



CLIVE BETTS MP



September 2023

Dear Paul Morrison,

Sheffield Draft Local Plan

I am writing with regard to the Draft Local Plan which has been submitted to you for approval by Sheffield City Council.

In particular I am writing, with the support of many councillors as co-signatories who have contacted me, to draw your attention to the significant objections that we collectively have, and over 3,000 of our residents have demonstrated by petition, to the proposed industrial/travellers' site on Eckington Way.

While local residents will obviously have a variety of concerns, the over-riding problems that we have identified, and which unite the residents and objectors together is the considerable problems of traffic congestion and the related pollution in the area of the site. These problems are not new. They have been there for many years as this part of Sheffield has been the place for much of the city's housing development in the last part of the 20th century and the early part of this century together with associated retail and employment development.

In that time transport infrastructure has simply not kept pace with the growth in the amount of traffic and this has led to significant congestion problems both at peak periods and at weekends. There is a problem with people trying to drive through the area to get to Sheffield and other places particularly to work, but it is also a real day to day concern to local residents who have to put up with the congestion and the pollution on their doorstep.

The issue is further complicated by the fact that in introducing the Local Plan Council officers could not demonstrate as part of the consultation that they had done any surveys or measurements of the congestion levels or the pollution before recommending this site. That is a serious omission.

A further problem is that the objections of local residents could not properly be taken into account by the Council because the Council did not fully explain to residents that the consultation could not result in any significant change to their proposals without causing the need for further consultation and therefore derailing the timetable of the Local Plan. Many councillors were faced with the dilemma of either holding the Local Plan up and objecting to the site, or agreeing to the Local Plan and having to accept the site which they would ideally have wanted to object to.

To place the issue of consultation in context this site has never previously been proposed for development by the Council therefore residents have never been given the opportunity to have their views listened to about the future of a large area in their neighbourhood.

This letter is an opportunity to bring councillors together, some of whom voted for the Local Plan but with reservations about this particular site, others who voted against the Plan because of this particular site but still want to see the rest of the Plan go ahead to ensure that the city can deliver its housing requirements in future years. We hope that you will see the possibility of your being able to help resolve this dilemma by rejecting this particular site but approving the rest of the Plan in terms of its housing allocations. We recognise that the Council will have to find, hopefully with your support, an alternative site in the South East of Sheffield or another area of the City for the travelling showmen because we recognise the need legally to provide a required number of pitches.

I will in the future be writing to you with further substantial evidence to support this objection but wanted to raise with you this objection at the first opportunity after the Council's decision and to encourage you to allow an opportunity in your consideration of the Local Plan for myself, local councillors and in particular local residents who we work closely with to be able to put their objections directly to you.

Yours Sincerely



Clive Betts MP
Sheffield South East

Councillor Tony Downing
Mosborough Ward

Councillor Karen McGowan
Birley Ward

Councillor Denise Fox
Birley Ward

Councillor Bryan Lodge
Birley Ward

Councillor Alison Norris
Woodhouse Ward

Councillor Paul Wood
Woodhouse Ward

Councillor Mick Rooney
Woodhouse Ward

Councillor Dianne Hurst
Richmond Ward

Councillor David Barker
Richmond Ward

Councillor Mazher Iqbal
Darnall Ward

Councillor Mary Lea
Darnall Ward

Councillor Zahira Naz
Darnall Ward