

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL,  
HELD AT THE GRANGE HALL, COVENTRY ROAD, SOUTHAM ON THURSDAY 3<sup>RD</sup>  
OCTOBER 2013**

**Present:** Councillors: J Ward (Chair), M Gaffney, A Forster, V Shepherd, M Willoughby, B Thomas, J Smith, L Smith, J Soni, L Tasker, E Thornley, N Gascoigne & C Pratt

**In attendance:** Mrs D Carro, Mrs D Sanders, Cllr J Appleton & Cllr J Ellard

**80. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr C Worsh            Work Commitment  
Cllr A Forster        Personal  
Cllr C Pratt            Personal  
District Cllr D Wise  
District Cllr A Crump

**81. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr N Gascoigne	Personal Interest Reason	Planning Application SDC/13CC021 Neighbour Notification
Cllr V Shepherd	Personal Interest Reason	Planning Application SDC/13CC021 WCC representative is a family member

**82. PLANNING APPLICATION  
SDC/13CC021**

**Address: Former Road Chipping Store Adjacent to Daventry Road (A425, Southam, Warwickshire)**

**Change of use of land from redundant highway/road chipping store to an emergency stopping place for up to 12 touring caravans and towing vehicles.**

Prior to the Extraordinary Meeting, a Public Meeting was held at 6.30pm which approximately 150 people attended. Rob Leahy, Gypsy & Traveller Service Officer – Team Leader WCC, was in attendance to answer questions.

Rob Leahy advised the following:

- So far this year there has been 110 unauthorised encampments, costing £5k per encampment
- A Temporary Stopping Place is the cheapest option
- Stratford District Council has to find 52 pitches
- Land around Southam is not Green Belt
- WCC want to have two Emergency Stopping Places, one in the north of the county and one in the south of the county
- WCC will not use compulsory purchase powers
- Highway rights have not been extinguished
- They will lose their bond if they do not leave the site when required and the

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- Police have the powers to remove them from the site under Section 62
- Users of the site will pay for the facilities at an approximate cost of £500 per caravan , there will be no cost to the council
  - Neighbouring authorities have sites which is increasing the problem for Warwickshire
  - Proposals of this nature do cause house prices to dip initially but once established they do recover

The following Public Representations were received:

Mr T Merritt – 27 Barkus Close, Southam

- Is it a closed deal?
- Why Southam?
- Land fill, HS2 now Travellers

Mrs P Ireland-Brown – 12 Elm Bank, Southam

- Hope Southam is sympathetic to the needs of the Travelling Community
- The site is not suitable, no electric, no green space, no lighting, no safe place for children to play

Mrs N Bryson – Church Farm, Stretton on Dunsmore

- Owns a field adjacent to the site
- Land is arable not pasture so heavy farm machinery will be using the same access
- Crops will be sprayed
- Concerns over horses, stray dogs, gypsy trotter racing
- Site not large enough and our adjacent land is not for sale
- Concerns regarding highway safety, husband had serious accident at the access to the site

Mr G Whiteman – Myer Bridge Farm, Daventry Road, Southam

- Planning Policy for Traveller Sites states early engagement with the community prior to a planning application being submitted – this has not happened
- Did WCC engage with the travelling community?
- Have not seen any robust evidence

Mr B Cobb – 4 Drovers Way, Southam

- What measures are in place to ensure they do not stay longer?
- Concerns over human waste

Mr P Guy - 15 Priors Meadow, Southam

- I have personally seen evidence of the mess that is left behind when travellers leave a site
- The proposed site is a dangerous place due to the speed of traffic using the Daventry Road

Mrs L Tasker – 25 Abbey Lane, Southam

- SDC require 52 pitches not sites
- No need has been identified

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Mr G Oubridge – 25 Hillyard Road, Southam

- Who will pay for the toilets and waste etc.?

Mrs J Cripps – 5 Rainsbrook Close, Southam

- The site won't get used because of the cost
- WCC cannot police it
- 24/7 monitoring will not happen
- Highway access unsafe
- Poor Site

Mrs P King – 14 Shepherds Hill, Southam

- Has there been a previous planning application for the site?
- With the proposed merger of the Warwickshire and West Midlands Police force, Southam will not have the Police to deal with the issues that may arise

Mr C Silcox – 7 Drovers Way, Southam

- What evidence is there that this proposed site is necessary in Southam?
- Creating a problem that Southam doesn't have
- Missed opportunity to create a site at Ryton

Mr J Hancock – 6 Linley Road, Southam

- Led to believe there is a Badger sett on the site
- How will children get to school? Will there be a bus stop?
- How will WCC deal with failure to pay?

