

SOUTH NORFOLK COUNCIL
Examination into the Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document

Inspector: Simon Emerson BSc DipTP MRTPI **Programme Officer:** Julie Burgess

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**To all respondents to the South Norfolk
Gypsy and Traveller DPD**

1 March 2010

Dear Respondent,

Following the recent Submission of the South Norfolk Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document (DPD) I am writing to advise that, in accordance with section 20 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Inspector Simon Emerson, BSc Dip TP MRTPI, has been appointed to conduct the examination to determine whether the DPD is sound.

I have been appointed as the Programme Officer for the Examination and will deal with all procedural, administrative and programming matters under the direction of the Inspector. I shall be pleased to answer any questions you have about the administration of the Examination itself, though I must point out that I am not allowed to discuss the details of your representations with you.

From his initial examination, the Inspector has identified some concerns about whether the DPD is likely to be found sound. As a result, the Inspector has raised some preliminary questions with the Council. His note of questions and comments will be available on the Council's website at www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/LDF_Inspectors_Preliminary_Questions.pdf

If, when the Council has responded, the Inspector has serious concerns about the eventual soundness of the DPD, he will call an Exploratory Meeting to consider how the Examination might proceed or whether the DPD should be withdrawn. In order to expedite matters quickly, a date for such an Exploratory Meeting has been fixed. If required it will be held on 29 March at 12 noon at the Council Offices in Long Stratton in the Cavell Room.

The public can attend any Exploratory Meeting, but the Inspector would expect contributions primarily from the Council and the Government Office for the East of England, as the focus would be on how the Council should respond to the Inspector's concerns. The Inspector will decide if an Exploratory Meeting is needed by 12 March. I will write to you again after any Exploratory Meeting to confirm whether and, if so how, the Examination is to proceed.

If the Examination were to proceed in the normal way, a Pre-Hearings Meeting (PHM) will take place on 12 April, at 12.00 noon, at the Council Offices. The purpose of this meeting is to provide an opportunity for procedural and administrative matters relating to the hearings to be explained and discussed. It will not be an occasion for detailed discussion of the merits of the matters to be considered later at the hearings. You are invited to attend, although non-attendance does not prejudice your right to appear at the hearings, or the Inspector's consideration of points raised in your representations. Before any PHM, I will circulate to all parties a copy of the Inspector's draft issues and draft programme for the hearings.

If the PHM is held on the planned date, the hearings are likely to take place in the week commencing 7 June. The final list of issues, the Inspector's questions on those issues and the hearings programme would be finalised following the PHM and sent to all parties.

Should you require aid or assistance of any kind at either the PHM or during the hearings, please let me know as soon as possible, so that appropriate arrangements can be made to provide this.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information. As I work only part-time on the South Norfolk Gypsy and Traveller DPD Examination, please understand if I am unable to return your call or email for a day or so.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Burgess". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a period at the end.

Julie Burgess
Programme Officer