

# **ROSSENDALE LOCAL PLAN EXAMINATION**

## **HEARING AGENDA**

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 10.00am**  
**Teleconference event**

### **Proposed gypsy and traveller transit site at Sharneyford**

Please note:

- This is an additional session on Matter 4 following consultation carried out by the Council in January 2020 on a proposed replacement traveller transit site at Sharneyford. The Council proposes that the site would replace the proposed allocation at Futures Park, as set out in the submitted draft Rossendale Local Plan (2018).
- The event will be attended by participants who responded to the consultation and have requested a right to be heard. The event will be held via telephone link. Other people can request to listen to the event live, by contacting the Programme Officer.
- Participants and people who wish to listen have been sent joining details and guidance notes in a separate email. Please speak to the Programme Officer if you have any questions.
- The agenda is based on the Inspector's Pre-Hearing Questions. Participants are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the Pre-Hearing Questions, Hearing Statements and other evidence on the examination webpage, prior to the event.
- The agenda includes detailed questions on some topics. On other topics the Inspector has taken account of the written submissions and other evidence, and has no further questions at this stage. However, participants will have a chance to comment on all of the issues. Opportunities to speak are denoted where the word '**All**' appears in the agenda.
- All documents and evidence should already have been submitted. The Inspector will NOT accept further written evidence at this stage.

### **Introductory remarks by the Inspector (Katie Child)**

- Names of participants
- Practicalities
- Structure and format of the hearing
- Any comments from the Council?
- Any questions from other participants relating to procedural matters? (**All**)

### **Issue 1 – Need for gypsy and traveller transit site**

- Any further comments from participants? (**All**)

## **Issue 2 – Site selection process**

### Site assessment/selection

- Questions for the Council - what are the reasons for rejection of the site at Barlow Bottom east? Are there suitability and deliverability issues?
- Chris Howarth – any further comments on the site selection process?
- Any comments from other participants on site selection? **(All)**

### Consultation with the travelling community

- Questions for the Council - have the views of the travelling community been sought on the proposed site at Sharneyford? What consultation took place with travellers at Futures Park (as referenced in the Hearing Statement)?
- Any comments from other participants? **(All)**

## **Issue 3 – Deliverability of the original proposed transit site at Futures Park**

- Any points the Council wishes to make?
- Councillor Sue Brennan – any further comments on the issue of the lease?
- Phil Taylor – any further comments on the issue of the lease?
- Any comments from other participants? **(All)**

## **Issue 4 – Suitability of the proposed replacement site at Sharneyford**

### Access to schools and other facilities

- Any further comments from participants on schools and facilities? **(All)**

### Access to water, sewerage and electricity

- Chris and Jean Howarth – who controls or owns the spring and the well? Where is the water source located? What is the nature/extent of any supply problems?
- Council's response on water supply - can permission be obtained to secure water from the spring/well? What legal agreements or arrangements may be necessary? What piping/diversion works would be needed? Is delivery feasible?
- Any other comments from participants on water, sewerage or electricity supply? **(All)**

### Safety and quality of the living environment

- Questions to the Council
  - Is the site intended to be open and available for use throughout the year?
  - What is the elevation of the site (in feet and metres)?
  - What measures would be undertaken to deal with safety risks associated with the quarry walls and open water?
- Any comments from other participants on safety and quality of life? **(All)**

### Flood risks

- Questions to the Council - is the proposed landscaped bund between the pitches and quarry necessary to prevent surface water flooding? Was this required by the Lead Local Flood Authority or the Environment Agency?
- Any further comments from other participants on flooding? **(All)**

### Landscape character and appearance

- Question to the Council – what effect would the proposal have on the Special Landscape Area within Calderdale?
- Any further comments from other participants on landscape character? **(All)**

### Suitability of the scale

- Questions to the Council
  - What is the population of Sharneyford itself?
  - How does the size of the proposal relate to the scale of the existing community in Sharneyford, and at Tooter Hill?
- Any further comments on scale from other participants? **(All)**

### Traffic and road safety

- Chris and Jean Howarth – any comments on this issue?
- Any comments from other participants on traffic and road safety? **(All)**

### Heritage

*[Note: a Statement of Common Ground between the Council and Historic England has been sought and will be circulated to participants prior to the event and placed on the examination webpage]*

- Question to the Council - does Historic England have any outstanding concerns?
- Any comments from other participants on heritage issues? **(All)**

### Biodiversity

- Question to the Council – what are the key conclusions of the new biodiversity evidence, as set out in the submitted Hearing Statement?
- Any comments from participants on the Council’s evidence or other aspects of biodiversity? **(All)**

Other comments on suitability? **(All)** *[note, deliverability is covered under Issue 5]*

## **Issue 5 - Deliverability of proposed replacement allocation at Sharneyford**

- Questions to the Council
  - What proportion and hectares of the site are unregistered and how much is owned by the private individual? (based on the proposed reduced site size, incorporating the access and pitch area)
  - Have land purchase and legal costs been estimated?
  - What other sources of funding are the Council looking to pursue?

- Why is delivery anticipated in years 5-10? What is the reason for the delay?
- If the site is needed now, is the delay reasonable? In the interim, how would the needs of traveller families be met in Rossendale?
- Any comments from participants on site availability, funding, management or delivery timescales? **(All)**

## **Issue 6 – General matters**

*[Note: A revised allocation map showing the reduced area and amended boundaries is due to be circulated to participants prior to the event and placed on the examination webpage]*

### **Site area and boundary**

- Questions to the Council
  - What is the revised site area?
  - Can the site be accommodated wholly within Rossendale, or does delivery of the access road require a small area of land in Calderdale?
  - Is this land owned by another party?
  - Are there any outstanding concerns from Calderdale Council?
- Any comments from other participants on the site area/boundary? **(All)**

### **Site-specific policy**

- Questions to the Council – what mitigation measures relating to biodiversity, flood risk and the historic environment would be relevant to include in a site-specific policy?
- Any comments from other participants on the Council's proposed policy (see Hearing Statement, response to Q6b)? **(All)**

### **Alternative approaches**

- Questions to the Council
  - If the site is not allocated as a transit site, can you confirm what package of measures the Council would look to put in place to meet the needs of travellers in Rossendale?
  - Would you seek to amend Policy HS18 to be a criteria-based policy for temporary stopping places?
  - How would existing transit facilities in Hyndburn help to meet an identified need for stopping places in Rossendale?
- Any comments from participants on alternative approaches? **(All)**

## **Any other matters**

- Any comments from participants on other matters? **(All)**
- Any other points from the Council?

## **Inspector's closing remarks**