



**BRENTWOOD
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Local Plan 2015-2030

Preferred Options

July 2013

COMMENT FORM

(For official use only)

Comment No.

1759 + 760

Ack. date

You can comment on the Local Plan 2015-2030 Preferred Options online at www.brentwood.gov.uk/localplan. Alternatively, please use this form to share your views on the contents of the Local Plan.

PERSONAL DETAILS

Title: — First Name: — Last Name: —

Organisation (if applicable): **NAVESTOCK PARISH COUNCIL**

Job title (if applicable):

Address: **6 VILLAGE HALL
HORSEMAN'S SIDE, NAVESTOCK CM14 5SD**

Post Code: **CM14 5SD** Telephone Number:

Email Address:

YOUR COMMENTS

Please indicate which section(s) of the Local Plan you are commenting on (please clearly state the Policy reference or paragraph number):

DM28 + DM11

Please specify if you Support or Object (tick as appropriate):

Support

Object

Comments (please use additional sheet if required):

**PLEASE SEE ATTACHED
2 SHEETS**

Please return to Planning Policy Team, Brentwood Borough Council, Town Hall, Brentwood, Essex CM15 8AY, or alternatively attach completed form and email planning.policy@brentwood.gov.uk

Please note that all responses will be published online. More information can be found at www.brentwood.gov.uk/localplan

All responses should be received by Wednesday 2nd October 2013

Following the presentation in our Village Hall of the Brentwood Local Plan 2015 – 2030 we would like to formally state our views, which cover 2 areas of your plan.

Policy DM28: Gypsy and Traveller Provision

The influx of illegally-sited gypsies and travellers into Navestock has now reached epidemic proportions, bringing with it fears and problems for our community. It is commonly believed that there are now more gypsies and travellers in Navestock and within 600 yards of our parish boundary than there are settled residents.

A major objection we have is that your figures on sites and pitches, on which the Plan is based, are hopelessly wrong. If our Local Authority, Brentwood, has no idea of the correct number of Gypsy and Traveller pitches in Navestock it is little wonder that our residents feel abandoned by their Borough Council. Perhaps more importantly, the figures you put in the plan are so grossly misleading that they render it unfit (and possibly open to legal challenge) to be published in such an authoritative document.

We would also like to remind Brentwood Council of the National Policy which states that “there should be fair and equal treatment for travellers...while respecting the interests of the settled community. Thus far Brentwood Council has not respected the interests of Navestock residents and we hope they will now grasp the opportunity to do so.

More specifically, we object to the Gypsy & Traveller Provisions for the following reasons:-

The sites being considered in Navestock do not meet the stated criteria in that there is insufficient access to local services, such as shops, primary and secondary schools, healthcare and public transport.

The sites create unacceptable harm to the Green Belt by tarmac and the paving over of previously agricultural use only land and despoiling adjacent designated SSSI property.

Road access is via rural lanes unsuitable to the lorry's and Van's used by the Travellers.

The proposed accommodation will harm the character and appearance of the area and result in unacceptable visual impact.

The sites are located in a position that cannot be landscaped to minimise the impact on the surrounding environment.

The Plan does not include details of consultation with adjacent Authorities which has lead to an overwhelming number of Gypsy/Traveller pitches in a confined area (the gypsies and travellers living on these sites now outnumber the 'settled' Navestock residents).

The published document quotes from National Policy on Traveller sites as “The Government's overarching aim is to ensure fair and equal treatment for travellers, in a way that facilitates the traditional and nomadic way while respecting the interests of

the settled community". Nothing in this policy provides for the needs, financial well-being or security or the so called 'settled'

It is time that Brentwood Borough Council did actually start respecting our interests.

The number of pitches suggested (44 permanent pitches) to provide accommodation into the next decade and to "maintain a five year supply of pitches" falls woefully short of the current established need (Brentwood Borough's own figure) of 96 SITES! There is nothing in this document designed to 'protect' residents in the way officers are predicting.

Policy DM11: New Development in the Green Belt

On a more positive note, Navestock Parish Council would welcome a small number of homes being built on various brownfield sites which could be identified within the village.

We believe that if care is exercised, the village could sustain approximately 8 new homes each year for the next 15 years. These new residents, especially those with young children, would bring new life to our community and benefits for our residents over the coming years.