

**Report of the Chief Executive
To
Full Council
On
22 January 2020**

Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Options DPD

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 Mansfield District Council is committed to meeting all housing needs including the housing needs of the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople community within the District. In order to meet this need, the Council is producing a Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showperson Development Plan Document (GTTSP DPD).
- 1.2 The Council consulted on the Gypsy and Traveller Options Consultation DPD Regulation which included 15 sites from the 19 July to 13 September 2019, where a total of 3,204 responses and nine petitions were received. As part of the consultation 47 additional sites were submitted to the Council for consideration. These sites have now been reviewed by officers against the methodology set out within the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Options Development Plan Document DPD and this has identified a further two reasonable alternative sites for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople use.
- 1.3 The purpose of this report is to seek member agreement to consult on the further two potentially suitable sites for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople use for a six week period.
- 1.4 Following this consultation the preferred sites will be identified and a further period of consultation would be undertaken on those sites.

Key Decision – This is not a key decision

2. **RECOMMENDATION** To seek authority to consult on the two further potential Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople sites given at Table 1.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. On 22 May 2018, Full Council agreed the following resolutions:
 - i. Authority to commence preparation of a Gypsy and Travellers Site Allocations Development Plan Document; and

- ii. Authority to undertake an initial consultation on the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD and issue a call for sites.
 - iii. Authority to use the Council's powers to purchase any relevant sites where appropriate.
- 3.2 The Housing Act 2004 requires all Local Authorities to include Gypsies and Travellers in their accommodation assessments and to take a strategic approach, including drawing up a strategy demonstrating how the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers will be met, as part of their wider housing strategies.
- 3.3 The Council are in the advanced stages of preparing the Mansfield District Local Plan, with the Local Plan currently at examination and the Inspectors Report due shortly. The Government's Policy for Gypsies and Travellers¹ specifies that Local Authorities must identify and update annually a 5 year supply of deliverable sites for Gypsies and Travellers. These sites must also be deliverable. Policy H8 within the Local Plan Publication Draft (September 2018) sets out an overarching policy which addresses accommodation for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.
- 3.4 In 2017, the Council undertook a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTANA) which identified a need for 3 pitches², and one transit site / emergency stopping place for the district for the period 2013 – 2033. An addendum to the needs assessment has since been published on the council's website (June 2019) setting out an additional need for two sites to accommodate Travelling Showpeople within the district.
- 3.5 The Gypsy and Traveller Development Options Consultation DPD was consulted on for an 8 week period from 19 July to 13 September 2019. The consultation included 15 site options to be considered for the 4 allocations required.
- 3.6 The Council received a total of 3,204 representations and nine petitions to the consultation, as part of this consultation 47 new sites were suggested. Officers have now reviewed these sites against the site selection criteria that was consulted on as part of the 'Options Development Plan Document'. This has identified a further two sites that are potentially suitable for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople use.
- 3.7 It is now proposed to consult on the following two sites, the site proformas and plans are set out at Appendix A to this report. These sites have not been consulted on previously. This is because there is no legislative reason to consult on sites that are proposed by the public through the consultation process. Further, because one of the initially preferred sites may no longer be available, a review of the remaining suitable sites is

¹ [Planning Policy for Traveller Sites \(August 2015\)](#)

² A pitch is approximately between 2-3 caravans. For more information on what is included within a 'pitch' please see page 13 of the Gypsy and Traveller [Technical Paper](#) which was submitted as evidence to support the Local Plan.

necessary and it is considered appropriate to consult on the following two additional sites that were proposed during the options consultation process.

Table 1

Site Reference Number	Site Address
84	Former Lorry Park Sheepbridge lane
315	Newlands Triangle

- 3.8 Before the consultation on the sites identified in the table above can commence the evidence base will need to be updated and reviewed.
- 3.9 The landowners of the two additional sites identified during the consultation were formally contacted in November 2019 and availability is yet to be confirmed. Officers are continuing to liaise with landowners throughout the DPD process regarding the availability of sites.
- 3.10 A total of **4 sites** are required to be allocated or safeguarded for their existing use. The four sites will accommodate a site for permanent provision (3 pitches), a site for transit provision (15 pitches) and two sites for Travelling Showpeople.
- 3.11 In addition, the Council is considering how, once the allocations are implemented, the sites might be managed.

