

ASHFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
Examination of Ashford Local Plan 2030

Inspectors: David Smith BA(Hons) DMS MRTPI
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Webpage: [Local Plan to 2030](#)

HEARING AGENDA

WEDNESDAY 2 MAY at 10:00am

Housing policies – traveller accommodation and sites

Policies HOU16 & HOU17 and sites S43 & S44

Inspector: David Smith

Issue 7:

Does the Local Plan make adequate provision for gypsy and traveller sites and is it consistent with national policy?

- i) Will the Local Plan be sound if addressing the full accommodation needs of gypsies and travellers is left to a separate development plan document? What commitment is there to its production? Should the expectation that it will be submitted in April 2019 be written into the Local Plan? In the interim is it reasonable to rely on a windfall traveller policy?
- ii) How does the Council intend to deal with the needs of people defined by section 124 of the Housing and Planning Act including those residing in or resorting to the District with respect to the provision of sites on which caravans can be stationed?
- iii) Does the Local Plan identify a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide 5 years' worth of sites from April 2018 against a locally set target as per paragraph 10 a) of the PPTS?
- iv) Have all potential sites been fully considered against reasonable criteria? Does the sustainability appraisal (SD02) undertaken for gypsy and traveller sites (May 2016) take sufficient account of the criteria in paragraph 13 of the PPTS which are intended to ensure that sites are sustainable economically, socially and environmentally?
- v) Are the proposed allocations S43 and S44 justified and deliverable? Are the limits on the number of pitches and the other detailed criteria justified?

- vi) Are the criteria in Policy HOU16 fair and justified and will they facilitate the traditional and nomadic life of travellers while respecting the interests of the settled community?
- vii) Are criteria a) and c) of Policy HOU17 on safeguarding existing traveller sites justified?

Participants:

Ashford Borough Council
592 Kent Downs AONB
925 Shadoxhurst Parish Council
777 Mr Paul Buggins
433 Westwell Parish Council