

Mr D Smith
c/o Kerry Freeman (Programme Officer)
By email

Ask for: Sam Hollingworth
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My Ref: SH-HAAP26092013A
Your Ref:

Date: 26 September 2013

Dear Mr Smith,

Re: Allocations Examination: invitation to comment on additional material submitted by Mr Hardwicke Carruthers (ref. EXA165)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on additional information submitted by Mr Hardwicke Carruthers (ref. EXA165) in respect of proposed allocation GT1.

ORS are in the process of producing an updated Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment for Local Authorities in Essex. This has yet to be completed. The results of this assessment will feed into the early review of the Rochford Core Strategy. In the meantime, the adopted Core Strategy proposes 15 additional pitches be allocated by 2018, and the Allocations Document identifies a specific site in accordance with the Core Strategy.

In respect of concerns in relation to potential contamination of the proposed site and, linked to this, the costs and timescales involved in the delivery of a site, the Council acknowledge that the site has the potential to be contaminated and proposed policy GT1 of the Allocations Document requires that a contaminated land study is undertaken prior to any development of the site, and decontamination undertaken as required.

I note Mr Hardwicke Carruthers' concerns regarding the extent of contamination and the potential costs of remediation, citing the case of an unauthorised site in Basildon Borough known as Dale Farm. Rochford District Council is not in a position to comment on the specifics of the Dale Farm site. However, it is important to note that the proposed site GT1 is an entirely separate site to the Dale Farm site and there is no reason to suppose that issues pertaining to one site will necessarily apply to the other.

In the case of Michelin Farm, which encompasses proposed sites GT1 and the NEL2, the Environment Agency is aware of activity on the site having been involved in the investigation of reports of illegal waste activities there in the last 10 years (as noted in a letter from the Environment Agency to the Council, included in the Council's Allocation

Document hearing statement as Appendix 17 of EXA126). In this letter from the Environment Agency, they also note that the site (and by site, they are referring to the whole of Michelin Farm, only a small area of which is proposed to be allocated as GT1) is likely to be subject to pockets of localised contamination as a result of the burning of waste, rather than contamination of the whole site.

The Environment Agency was consulted on the Allocations Submission Document and registered support for Policy GT1 (Representation no. 28726). This appears very different to the situation in respect of the Dale Farm site as described in the statement from Mr Hardwicke Carruthers.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Hollingworth', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Samuel Hollingworth
Planning Policy Team Leader