Next Steps

- 3.12 Once the consultation has been undertaken in the spring, the comments received, together with any updated information will be considered and the plan will be amended where necessary to produce the Publication Draft Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople DPD for formal consultation. There will also be the opportunity for Members of Overview & Scrutiny (Place) and the Gypsy and Traveller community to consider the sites against more detailed feasibility studies for the preferred sites before the wider public consultation on the Publication version of the DPD a decision will then be made by the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration on the preferred sites prior to consideration by Council. The Council will then submit the DPD, the supporting evidence, a summary of representations received and any proposed changes it considers necessary to the Planning Inspectorate for examination on behalf of the Secretary of State. Following examination the Local Plan will be formally adopted.
- 3.13 The consultation period will run for a six week period with the dates to be confirmed. Officers hope to engage with as many people as possible and will consult statutory consultees (such as the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England). Officers have prepared a consultation strategy which seeks to use a variety of means to raise the

profile of the DPD and encourage representations to be made. A copy of the Engagement Strategy can be viewed at Appendix B of this report. The main elements of the consultation are:

- a) Notifying individual/ organisations on the Local Plan database
Public Exhibitions at a range of locations around the district
- b) Articles in local newspapers / newsletters
- c) Use of social media
- d) Targeted consultation with Gypsy and Traveller community

4.0 OPTIONS AVAILABLE

- 4.1 Consultation is a significant part of the development of a DPD with statutory requirements in relation to this throughout the process. At this time there are two options. The first option is to not consult which would mean that no consultation is held until the formal Regulation 19 Consultation where representations can only be made on soundness and legal compliance. The other option is to consult on alternative options which would require a review of the methodology proposed, to find alternative sites to assess.

5.0 RISK ASSESSMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND OPTIONS

Risk	Risk Assessment	Risk Level	Risk Management
Reputation	<p>Not consulting would stop further development of the DPD and may risk the soundness of the emerging Mansfield District Local Plan. Significant delays in progressing and adopting the Local Plan may lead to Government intervention.</p> <p>Further delay could also lead to additional pressures on sites that are less sustainable.</p>	High	Consulting on this version of the DPD enables the Council to consider the community responses before moving on to the next stage of the DPD.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 It is important to note that consulting on this document is an important step forward and will also help in providing for good community involvement in the DPD process.
- (a) Relevant Legislation – The report relates to the next stage in the DPD process and accords with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

- (b) Human Rights – No impact as this is a consultation document, where consultation will be in accordance with the adopted Statement of Community involvement and compliant with all relevant Human Rights issues.
- (c) Equality and Diversity – No impact as this is a consultation document, where consultation will be in accordance with the Statement of Community involvement adopted by the council and compliant with all relevant equality and diversity issues.
- (d) Climate change and environmental sustainability – No impact as there are no changes to relevant policies as a result of the consultation on this document. The Options have also been assessed as part of the Sustainability Appraisal Report which will be published alongside the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Options Development Plan Document.
- (e) Crime and Disorder – No impact as there are no changes to relevant policies as a result of the consultation on this document.
- (f) Budget /Resource – This document does not in itself generate greater costs than those associated with meeting our legal duties.

7. COMMENTS OF STATUTORY OFFICERS

- (a) Monitoring Officer – Effective consultation forms an important part of ensuring that the Local Plan is considered sound and all aspects are considered.
- (b) Section 151 Officer –No specific comments

8. CONSULTATION

The purpose of this report is to seek consultation on the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople DPD and supporting Sustainability Appraisal.

