

# *Swavesey Parish Council*

**7.30pm**

**Notes from Public Open Forum** - No members of the public present

**The public forum session was then closed in order for the Parish Council meeting to commence.**

**7.40pm**

## **Minutes**

Swavesey Parish Council – ExtraOrdinary Meeting, held at The Memorial Hall, High Street  
To discuss the Gypsy & Traveller Development Plan consultation  
Monday 20 November 2006

### **PRESENT**

Mr M Johnston (Chairman)

Councillors : Mr S Boylan, Mr J Dodson, Mrs S Ellington, Mr P Marriott, Mr T Parish, Mr J Pook,  
Mr K Wilderspin, Mr W Wright

Clerk : Mrs L Miller

Parishioners : 0

<b>Item</b>	<b>Power Action</b>
<p><b>1 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> Mr J Tait, Mrs S Rogers</p>	
<p><b>2 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b> All Councillors declared personal interests, in that they live within Swavesey Parish</p>	
<p><b>3 DISTRICT COUNCIL BUSINESS</b> <b>Gypsy &amp; Traveller Development Plan Document – Public Consultation</b> To consider and agree on any representations to be made on the policies in the Issues and Options Report 1: General Approach</p>	

Each of the proposed policies in the Report were discussed in detail and objections, approvals and comments were made as follows:

#### Comments in general:

That SCDC ensure the relevant assessments as referred to in S1.24 and S1.28 of the Issues and Options Report 1: General Approach are carried out to the required degree.

That the Parish Council in general objects to policies and strategies being imposed by an unelected body – The Regional Assembly.

#### **Proposed Policies:**

GT1A, B & GT2 - Need for sites

The Parish Council agrees with option GT1B and GT2. South Cambridgeshire is becoming a more urban environment and would lack the employment opportunities associated with a nomadic lifestyle. Swavesey Parish Council therefore considers that S Cambs should only be expected to meet a proportion of the future sites. The Parish Council also wishes to comment that current illegal sites should not be granted permission unless they meet the established criteria for current planning permission.

GT3 – Identifying sites

Swavesey Parish Council agrees with this policy. However the Council considers there could be a serious danger of using individual criteria to determine the suitability of a site. This is that, unless the site is viewed holistically the true level of suitability will be determined by a score and fundamental failings will be hidden in the criteria. It is the practical application of each site, which must be considered, not individual scores.

- GT4 – Relationship to settlements  
Agree with GT4C. Reject GT4A & B.
- GT5 – Flood risk. Agree.
- GT6 – Highway Access. Agree
- GT7 – Site safety. Agree
- GT8 – Basic infrastructure. Agree
- GT9 - Ground Stability. Agree
- GT10 – Drainage. Agree
- GT11 - Hazardous Installations and Contaminated Land. Agree
- GT12 - Protection of Mineral Workings. Agree
- GT13 - Sustainability of Location. Either option could work or a combination of the two.
- GT14 - Is an SCDC Rejected option
- GT15 - Access to local amenities.  
Option D would be the most appropriate, as there is no way all the identified pitches could be placed within 1000 m of Cambridge or Northstowe and to enable sites to be distributed throughout the District (as per GT2) all locations must be open to evaluation.
- GT16 - Access to Public Transport – Distance. Option A
- GT17 - Access to Public Transport – Frequency. Option A
- GT18 - Re-use of Brownfield sites. Agree
- GT19 – Major new developments. Agree
- GT20 - Is an SCDC Rejected option
- GT21 – Green belt. Agree, however replacement green belt land should be provided.
- GT22 & GT23 Reject.
- GT24 – Nationally recognised designations  
Disagree. The proposal should read without the word ‘normally’ in it.
- GT25 – Conservation areas.  
Disagree. Sites should NOT be located in or near to Conservation Areas.
- GT26 – Locally recognised designations  
Disagree. The proposal should read without the word ‘normally’ in it.
- GT27 – Impact on the nearest settlement.  
Agree. Comment – how is this to be determined? If a site is developed for a group of Travellers how will it be possible to determine the pressure on the local school, etc, until the site is occupied which will be too late then.
- GT28 - Impact on character and appearance of the locality Agree
- GT29 - Impact on local Amenities Agree
- GT30 – Size of sites. Agree with 30 rather than 31.  
However, at a recent forum meeting Travellers expressed a preference for smaller sites, of around 8 pitches maximum. Also sites should not be allowed to expand. Otherwise criteria as listed under Policies 27 and 29 would need evaluating.
- GT31 – Reject.
- GT32 - Is an SCDC Rejected option
- GT33 - Space for business and other uses. Agree
- GT34 - Provision for stables. Agree
- GT35 - Traditional Gypsy Settlement Areas – proposed approach. Agree
- GT36 - Is an SCDC Rejected option

GT37 - Play Areas. Agree

GT38A – Site availability. Agree

GT38B – Site availability. Reject

GT38C – Site availability. No comment made.

GTQ1 – NO

GT39 - Site ownership and management – option A.

GT40 - Site ownership and management – option B.

Comment: Swavesey Parish Council would agree with either or a combination of both of these policies.

GT41 - Is an SCDC Rejected option

GT42 - Affordable Accommodation. Agree

GT43 – alternative option – disagree.

GT44A - Transit and temporary sites. Agree

GT45A - Temporary Special Event Sites. Agree

GTQ2 – NO

GT46 – Methodology. Agree.

Comment: Criteria must be fair and non-discriminatory to existing population.

GT47 – Potential sites.

Comment: The Council refers to the comment made under GT2 that current illegal sites should not be granted permission unless they meet the established criteria for current planning permission.

GTA3 – NO

GT48 – Regenerating existing sites. Agree

GT49 – Education programme. Agree

General Comments:

The scoring system appears difficult to understand and not all items appear to have equal rating. This may mean therefore that some sections could rule out others and some sections could override the whole score.

**Next meeting date: 27 November 2006**

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 9.25pm

Signed & dated  
Chairman

**Minutes approved & signed as a correct record by the Parish Council on  
18 December 2006**