

Email 310520 from Andrea Kay re G&Ts consultation

From: andrea kay
Sent: 31 May 2020 14:53
To: Tony Blackburn
Subject: Local Plan Gypsy Travellers site

Please see my response to the inspectors questions

Issue 4 – Suitability of the proposed replacement allocation at Sharneyford

a) Is the proposed site in a sustainable location which allows access to schools and services? What is the distance to Sharneyford, the local primary school and other key services? Where is the nearest bus stop?

Lancashire County Council School

The nearest School is Sharneyford Primary this is a sought-after School that has no spaces available. The nearest School after this is in Bacup, town centre, which is two miles away, from the proposed sight. (I am not aware if these have spaces available).

The lack of access to education further Isolates, segregates and discriminated this community.

The nearest Doctors, Dentists, Pharmacy, children's play centre, banks and food shops are also in Bacup centre.

Bacup Centre is two miles away. The Proposed sight is on top of a 1,300 foot hill. Bacup is two miles down the hill therefore the return is a further 2 mile climb up the steep hill. For those who do not have access to vehicles (usually the women and children) this is an impossible journey on foot especially with younger children and groceries. There is a bus stop 200 yards away which runs twice a day at School times. This is at a cost of £2.80 one way one adult.

When the gypsy travelling community pitch up even for a short time it is an ideal opportunity for them to access education and health care. The proposed site will prevent them accessing the community and the services available.

These children need to be seen and heard and have opportunities to access education along with their basic needs to be met.

The council department that is tasked with addressing the education of traveller children whether this be school provision or home education is based in County Hall Preston, 23 miles away.

Within all of the documentation put forward so far by the council and the experts instructed, I have not seen any evidence as to how the basic needs and rights of the gypsy travelling community and Rights of the women and children have been taken into consideration.

Lancashire County Council Safeguarding Children's board and its wider members Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool Council. Have published a number of Lessons Learnt - Serious Case Reviews. In respect of the gypsy travelling community, which clearly recommends that these children need to be seen and heard and provided to full access to health and educational provisions. Integrated into society rather than segregated. That everybody this including all professionals' other sectors workers and members of the public have a duty of care to safeguard, meet the needs of and promote the welfare and best interest of these children.

The current safeguarding concerns within this community is in relation to Count Lines. Whereby gypsy travelling children and adults are being targeted and exploited groomed into county lines, which is the illegal drug transportation from one area to another. The reason they are now the target is they go unnoticed as they travel on a regular basis, they are out of reach of professionals, referred to as the hidden children. Therefore, its imperative they have access to basic resources .

The position of the boundaries is very significant the sight crosses both. It is a very common occurrence for both Lancashire and Calderdale councils to argue between themselves as to who is responsible in the provision of services this including the Police force.

Has the local authority Safeguarding services, Education and Police been consulted with?

Under the UN Convention of the Human Rights of the Child.

Article 28

Every child has the right to an Education.

Article Three

Best Interest of the Child must be the top priority in all decisions and action that affect Children.

Therefore, every councillor in the Rossendale Valley who has voted in support of this proposed sight, is significantly failing in their duties to make safe decisions, suitability provided for, meet the needs of and Safeguard these children within this community.

Article Six

Life Survival and development

Every Child has a right to life. Government must do all they can to ensure that children survive and develop to reach their full potential.

Basic community services and facilities are inaccessible from this sight. It has not running water,(Local houses run off spring water that has currently run dry) no gas or electricity is currently available at the sight.

The quarry also floods, the weather is extreme for 8 months of the year. It is positioned on a dangerous bend, that I have witnessed numerous accidents, at all times of the year. More so in autumn and winter in the snow and thick fog. The sight itself has sheer cliff drops which are eroding away, children will die living on this sight from the dangers around them, the weather extremities and lack of access to health care and other basic services.

Article 24 Health and Health Services

Every child has the right to the best possible health. Government must ensure they do all they can to provide this.

As above no local access to services.

Article 27 Adequate standard of living

Every child has a right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and social needs and support their development.

The proposed sight offers none of the above for reasons previously stated.

b) Would the proposal place undue pressure on local infrastructure and services? Are there available places at local schools?

As above there are currently no places locally or accessible services within a two-mile radius.

c) What effect does the site's elevation have on its suitability for use as a transit site? Would occupancy of the site be possible at all points during the year, and does the evidence show that this is likely to be required?

During Autumn Winter and the first part of spring approximately 8 months of the year this sight will be uninhabitable.

d) Which part of the site lies within the area of high risk for surface water flooding? [The Council is requested to provide a map within its response] What flood risk assessment work has been undertaken and how would flood risks be mitigated?

The quarry holds back gallons of water and acts as a flood defence for the Calder Valley as well as Bacup. There is clear government's guidance of building or affecting anything that will add to the further floods. No evidence as to how this has been assessed. The local community has evidence of the gallons of water that is always stored there for months of the year.

Where would this water then go?

e) What effect would the proposal have on landscape character, including the adjoining Special Landscape Area within Calderdale, and in visual terms? How would any effects be mitigated? Is planting feasible taking account of the site's elevation?

The sight will be visible 360 degrees. It is a stunning area close to the Pennine Way and the Rossendale way runs next to the sight. The sight will be visible to these hikers walking the Rossendale way. The route brings a vast amount of tourists to the area.