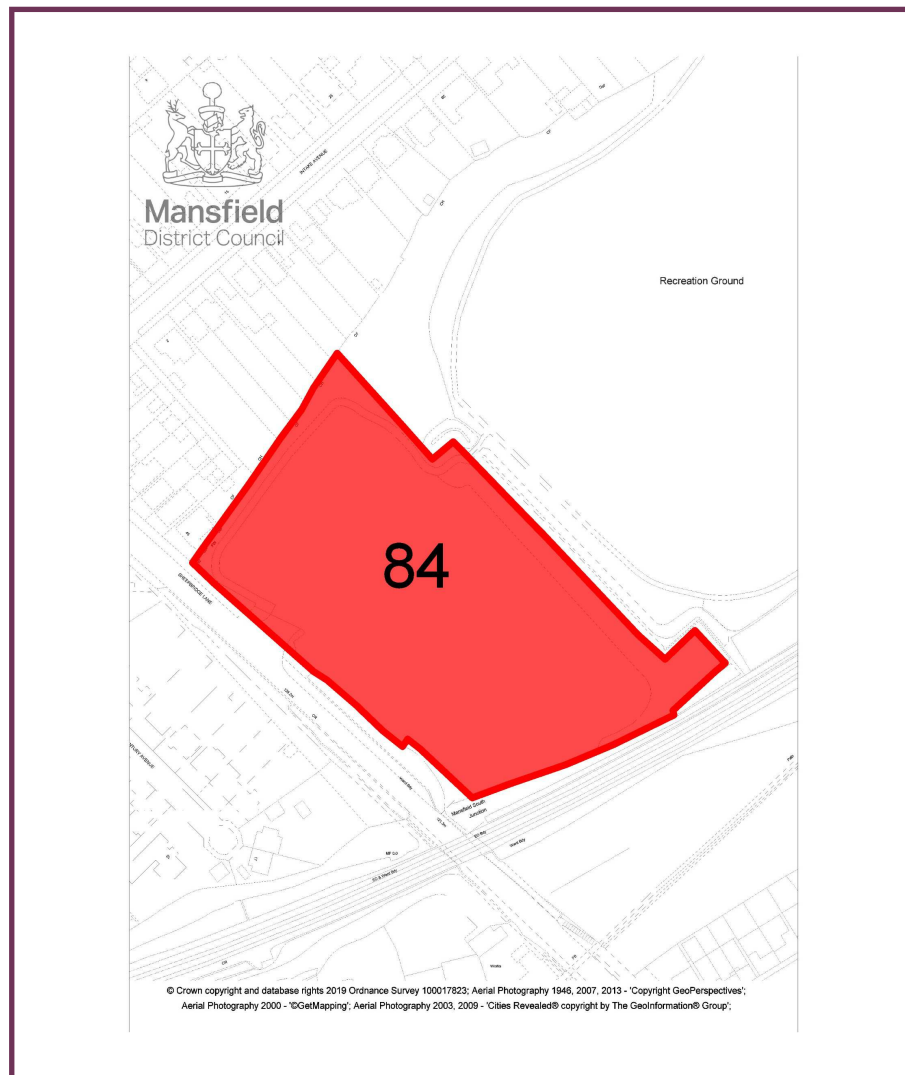
9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following documents should be read alongside this report:

