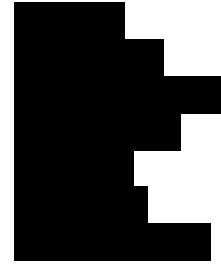


A. R. Yarwood, DipTP MRTPI



Programme Officer for West Somerset Local Plan,
West Somerset Council,
West Somerset House,
Killick Way,
Williton,
TA4 4QA

08 July 2016

Dear Programme Officer
West Somerset Local Plan-Proposed Modifications

I refer to the proposed modification to policy GT1. The changes make a bad policy worse.

There is now no commitment to meet any need which has been or may in the future be identified in accordance with a regular review of need.

The requirement to seek sites within settlements is unrealistic. Opposition by local residents and the price of land will always work against such a requirement. This is similarly the case with sites adjoining or adjacent to settlements albeit, this is a more reasonable first step to identifying sites.

The first bullet point in the criteria for acceptability renders the policy non-compliant with National Policy. National policy for Gypsies and Travellers is set out in DCLG publication Planning Policy for Traveller Sites. Paragraph 10 of that document requires that Local Plans must set out criteria based policies to guide land supply allocations and should include criteria based policies to deal with planning applications even where no need has been established. Thus an overriding requirement to demonstrate an unmet need is wholly unacceptable.

The requirement in the second criterion to be close to employment provision is clearly unnecessary given that, to qualify as a Traveller, a person must travel for work.

. Yours sincerely,

A. R. Yarwood

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Funded by The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust & The Tudor Trust