

**BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK****COUNCIL**

**Minutes from the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday, 25th April, 2024  
at 5.00 pm in the Assembly Room, Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's  
Lynn PE30 5DQ**

**PRESENT:** Councillor M Wilkinson (Chair)  
Councillors B Anota, B Ayres, M Bartrum, A Beales, S Bearshaw, J Bhondi,  
P Bland, R Blunt, F Bone, A Bubb, A Bullen, R Coates, Mrs J Collingham,  
S Collop, R Colwell, C J Crofts, S Dark, M de Whalley, S Everett, D Heneghan,  
P Hodson, B Jones, A Kemp, J Kirk, P Kunes, S Lintern, B Long, J Lowe,  
J Moriarty, S Nash, J Osborne, T Parish, J Ratcliffe, S Ring, C Rose, J Rust,  
A Ryves, S Sandell, D Sayers, S Squire and A Ware

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Beal, P Devulapalli,  
A Dickinson, H Humphrey, A Lawrence, C Morley, Mrs V Spikings, M Storey and  
D Tyler

C:98 **PRAYERS**

Prayers were led by Rev Canon Ling.

C:99 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

C:100 **MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reminded members of her final 2 fund raising events for the Mayor's Charity in the coming days.

The Mayor then gave a speech commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the District of West Norfolk following the merger of the seven Rural District Councils in 1972. She reflected on the history of those 50 years including the links forged , the Royal connections, the developments throughout the Borough and the cultural events held.

C:101 **URGENT BUSINESS**

None

C:102 **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COUNCIL BODIES**

i **Cabinet: 11 April 2024**

Councillor Moriarty, seconded by Councillor Parish proposed the recommendations from CAB139: Local Plan - Gypsy and Travellers

and Travelling Showpeople Proposed Sites and Policy Consultation.

In proposing the recommendation Councillor Moriarty set out the legal requirements around the provision of sites for the Gypsy, Traveller and Showpeople Community and drew attention to the content of the report, and the link to the Local Plan process.

Councillor Long drew attention to the importance of the additional consultation proposed and the need to have this element of the Local Plan in place. He highlighted the need to have the strategic Flood Risk Assessments in place for the sites.

Councillor Bone informed Council that the Labour Group supported the recommendations.

Councillor Kemp supported the proposals to include the sites into the 5 year land supply.

Councillor Bearshaw commented that the recommendations were the right thing to do. He expressed concern about those unauthorised sites which may have been subject to enforcement action and that he presumed would now automatically receive planning permission, which he considered sent a message that the rules didn't need to be complied with.

Councillor Croft expressed concern about the high number of sites within his ward, which he felt received the majority of the allocations, He hoped his comments would be taken on board by the Local Plan Inspector.

Councillor Dark asked what the level of minor changes would be in the delegation following the consultation, and whether members considered it should return to the Council for approval.

Councillor de Whalley commented that the placement of sites close to each other assisted with achieving the requirement for community cohesion in the Local Plan.

Councillor Kirk supported Councillor Crofts comments as he considered his ward had a high proportion of the sites included. He commented that the enforcement on 2 sites had ceased while the consultation work was ongoing. He also commented that his local parish councils were not happy about the high number of allocations and were experiencing a number of problems with sites.

Councillor Rust commented that many of the sites were for the extensions of family groupings. She reminded members that the recommendations were for further consultation.

Councillor Kunes made reference to some parts of the area where non Gypsy and Traveller members of the community weren't able to go.

In summing up Councillor Moriarty noted that it was not appropriate to discuss individual sites given the purpose of this item of business, but reminded members it was to go out to further consultation. He urged members to participate in the consultation so the Inspector heard their views. He also commented that as part of the delegation in the recommendations he would discuss any proposed amendments with the Vice Chair of the Local Plan Task Group, Councillor Blunt.

With regard to the point made about enforcement, Councillor Moriarty commented on the fact that the level of need had not been established so planning appeals were being lost, the proposals going forward would set out the sites in accordance with need. He urged members again to respond to the consultation process.

On being put to the vote the recommendations were agreed.

**RESOLVED:** 1) That the revised Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Proposed Sites and Policy document, the Gypsy and Traveller Site Assessment Document, the associated Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and the Sustainability Appraisal and Habitat Regulations Assessment be approved, for consultation, for a period of 6 weeks from the 10<sup>th</sup> May until the 21st June 2024.

2) That delegated authority be granted to the Assistant Director – Environment & Planning in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Development and Regeneration, and, to include minor amendments as required to the consultation document prior to consultation starting from the 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

**The meeting closed at 5.42 pm**