

Representation to the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan examination

Wednesday 25th of April 2018 day 23

It is my regret that I am unable to present this paper in person. I wish to convey my apologies to the Inspector and those present for my absence which is due to a medical appointment relating to ongoing treatment

I wish to confine my comments to the ongoing papers ED128 and ED132

Having looked at the paper ED132 it would appear that requests in seeking a Sustainability Appraisal have not been taken fully into account in what otherwise appears to be a concise SELLP document I would make the following points.

1 1.1 refers to 'not located in flood zone 3' although there is already an approved site by South Holland District Council planning officers for such a site at Drain Bank North where two other existing similar locations have already been approved, are in occupation where the risk has been mitigated. Furthermore I am given to understand this site is available, agreement has been reached, legal papers are awaiting signature with the landowner with terms agreed. The site is acceptable to the Gypsy and Traveller community and should not be discounted from a sustainability appraisal

2 1.4 it would appear that attempts to seek opinion from representatives of the Gypsy and Traveller community have not been achieved as those representatives contacted appear to have declined to take part in such a consultation

3 2.1 The methodology appears to discount the opinions of the qualified planning officers of South Holland District Council inasmuch that planning permission has already been granted on sites within a flood zone three where low level of risk exists and mitigation to those low risks have been considered appropriate

4 2.2 this point addresses sites which abutt the settlement boundary and the report is suggesting that evidence of such sites are unlikely to be regarded by the Gypsy and Traveller community as culturally appropriate accommodation. However, it should be noted that a recent planning application has been granted in respect of a single family accommodation at Cranesgate Whaplode St Catherine which in fact is within the current settlement which appears to challenge the point here

5 Sec. 3 As noted in 1.4 in response to the inspectors requirement attempts have been made to seek representation from members of the community however it would seem however it would seem that the community representatives have declined to comment or have failed to respond to the requests to do so with the exception of one member of the community

6. The report therefore is not conclusive as it fails to recognise the debates already taken place with regard to this site known as a Bleu Raye Farm where it is documented that two planning applications for residential use of the site have both been rejected by the qualified planning officers of South Holland District Council where both decisions have been upheld by two planning inspectors furthermore the decision of the Planning Inspectorate has been challenged in the High Court where it was found that the previous decisions to find this site unsuitable for residential use were supported. Additionally the involvement of the Secretary of State also found no reason to alter those decisions.

7 It is my understanding that the Localism Act is designed to allow local residents a say in the shaping of their communities it is therefore difficult to appreciate why with such a weight of local opinion, over eighty residents, from the community, that the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan officers feel so strongly that pursuing this unsuitable site

8 I would respectfully request that the Inspector moves the suggestion previously made to the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan officers to move forward with the other parts of the plan, to remove the recommended location of a suitable site and to look more deeply at the Sustainability Assessment. To examine the full opportunities available to accommodate the highlighted need for two permanent sites for residential occupation by the Gypsy and Traveller community. Previous debate has taken place regarding assessment of residential accommodation and need not be rehearsed again here

9 It is clear from the evidence previously presented that the site known as Bleu Raye Farm is not appropriate for residential occupation and I urge the inspector to call for the officers to reconsider what is an inappropriate part of the plan in order that further work may be done fully considering the aspects required and without further delay in the approval of the rest of the plan

In examination of the Table which appears in Doc ED128 the analysis of distances under every category records Drain Bank North as more suitable for the purpose of the discussion with a mean average comparison of Bleu Raye Farm 4.6 km vis Drain Bank North of 2.2 km indicating a far more appropriate location and subject to the mitigation of the FZ3 as with the two other settlements at that location