

COUNCILLOR RON WHITTAKER  
*Throop & Muscliff [Independent]*  
35 Glenmeadows Drive,  
Kinson,  
BOURNEMOUTH. BH10 5HQ

Telephone: (01202) 575621  
e-mail: [ronald.whittaker@bournemouth.gov.uk](mailto:ronald.whittaker@bournemouth.gov.uk)

COUNCILLOR ANNE REY  
*Throop & Muscliff [Independent]*  
26 Setley Gardens,  
Strouden Park,  
BOURNEMOUTH. BH8 0HQ

Telephone: (01202) 538068  
e-mail: [anne.rey@bournemouth.gov.uk](mailto:anne.rey@bournemouth.gov.uk)

November 2011

Dear Residents,

## **GYPSIES' AND TRAVELLERS' SITES IN THE GREEN BELT - CONSULTATION 12 WEEKS : 'HAVE YOUR SAY'**

Over the past weeks there has been widespread coverage in the Bournemouth Daily Echo regarding the announcement by Bakers Associates, Planning Consultancy, who have been appointed to undertake a site criteria and site assessment for possible *transit and residential pitch locations* for the above in Bournemouth.

Bakers Associates have come up with three Green Belt sites: Erlin Farm, Muscliff Lane/Careys Road, Broadway Lane and land off Throop Road, opposite Longbarrow Allotments, including land off Park Road, Lansdowne.

At no time was there any form of consultation with any of the interested landowners, i.e. Erlin Farm and Careys Road, the Local Authority who manage the land. Bakers rejected other Greenfield sites as being "unacceptable impact on the landscape character, the purpose of the Green Belt". Again, any rejection was "due to impact on open space". Both Erlin Farm and Careys Road are no different in character to the other rejected sites in the Green Belt. This Government is saying that "Green Belt sites should not be rejected until it is clear that enough sites can be found elsewhere. If enough sites are not available, then Green Belt and other national designations may be able to provide needed sites". All this is totally contrary to what the Government was saying before the General Election regarding protecting the Green Belt!

It is so important that residents please do engage in completing the on-line questionnaires for those who have the facility to do so, [www.dorsetforyou.com/travellerpitches](http://www.dorsetforyou.com/travellerpitches) or complete the questionnaires available at local libraries as from 18 November, for a 12 week so-called consultation period. **WE HAVE ARGUED** for arrangements to have a public exhibition in our Ward as Bakers had only arranged two: one at the Bournemouth Training Centre, Jewell Road, Townsend, on 5 December between 3.30 - 7.30 p.m. and the main Bournemouth Library, the Triangle, on 13 December between 3 - 7 p.m. - we wonder why!!?? After much correspondence with Bakers Associates, they have agreed to an exhibition at **THE MUSCLIFF COMMUNITY CENTRE ON FRIDAY, 9 DECEMBER, 2 - 7 p.m.**, and to be on hand to explain their so-called thinking as to why they came up with the three sites in Throop. Questionnaires will be available at the exhibition.

On the question of 'questionnaires', we have requested over 2,000 and with the help of a number of residents we will be distributing these around the area, although we know many residents have signed the various petition forms being circulated.

**IT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO PLEASE FILL IN YOUR 'REASONS FOR REJECTION' ON THE FORM.**

P.T.O/...

Erlin Farm land is Grade 2 agricultural land. Planning policies state that “areas of poorer quality land, i.e. Grades 3b, 4 and 5 should be used in preference to higher quality land”. Any loss of this farmland for such a travellers’ site would then make the existing farm cottage and holding (9%) unviable for the current, or in time, future tenants due to the reduction in the individual farm size. It would, without any question, have a massive unacceptable local impact on the openness of the farm’s estate which includes the whole of Muscliffe Lane cottages within the conservation area of the ‘homes for heroes’ following the Great War in 1919. Any development within the conservation area must ensure that any proposals will “preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the conservation area”. **CLEARLY THE PROPOSAL AFFECTS ERLIN FARM** besides being adjacent to a nature and conservation area, including not having any **MAIN RUNNING SEWERS FROM MUSCLIFFE LANE/ARAGON WAY THROUGH TO 163 MUSCLIFFE LANE**. Policy in the Local Plan 4.15 states “in the Muscliffe Lane conservation area the Authority will seek to retain the banks and hedgerows. The construction of kerbs and additional footways and provision of street furniture will not be permitted”. Hence, once again little, if any, detailed investigation has taken place by the planning consultancy to include Erlin Farm.

Besides a number of other issues, Erlin Farm should undoubtedly have been rejected at Stage 1 of the review.

**CAREYS ROAD** forms part of what was the Castle Lane Relief Road. The use of this site for residential pitches will affect the character and openness of the Green Belt. The area abuts the Jewish Cemetery, and is less than 200 metres from Muscliff Primary School - a three form entry primary which is always oversubscribed for places within the area, like the Epiphany Primary School. The land is also being used to accommodate a Shetland pony and, as such, the land has a future requirement for such use.

PLEASE ALSO VISIT OUR WEBSITE [www.peoplebeforepolitics.info](http://www.peoplebeforepolitics.info) for any updates or to view the various documents.

PLEASE FORWARD ANY PETITIONS/LETTERS, ETC. TO:

Gypsy/Traveller and Travelling People Consultation,  
County Hall,  
DORCHESTER,  
Dorset. DT1 1XJ

E-mails can also still be sent to: [planning@bournemouth.gov.uk](mailto:planning@bournemouth.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely,

COUNCILLOR RON WHITTAKER

COUNCILLOR ANNE REY