

# **Issue: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople site Allocations Development Plan Document & Consultations**

**Respondent: Keynsham Town Council  
Planning and Development Committee**



## **Statement of Representation**

in relation to the Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople site Allocations  
Development Plan Document & Consultations

Clive Fricker

Dated: 14<sup>th</sup> June 2012

Chairman Planning and Development Committee

[This is the Statement of Representation on behalf of **Keynsham Town Council Planning and Development Committee** (hereinafter referred to as “**KTC P & D Committee**”)

Statement to be presented to Bath and North East Somerset Council (hereinafter referred to as “**BANES Council**”)

**1. Introduction**

My name is Clive Fricker. I am Chairman of the Council’s Planning and Development Committee.

**2. Representation**

KTC P & D Committee is very concerned at the lack of adequate communication from BANES Council in respect of this matter before us today. Email communications that have been received have given very little notice to act upon. We believe that communication and consultation in this instance has not been carried out as required by our Parish Charter. The Parish Charter acknowledges that BANES Council will work in partnership with all local councils regarding social, economic and environmental matters for the benefit of local communities.

Much of the Key information in respect of the consultation and procedure for making statements at the Cabinet meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2012 was provided to us by the Secretary of Bath and North East Somerset Local Councils Association (hereinafter referred to as “Secretary of BANES Local Councils Association) and was not supplied by BANES Council as we contend should have been the case.

The timeline below details the problems that we have encountered due to untimely and poor communication

- The GTTSP Site Allocations Development Plan Document consultation dated 21 November 2011 – 16 January 2012 was issued as a survey and contained no proposed site locations. KTC P & D Committee responded on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2012
- **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2012** – Having received no further communications from BANES, the Secretary of BANES Local Councils Association telephoned with an urgent message advising that an email that had been sent out from BANES Council advising of 7 proposed sites

- **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2012** - The Secretary of BANES Local Councils Association telephoned advising that a Gypsy & Travelling Communities Awareness Training Event would be held in the Guild Hall on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2012.
- **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2012** – Site plans of proposed sites were forwarded to KTC P & D Committee by the Secretary of BANES Local Councils Association after he had obtained these from BANES Council.
- **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2012** – We were Informed by the Secretary of BANES Local Councils Association that the appendix to the GTTSP report to BANES Council would be issued to Town & Parish Councils on 1<sup>st</sup> May, after it had been signed off by Councillor Tim Ball and other officers. BANES Council stated that this would give councils 3 extra days before papers go public. Local press in Keynsham printed an article on proposed site in Keynsham on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2012.
- **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2012** – The Gypsy & Travelling Communities Awareness Training Event was attended by the Deputy Town Clerk of KTC and I. We were advised that no discussion should take place about individual proposed sites. A representative of one the proposed sites made comments about its suitability as a gypsy and travellers site and this was responded to by the Chairman of Gypsy Travellers Association. This proposed site was subsequently removed from the short list of proposed sites at the Cabinet meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2012.
- **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2012** – Email received from Secretary of BANES Local Councils Association stating that the Report would be formally signed off at 10.00 a.m. on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April. Consequently, the agenda for the Cabinet meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> May and the Report became available via BANES Council website after 2 p.m. To register to make a statement at the cabinet meeting notice had to be registered with BANES Council by 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2012, so we duly registered on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2012.
- **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2012** – Urgent KTC Special Planning & Development Committee meeting was called to prepare a statement for submission. KTC protocol states a minimum of 4 working days notice of a meeting should be provided to the members. Consequently, an inadequate time frame was allowed for a full and proper consideration.

- **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2012** – The Deputy Town Clerk of KTC and I attended the Cabinet meeting at the Guildhall.

### **3. Conclusion**

The allocation of sites is a sensitive matter which requires careful consideration, timely consultation and balanced judgment. In this case we contend that this required approach has not taken place and therefore the whole matter should be withdrawn for further needs assessment and consideration of site provision across the whole of the local authority.