



Gypsy and Traveller site consultation

July - October 2009

Gypsies and Travellers are a part of South Cambridgeshire life and, as such, are included in South Cambridgeshire District Council's (SCDC) plans for future development.

This consultation is an opportunity for all residents to comment on potential site options for Gypsy and Traveller pitches in South Cambridgeshire. We are also asking for your views on draft planning policies that will set the criteria for SCDC to determine future planning applications for Gypsy and Traveller development. It also considers planning issues for Travelling Showpeople sites.

The consultation period ends at 12 noon on 9 October 2009.

Why does South Cambridgeshire need more Gypsy and Traveller pitches?

The current shortage of authorised Gypsy and Traveller sites across the country has meant some Gypsies and Travellers have set up home on land belonging to others or on their own land without permission.

We have taken a responsible approach to providing sites and now, in line with national and regional planning policy, we are preparing a Development Plan Document to address the identified need for more Gypsy and Traveller sites in South Cambridgeshire and to minimise the number of unauthorised encampments.

What is the role of SCDC?

Given the requirements of the East of England Plan, drawn up by the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA), South Cambridgeshire requires at least 88 new permanent pitches by 2021. Across the whole of Cambridgeshire, we are also considering the need for transit sites and sites for Travelling Showpeople.

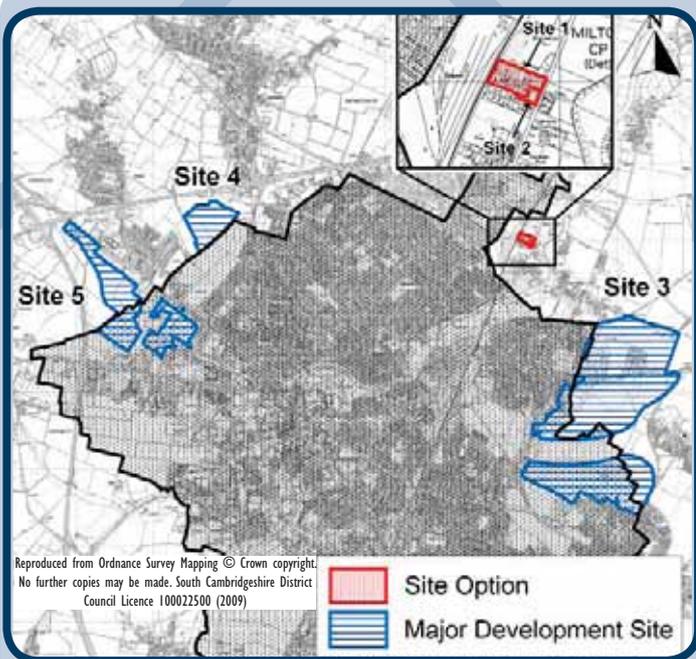
To comply, we are making plans for where those pitches might be placed. A total of 42 sites have been tested against criteria agreed after consultation in 2006, including the positive and negative environmental, economic and social impacts. Many were rejected because they did not meet basic planning considerations.

We have made a firm commitment to involve the community in all stages of the preparation of our Development Plan Document and are now asking for views on the 20 site options that performed best against the criteria. We are also asking for any other sites we should consider. Comments are also welcome on the rejected sites detailed in the full report.

Options we have put forward for consultation include sites for Gypsies and Travellers at a number of major new developments that are already being planned. These are developments on the edge of Cambridge, the new town of Northstowe, and the new village of Cambourne. The specific location and boundary of sites would be identified through the detailed planning of those major developments. Other options for consultation include sites that already exist and which currently have temporary planning permission, such as at Willingham and Chesterton Fen, and a new site is proposed in Bassingbourn.

Key issues

- Gypsies and Travellers are a part of South Cambridgeshire life and, as such, are included in our plans for future development.
- The number of sites required is extremely small compared to the 20,000 homes required by the East of England Plan over the same period.
- When appropriately located and well designed, Gypsy and Traveller sites can make a positive contribution to the community.
- Gypsies and Travellers who live on council or privately owned sites pay council tax, rent, gas, electricity and other associated charges.
- The cost of providing sites can be far less than the cost of taking enforcement action against unauthorised encampments.



Site 1

Location: Sandy Park, Chesterton Fen Road

Provision: 28 pitches

Summary: This existing temporary site is in the Green Belt, but the benefits of a location with good access to Cambridge may offer exceptional circumstances to allow the development of a permanent site.

