

Fareham Borough Council Hearing Statement
Matter 5 – Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling
Showpeople

Prepared on behalf of

Metis Homes

February 2022

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Tetra Tech Planning have been instructed by Metis Homes to participate in the Examination of the Fareham Local Plan 2037.
- 1.2 Metis Homes have an opportunity to bring forward development at Land to the Rear of 35 Burridge Road, Burridge, as identified on the plan attached at **Appendix A**. Metis Homes have previously made representations in response to the Regulation 19 Fareham Revised Publication Local Plan 2037 consultation (July 2021).
- 1.3 This Hearing Statement sets out our client's position in relation to Matter 5 of the Examination which relates to Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.
- 1.4 Careful consideration has been given to the Inspector's Matters, Issues and Questions (INSP004) and the relevant published examination material available on Fareham Borough Council's (FBC) Examination webpage, all of which has informed the contents of this Statement.
- 1.5 This Statement should be read alongside the Regulation 19 representation, as well as the separate Hearing Statements submitted in relation to Matter 2 (Development Strategy), Matter 3 (Housing Need and Supply), Matter 4 (Housing Policies) and Matter 7 (Housing Land Supply).

2.0 POLICY HA45 AND POLICY HP11

Policy HA45

- 2.1 Policy HA45 is a site allocation at Rear of 77 Burr ridge Road for three gypsy traveller pitches on a 0.17-hectare site.
- 2.2 We are supportive of this allocation and consider it to be an appropriate, sustainable location. Burr ridge is a sustainable settlement which has access to a number of services and facilities, including a village hall, scout hut, dental practice, cricket and football clubs. There are also bus stops along Botley Road that provide transport services to Curbridge, Swanwick, Park Gate and Hedge End, as well as a bus service between Whiteley and Barton Peveril College for students. Whiteley is a regional shopping destination with restaurants, shops, supermarkets, cinema, hotel, leisure facilities and is to the east of Burr ridge with easy walking and driving accessibility. This is discussed in further detail in the Matter 2 Statement.
- 2.3 Moreover, it should also be noted that Burr ridge was considered by an Inspector in a recent appeal at Rear of 77 Burr ridge Road, Burr ridge¹ to be: *“well related to shops, schools and health facilities. There are bus stops within 600m walk...it will be possible in the relatively near future to access primary schools and the local centres within a new urban extension which is presently under construction on the northern edge of Whiteley. This journey will be somewhere in the region of 1.5km by using Whiteley Lane.”*²
- 2.4 The Inspector goes on to state: *“The site is directly adjacent to the built-up area of Burr ridge and accessibility to services and facilities would not be significantly different to that of existing suburban estate facilities within Whiteley itself. Future occupiers of the development would not have to rely upon the private car, but any car journeys undertaken would be short.”*³
- 2.5 The sustainability of Burr ridge is reinforced in the supporting text to this allocation in relation to finding suitable sites for such uses, which states: *“The ability to access local services and education and health facilities without long distance travel and factors such as the provision of pavements to serve the site will be vital to ensure safe pedestrian access can be achieved”*⁴.
- 2.6 **Appendix B** includes an Accessibility Appraisal. This concludes that Burr ridge is well located to several key services and facilities, which can be accessed within a short walk or cycle ride and is

¹ Appeal Ref. APP/A1720/W/18/3209865

² Paragraph 24

³ Paragraph 25

⁴ Paragraph 5.93

located within proximity to several employment opportunities, public transport links and local amenities.

Policy HP11

2.7 Policy HP11 is set out below:

Policy HP11: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

Proposals for additional Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople sites will be permitted where:

- a) There is an identified need and/or personal circumstances necessitate the need; and
- b) The site has access to shops, schools, community and health facilities by sustainable modes of transport such as public transport, on foot or by cycle; and
- c) Proposals avoid the loss of mature trees and do not result in unacceptable impacts on biodiversity, the living conditions of residents and on the landscape character, historic environment or the rights of way network within the surrounding area; and;
- d) It is not located in areas at high risk of flooding; and
- e) It is not located in open countryside away from settlements; and
- f) Adequate and appropriately scaled on-site facilities are provided for parking, safe and convenient access to highway, sufficient storage, play and residential amenity and appropriate essential services (water supply, power, drainage, sewage disposal and waste disposal facilities).

Loss of ~~lawful~~ Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople sites

Planning permission will not be granted for the loss of ~~lawful~~-Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople sites unless there is no genuine need or likely future need for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople sites in the locality and other policy requirements are met.

2.8 When assessing the site allocation at Burridge under policy HA45 against the above policy HP11, it is evident that FBC consider Burridge to be a sustainable settlement.

2.9 This is particularly the case when assessing the allocation against criterion b) and e) which require Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople sites to have access to shops, schools, community and health facilities by sustainable modes of transport such as public transport, on foot or by cycle; and not to be located in open countryside away from settlements.

APPENDICES (Attached Separately)

Appendix A – site location plan

Appendix B – accessibility appraisal