

The Independent Examiner
Derbyshire Dales Local Plan

11 April 2017

Sir,

I wish to make a brief addition to the representations I have already made, as new developments have occurred which I would like to be noted.

Firstly, regarding the proposed traveller site at Watery Lane, Ashbourne. Since the public consultation closed, a number of things have happened, which we were of course unable to comment on as part of the consultation....

- 1) A FOI request and scrutiny of the planning committee papers have made it very obvious that the council had been informed many times that there was very good reason to suspect the presence of badgers on the site, and therefore the planning committee was misled at the controversial planning meeting that I have previously described.
- 2) The council have now proposed increases to the number of pitches, and there has been talk of chalet-style accommodation. These are not in the planning permission and it is questionable as to whether they would even fit, given the site's constraints, the badgers, and the flood plain.
- 3) The council have proposed a £500k spend will be necessary to develop the site - this is significantly more than alternative sites that had previously been considered, and the financial prudence of this must surely be questioned.

I understand Messrs. Siddall and Youatt will attend your hearing and I imagine they will bring up these points, but I wanted to be quite sure you were aware of them.

Second, regarding housing numbers in Ashbourne.

- 4) Since the consultation closed, the council have gone ahead and approved planning on Ashbourne airfield, without any improvements to the infrastructure, and against the principles of the soon-to-be adopted Ashbourne Neighbourhood Plan and its housing survey. The timing could be seen as somewhat cynical, as one key objection to the way the plan is written is the over-reliance on sites in an already crowded Ashbourne to 'make up the numbers'.

I thank you for your attention

Peter M Fox.