- Site Options – Appendix A
- Engagement Strategy – Appendix B

Appendix A

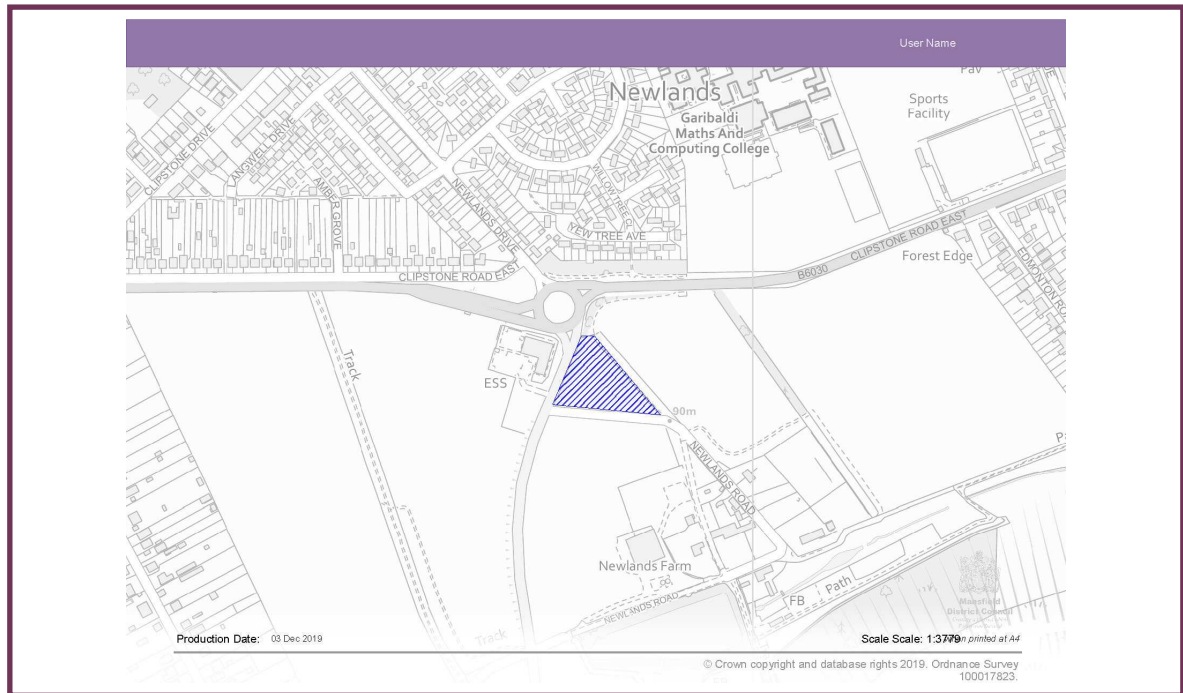
84 – Lorry Park, Sheepbridge Lane



Site Information

Location:	Lorry Park, Sheepbridge Lane	Settlement:	Mansfield	
Ref:	84	Ward	Portland	
Site Size (ha):	1.29ha	Site Capacity (pitches / plots / sites)	G&T perm	25
			G&T transit	51
			TSP	5
Current use:	Trailer storage - vacant	Neighbouring uses:	Residential to north and west, recreation ground to north east	
PDL/Greenfield	PDL	Location (Grid reference)	X	452800
			Y	360170

315 – Newlands Triangle



Site Information

Location:	Newlands Triangle	Settlement:	Forest Town	
Ref:	315	Ward	Newlands	
Site Size (ha):	0.62ha	Site Capacity (pitches / plots / sites)	G&T perm	12
			G&T transit	24
			TSP	2
Current use:	Agricultural land	Neighbouring uses:	Health centre and Residential (to be built) to west, agricultural land to east	
PDL/Greenfield	Greenfield	Location (Grid reference)	X	
			Y	

Appendix B: Engagement Strategy

Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Options Development Plan Document **(GTTSP Options DPD) 2019: Consultation Engagement Strategy**

Purpose of Strategy: This strategy sets out how we will engage residents and other interested parties as part of the consultation on the GTTSP Options DPD and accompanying Consultation Document. It identifies key tasks to be undertaken and materials required in order to achieve the aims of the consultation.

Aim of Consultation: To maximise awareness of the consultation amongst those affected by the potential GTTSP Sites (residents, business, developers, statutory consultees), and to gather formal and informal feedback on the GTTSP Options DPD.

Task	Purpose	Target Audience	Method of Engagement
Advert in the Community Newsletter (My Mansfield)	Raise awareness of the consultation	Residents / businesses	Written
Press Release (Chad local newspaper)	Raise awareness of the consultation	Residents / businesses / hard to reach groups	Written
Content on Social Media (Facebook / Twitter)	Raise awareness of the consultation	Residents / businesses / hard to reach groups	Written
Content on the MDC website (homepage / consultation on planning policies page)	Raise awareness of the consultation	Residents / businesses / hard to reach groups	Written
Notification emails or letters to all individuals / organisations on the Local Plan database	<p>Raise awareness of the consultation and set out the dates and times of the events that are being held and how representations to the document can be made.</p> <p>This is in accordance with formal requirements of the Regulations.</p>	<p>Residents / businesses / statutory consultees / infrastructure providers</p> <p>Statutory consultees and infrastructure providers will be offered a meeting if they wish to discuss the GTTSP DPD further with officers under the Duty to Cooperate.</p>	Written
Community Drop in Events	To gather informal feedback on the GTTSP site options; these sessions	Residents / businesses	Face to Face

	will allow members of the public to ask planning officers any questions in relation to the consultation documents.	Venues have been selected that are in close proximity to the GTTSP site options; one event is going to be hold in each location, i.e. Mansfield, Mansfield Woodhouse and Market Warsop.	
Deposit Points	Ensure that hard copies of the Consultation Document and GTTSP Options DPD are available in accessible locations around the District.	<p>Residents / businesses / hard to reach groups</p> <p>The venues selected include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mansfield District Council, Civic Centre • Warsop Town Hall • Mansfield Central Library • Rainworth Community Partnership Library • Ladybrook Library • Warsop Library • Forest Town Library • Clipstone Library • Mansfield Woodhouse Library. 	Written
Targeted consultation with the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Community	To gather feedback on the GTTSP site options; these meetings will allow the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople community to ask planning officers an questions in relation to the consultation documents.	Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Community	Face to Face and Written
Online Consultation Portal (Objective Online)	Allows representations to the Local Plan to be made electronically via Objective.	Those with the capacity to use online system.	Written

