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11th April 2011

Dear Sir or Madam

South Lakeland LDF: Land Allocations Development Plan Document

Thank you for notifying us of the above consultation document.

Our comments relate to page 14, paragraphs 2.20-2.22

In view of the findings of both the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA for Cumbria, 2008) and the more recent report by HomeSpace (HSSA 2011), we consider that the approach set out in paragraph 2.22 is reasonable (that is, the approach set out in the 4 bullet points).

However we also want to draw attention to the findings of the HSSA report and the GTAA that Gypsies and Travellers have had to move out of the area because of the lack of provision, and that there may also be need arising from Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar accommodation.

The need for pitches/plots in the District appears to be small, but it is important not to neglect that need, and not all families can provide for themselves because of issues such as affordability. The approach outlined above would be more effective if accompanied by a proactive search for possible small sites, in that way the approach is much more likely to be effective at delivering sites as they are needed.

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Another area of concern is the reference to 'local connection'. Given that Gypsies and Travellers have had to move out of the area due to the lack of provision, it might not always be easy to demonstrate a local connection so this needs to be considered with care.

Thank you for considering our response.

Yours faithfully,

Alice de la Rue
Planning Officer, Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group on behalf of the National
Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups