

BORAG

Transcript of a presentation to be made by Ken Sutton representing The Bath Old Road Action Group to the BANES Cabinet meeting on agenda item 14, Gypsies Travellers and Travelling Showpeople sites, at the meeting of 12th September 2012

Cabinet members, the history of the proposal that a permanent travellers pitch be established on the canteen site at Bath Old Road, Radstock, is well rehearsed and I do not intend to cover old ground that should be well known to you. My objective this evening is to emphasise why you should remove the site from further consideration.

There are many arguments against the site. I will re-present some of them for you:

Conservation Area:

The proposed site is in a conservation area. Guidance states that sites should not be within 1 1/2 miles of a conservation area.

Traffic problems:

Before consultation BANES own team leader for Highway Development Control advised that the roads were already very difficult. Present residential parking already causes unavoidable traffic problems, changes necessary to accommodate a travellers site would change the road from difficult to dangerous.

Local amenity:

This requirement is accepted as being unable to be fully protected by screening, including the amenity of the travellers, they would be overlooked on a continuous basis. Even attempting screening would cause great harm to this conservation area and would fail to accord with national planning policy requirements.

Access:

Site access is difficult, certainly it can be reached by foot and cycle but it takes determination and hard work because it is at the top of a very steep hill. I live below the site and have walked home on only 3/4

occasions in the past 4 years. Bicycles need to be pushed up. Public Transport is very limited.

Size:

The site is narrow, it could not provide vehicles with on-site turning or traveller residents with the amenity space which is described as required to provide them with a comfortable and pleasant domestic environment.

Education:

There is a primary school nearby, but it is confirmed by your Childrens Services as oversubscribed and it is more likely to be difficult to obtain a place here than in other areas.

Let me finish with the words of our local councillor and your Cabinet colleague Simon Allen. "I will be objecting on planning reasons. Bath Old Road is already chocker-block with traffic, the area is designated a conservation area and access to the site is limited without reducing car spaces further"

Well said Simon.

For those and many other reasons I ask that you remove the Radstock site from any further consideration.