Mr S Marshall – Calcutt Meadow, Southam

- Is it a statutory requirement?
- Duty of care
- Health and Education will suffer

Napton Rise – Southam

- What about duty of care for residents?
- What is the maximum size of caravan?
- How many people/animals per caravan , could be one family or three families

Mr P Stevens – Daventry Road, Southam

- Quick fix, WCC have not tried to find a proper site
- No robust evidence to manage this type of site
- Site is not big enough , caravans will end up being parked in the laybys

Mr A Jamieson – 45 Banbury Road, Southam

- There will be an increase in accidents
- There will be an increase in unlawful behaviour
- No guarantee that the site will be managed

Mr M Craven – 15 Holts Leys, Southam

- Regulations state there should be 6m between each caravan and the proposal states caravans are only 3m apart
- WCC seem to be ignoring the protocol , the site isn't safe and it's not fit for purpose

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Mr T Ibbett – 1 Bridge End, Southam

- Will ANPR checks be carried out?
- Will caravan checks be carried out?

Mr J Smith – 1 Warwick Place, Southam

- Can you guarantee that this proposal will not create similar issues as seen in Essex

Mr J Cleal – 25 Napton Rise, Southam

- You say that it is temporary but how do you ensure that they will not stop longer than the 28 days?

Mr Cole – Napton

- Why is their problem our problem?

Mrs R Cole – Southam

- Nothing on SDC website about this meeting
- Fearful to object due to reprisals

Cllr J Ellard

- SDC are not the planning authority for this application
- WCC forgot to consult with SDC and as such SDC have only just been made aware

Mr T Lorimer – 6 Rainsbrook Close, Southam

- Site has been chosen because the land is owned by WCC and therefore it is the cheapest option
- Site is on a dangerous road and therefore access and egress will be dangerous

Mr D Williams – 7 Rainsbrook Close, Southam

- When did the site become redundant?
- It has cost WCC £550k as a result of criminal behaviour

Cllr D Wise – Priors Meadow, Southam

- Agree with the concerns relating to the highway
- Is aware that an ex-Police Constable has expressed grave concerns
- As a Councillor I expect to be consulted prior to a proposal being advertised

Ms H Witten – Napton

- Access issues, dangerous bend
- What was on the site prior to it being a chipping store?
- How will they dispose of waste water, will there be a waste water tank?
- Travellers do not like to share facilities

Mr M Willoughby – 26 Stowe Drive, Southam

- Why was the application for the proposed emergency stopping place in the north of the county withdrawn?

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Mr S King – 14 Shepherds Hill

- Concerns regarding education and the lack of school places

Mrs E Barnes – 14 St Mary's Close, Southam

- Have all costs been taken into account?

Mrs J Southam – 4 Rainsbrook Close, Southam

- Concerns regarding toilet facilities and inadequate lighting

Mr T Mann – 12 Lime Road, Southam

- The site will not be managed 24 hrs. a day which is what is needed

Mrs K Marshall – Calcutt Meadows, Southam

- Will SDC be supporting this application?

Mr I Woodruff – 9 Shepherds Hill, Southam

- Waste of time
- Blight on the eastern side of town
- Inadequate screening, highway issues, no electricity

Mr G Cripps – 5 Rainsbrook Close, Southam

- Prior to WCC bringing forward these proposals , the site entrance was blocked to stop unauthorised encampments
- The site will be inadequately managed

Cllr J Soni – 26 Springs Crescent, Southam

- Is safety on the site a planning issue ?

Mr D Thing – Napton Rise, Southam

- Is trying to sell his house but buyer are not interested because of these proposals

Mrs M North – Daventry Street, Southam

- What constitutes an emergency?
- Concerns regarding facilities

**82.1** Southam Town Council considered all the public representations

**RESOLVED:**

**i)To object to the planning application**

**ii)That a proposed response to the application is considered and resolved at the October Town Council meeting**

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