

**Committee: Planning Policy Working Group**

**Agenda Item**

**Date: 6 July 2015**

**8**

**Title: Gypsy and Traveller consultation - Five Acres and Pennington Lane**

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### **Summary**

1. The Council carried out a Gypsy and Traveller Issues and Options consultation from 8 December 2014 to 2 February 2015. The Planning Policy Working Group received a report on 23 February 2015 which set out the results of the consultation and officer comments.
2. Attached is the report concluding the Gypsy and Traveller Issues and Options consultation outstanding sites. This report sets out officer's recommendations on the site at Five Acres Arkesden, the site in Pennington Lane Stansted and Hill Top Henham.

### **Recommendations**

- 2.To note the officer recommendations.

### **Financial Implications**

- 3.None

### **Background Papers**

- 4.None

### **Impact**

- 5.

Communication/Consultation	Public consultation held with additional targeted consultation. This paper is published on the website.
Community Safety	N/A
Equalities	N/A
Health and Safety	N/A
Human Rights/Legal Implications	N/A

Sustainability	N/A
Ward-specific impacts	All
Workforce/Workplace	N/L

## Situation

6. The Report of Representations on the Gypsy and Traveller Call for Sites included one site upon which a conclusion had not been reached (Five Acres Arkesden) and two new sites which had been submitted as part of the consultation (Hill Top Yard Henham and Pennington Lane Stansted).
7. This report updates members on the additional consultation which was carried out regarding Five Acres Arkesden as a potential Gypsy and Traveller site, completes the site assessment of Pennington Lane Stansted and provides an update on the Hill Top Yard Henham site, both sites were promoted through the Issues and Options consultation.
8. At the request of the Council the landowner of Five Acres submitted a Flood Risk Assessment which was sent to the following consultees:
  - a. The Environment Agency
  - b. Essex Highways
  - c. Essex Historic Environment Team
  - d. Essex CC Waste Water Management Team
9. All responses were made public on our website upon receipt and Arkesden PC, Wicken Bonhunt Parish, FALCA (Five Acres Local Community Action) and the landowner were given the opportunity to respond. Their comments have been summarised in the attached report.
10. Officers have recommended that the potential Gypsy and Traveller site at Five Acres does not proceed to the next stage of the Plan making process.
11. During the Issues and Options Consultation an additional Gypsy and Traveller Site two additional sites were proposed. One was Pennington Lane Stansted. Officers have carried out a targeted consultation with the following:
  - a. Essex CC Highways
  - b. Essex Historic Environment Team
  - c. UDC Landscape Officer
  - d. UDC Conservation Officer
  - e. UDC Development Management

12. A site assessment has been completed, which mirrors that of the other sites assessed for the Issues and Options document.
13. Officers have recommended that the Gypsy and Traveller site at Pennington Lane Stansted does not proceed to the next stage of the Plan making process.
14. The second site was Hill Top Yard in Henham. On July 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 Planning Committee refused to grant planning permission for five Gypsy and Traveller pitches, despite officers recommending approval. The site has been assessed as part of the Gypsy and Traveller Issues and Options consultation and officers are recommending that the site should be taken forward in the Local Plan process. The fact that planning permission was refused for five pitches on this site does not exclude it going forward in the Local Plan, these are two different processes.

### Risk Analysis

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
That the Council prepares an unsound Plan.	1 – The Council is preparing a Plan which is positively prepared; justified; effective and consistent with national policy	2 – The adoption of the Plan is delayed whilst additional work is undertaken.	That the Council ensures that the Plan meets the requirements of the NPPF and Planning Policy for Traveller sites and is justified by evidence.

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.