

**Cawston Parish Council objects to the GNLP proposal of a Traveller site in Eastgate, Cawston .
GNLP5004 Land off Buxton Road, Eastgate, Cawston.**

1. The Parish Council has received many representations from the small community near the proposed site who feel that the site would have an overwhelmingly detrimental effect on the community.
2. The Parish Council previously objected to a proposal for housing on the site and the District Council rejected that proposal on the grounds that it did not fall within the defined development boundary, was not considered sustainable, did not provide potential residents with proper access to services and facilities and did not meet any of the criteria for a suitable 'exception site'.
3. The Parish Council objects to the damage being done to the site in an attempt to make it look more suitable for development and are in the process of raising a complaint with the District Council.
4. The Parish Council thinks that the highway access from the site cannot be made, it is unsuitable.
5. The Parish Council refers to the relevant government policy:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/457420/Final_planning_and_travellers_policy.pdf

"Selection of site process

" b. to ensure that local planning authorities, working collaboratively, develop fair and effective strategies to meet need through the identification of land for sites"

The Parish Council thinks that there is no evidence of this collaborative working for a 'fair and effective strategy ' to identify this site . This looks like site selection based merely on opportunism.

"h. to increase the number of traveller sites in appropriate locations with planning permission, to address under provision and maintain an appropriate level of supply"

The Parish Council thinks that this is not an appropriate location and that consideration has not been given to this in the selection process to date.

" i. to reduce tensions between settled and traveller communities in plan-making and planning decisions"

The Parish Council thinks that there has been no attempt to engage with the local community and that tensions may indeed arise.

"Using Evidence"

pay particular attention to early and effective community engagement with both settled and traveller communities (including discussing travellers' accommodation needs

with travellers themselves, their representative bodies and local support groups

The Parish Council is not aware that any consultation has taken place to meet this requirement and again suggest that the identification of this site is merely opportunistic.

“Plan- making”

“Local Plans must be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. To this end, they should be consistent with the policies in the National Planning Policy Framework, including the presumption in favour of sustainable development and the application of specific policies in the Framework, and this planning policy for traveller sites.”

“Local planning authorities should ensure that traveller sites are sustainable economically, socially and environmentally. Local planning authorities should, therefore, ensure that their policies:

a) promote peaceful and integrated co-existence between the site and the local community

b) promote, in collaboration with commissioners of health services, access to appropriate health services

c) ensure that children can attend school on a regular basis “

We refer you to Point 2 above. This site is not sustainable in these terms.

“When assessing the suitability of sites in rural or semi-rural settings, local planning authorities should ensure that the scale of such sites does not dominate the nearest settled community.”

The immediate surroundings are a small community and would be dominated by the development.

“Rural exception sites”

“A rural exception site policy should seek to address the needs of the local community by accommodating households who are either current residents or have an existing family or employment connection, whilst also ensuring that rural areas continue to develop as sustainable, mixed, inclusive communities”

The Parish Council does not believe that this site meets any of the acceptable criteria for a rural exception site – including this one.