

Email 310520 from Mark Benson-Brown re G&Ts consultation

From: Mark Benson-Brown

Sent: 31 May 2020 18:40

To: Tony Blackburn

Subject: Re: Rossendale Local Plan Gypsy and Travellers Transit Site consultation

Tony,

Ref: Proposed replacement Gypsy Transient site - Touters quarry.

I have looked through the inspectors pre-hearing questions and i would like to ask the following questions also. Please hear my questions within the meeting whilst the inspector is in attendance, questions are shown below:-

1. Why is the councils snapshot in time to assess the need for a site between 2013 and 2016? What are the requirements for 2019/ 2020? Has this been assessed? The timelines used for assessing the need for a site would need to be updated in my view and new assessment's completed? I have been a resident in Bacup all my adult life and certainly don't see the influx of travellers as was seen in years gone by?
2. Why was the selection of touter's quarry made just days before Christmas day, at a very late stage, when the site had been rejected previously? What has Changed since the rejection of its suitability?
3. Has any consultation been carried out with the "customers" of the site, and there review of the proposals?
4. Places at local schools are already stretched as my son goes to Sharneyford school and it is full to capacity. Where else can the children go to learn and how will they get there ?
5. Can the council afford to complete a development like this in the current climate ? I feel there will be a harsh recession very shortly and it is my view that money spent developing a site like this could be spent better elsewhere, i would ask you to prove me wrong with facts and detail ?
6. What discussion has been had with Calderdale Council around the proposals?
7. How much cost will be required to create a fully functioning site? How does this compare with the other 10 sites on the list. Do you have the detail to show which is the most economical and what makes touters quarry, in your view, such a suitable alternative ?
8. How much will it cost to manage the site and who will take these duties on. Cost is going to be a big factor in the coming years due to the global pandemic, and i would challenge the council to show how this will be handled and enforced?
9. Can the council show evidence of this type of site being successful in other areas of the county, and or in other parts of the uk, with detail and evidence of the successful integration of the traveller community, and what were the cost associated, in terms of money and environmental.

In my view this application should be rejected as it is neither environmentally or financially viable.

Best Regards

Mark Benson-Brown