

Newport Local Development Plan Examination Hearing

Please accept my apologies for not attending the Examination Hearing on the 8th April. I work in education and unfortunately am unable to get the time off. In my absence I hope this document is able to portray my thoughts and feelings on the matter.

I should start by saying that I am 45 year old single mother of two girls, and have lived on the Ringland estate (neighbouring the proposed former Ringland allotments transit and Hartridge Farm Road residential sites) all my life. Although I fully understand and support Newport City Councils responsibility in delivering these traveller sites, I strongly disagree with the proposed locations.

The Ringland and Alway estates are listed by the Welsh Assembly as 'some of the most deprived areas in Wales', and come under the Flying Start programme to help with this underprivileged issue. Enforcing the site next to these areas would be poor planning and a foolish decision which would affect future improvement of these neighbourhoods.

The Ringland/Alway/Broadmeid areas surrounding the proposed sites all have high crime percentage figures, with Ringland being one of the highest in the Newport area, thus not being a suitable place to plant a traveller site. Putting the site in the proposed location would not only cause more conflict within an already 'hard to control area' but would more than likely see new confrontations and conflicts arise thus increasing the already soaring crime rate and putting police under a more difficult work load. As I said I have lived on the estate all my life and have seen disputes over time, my personal opinion is that this is poor planning by Newport City Council.

Focusing on the Hartridge Farm road site- My eldest daughter is about to turn 21 and youngest has just turned 15. My eldest attended the old Hartridge High School and although she has gone on to do well, my younger daughter now attending the new state of the art School Llanwern High has thrived with its new facilities. From first-hand knowledge the attitude of the students has transformed dramatically. The students feel comfortable and safe in their new school, as well as the Ysgol Gymraeg Welsh Primary School thriving with their students. The LDP's corporate objective Learning and Working (1.18) states how the LDP 'recognises the importance of education and will help protect and develop schools for the future' However, I feel by positioning the traveller site a stone through away would specifically go against their objective. As well as the travellers themselves expressing how they do not want to be situated so close to a mainstream school.

Focusing on the Proposed transit site (Former Ringland allotments) - There is a Pylon that sits directly in the proposed site. In the LDP's plan Objective 9, (1.36) 'To provide an environment that is safe and encourages healthy lifestyle choices', this would directly go against this objective as this isn't a healthy lifestyle choice. Part of the original 220 site survey quoted that this site was unsuitable due to there being "Pylons on site and unsuitable access"; this hasn't changed and remains a major issue. This is one of the main reasons the travellers themselves do not want to occupy this transit site.

Both sites sit alongside a busy dual carriageway, which in recent time has become even busier due to the growth in the up and coming Spytty Retail Park. The dual carriageway links from the motorway and leads to the Retail Park, which becomes extremely busy at weekends when shoppers head to the shopping outlet, as well as the main City Centre. It also becomes blocked daily for the school run, and when school finishes. This pressure on the road has had its fair share of fatalities in the past (even before it became a large dual carriageway) now the road is double the width fatality risks have increased, and this would be poor planning to locate the sites so close to a dual carriageway road. In the LDP's plan listed (1.16) 'Careful planning and design' this would be poor planning by the NCC. (1.20)

'The LDP will aim to create developments where people feel safe and secure'; this would be a huge safety failure.

I have also bullet pointed more points for the two sites, which I consider give further reason to believe the sites are unsuitable.

Ringland Allotments

- Pylon
- Location
- Difficult Access
- Existing Use (Allotment act 1925)
- Effect on environment
- Underpass / Subway – Anti-social
- Overpopulated/Deprived area (Welsh Government Flying start areas)
- Lack of Privacy
- Noise
- Livestock
- Dual carriageway
- Crime figures from police

Hartridge Farm Road

- Effect on wildlife
- Too close to neighbouring new Schools
- Size of plot (overwhelming)
- RSPCA
- Flooding – C1/C2
- Neighbouring Properties
- Overpopulated/Deprived area (Welsh Government Flying start areas)
- Next to busy Railway Line
- Dual Carriageway
- Sewerage pumping system
- Road safety centre
- Restricted access
- Policy Review group identified site unsuitable
- Subway underpass –Anti-social
- Noise
- Crime figures from police

I hope I have made my thoughts and feelings as clear as possible. Surely 10,000+ objections against these sites are of significance.

Many thanks for taking the time to read through.

Miss Phillipa Stock