Killer points; Issues that make the development of the site impossible. These need to be set out and fully described in advance of the publication of sites being considered.

Pass Mark – Define and publish the score that all sites must achieve before they will be retained on the evaluation list. This provides a first cull and allows a concentration of resource to fully evaluate remaining sites.

Define all scoring criteria in advance and with full explanation. For example, how the criteria are to be defined in settlement boundary. a food shop; safe walking route; number domination acceptable of nearest settled community,

Set out and publish the scoring and the reasons for scoring (both positive and negative) as follows:

- Sites within the following areas:
 - World Heritage
 - Green Belt
 - Conservation Area
 - ANOB
 - home to Protected species
- Estimated costs of development and delivery (banded and per pitch)
- Deliverability
- Provision of utilities capacity
- Domination of nearest settlement
- Solely affordable provision
- School places within transport or walking distance
- Domination of school community
- Highway constraints
- Score criteria and align to distance from
 - Public Transport

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- Public Health facilities
- Food Shop
- Proximity to Heritage Assets and capability to protect such assets
- Environmental Impact from use
- Site contamination
- Site safety for use
- Impact on local amenities (capacity)
- Proximity to nearest dwelling and effect of noise

Bands and scoring. Set out a well reasoned wide band scoring process say -10 to 10 which will allow more accurate comparison. For example the proximity to a food shop can have a score which is aligned on the actual distance.

The use of a carefully considered, detailed, balanced and well publicised scoring matrix will greatly benefit this process and will assist the Council in avoiding the inevitable local outrage and possible challenge, which follows the use of assessment and comparison methods that are primarily subjective.

We hope that this Cabinet will learn from the errors of the past and not reject the application of open, objective assessment and comparison.

Thank you.