Site 2

Location: Plots 1, 3 and 5 Sandy Park, Chesterton Fen Road

Provision: 17 pitches

Summary: This existing temporary site is in the Green Belt, but the benefits of a location with good access to Cambridge may offer exceptional circumstances to allow the development of a permanent site.

Site 3

Location: Cambridge East

Provision: 20 pitches - 2 sites of 10 pitches

Summary: Cambridge East is a major new development being planned on the edge of the city that will include 10,000 - 12,000 homes. It offers a good opportunity to integrate new Gypsy and Traveller pitches within South Cambridgeshire so that the development meets the needs of all sectors of the community.

Site 4

Location: Land between Huntingdon Road and Histon Road Cambridge

Provision: 10 pitches

Summary: Major development on the edge of Cambridge that offers an opportunity to integrate new Gypsy and Traveller pitches so that the development meets the needs of all sectors of the community.

Site 5

Location: Land between Madingley Road and Huntingdon Road Cambridge (Girton)

Provision: 10 pitches

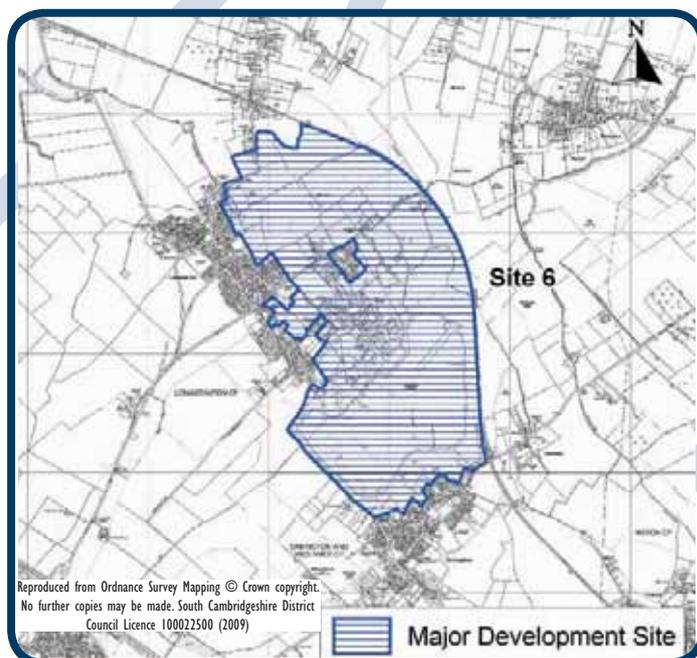
Summary: This major development on the edge of Cambridge is being planned specifically to meet the needs of the University, including housing, employment and other development, but it could include Gypsy and Traveller pitches within South Cambridgeshire so that the development meets the needs of all sectors of the community.

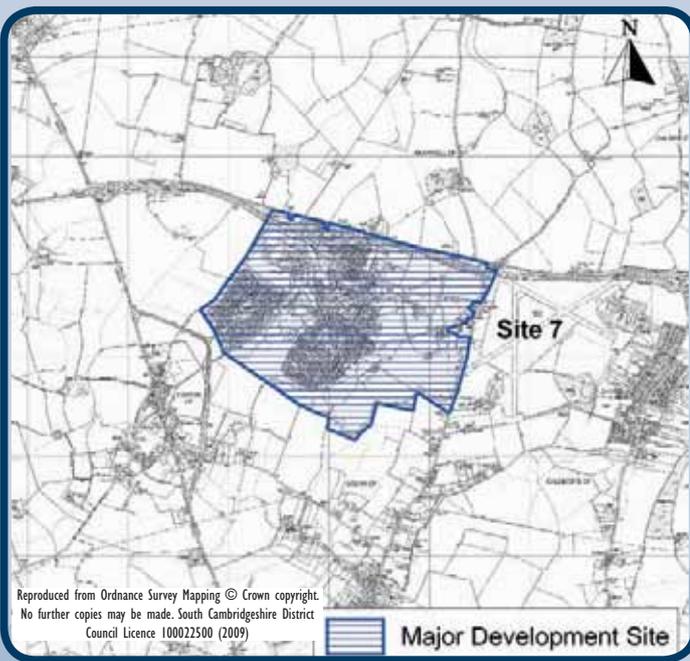
Site 6

Location: Northstowe

Provision: 20 pitches - 2 sites of 10 pitches

Summary: The new town of Northstowe will include up to 10,000 homes and a new town centre, services and facilities. It offers an opportunity to integrate new Gypsy and Traveller pitches with this major new development, so that it meets the needs of all sectors of the community.



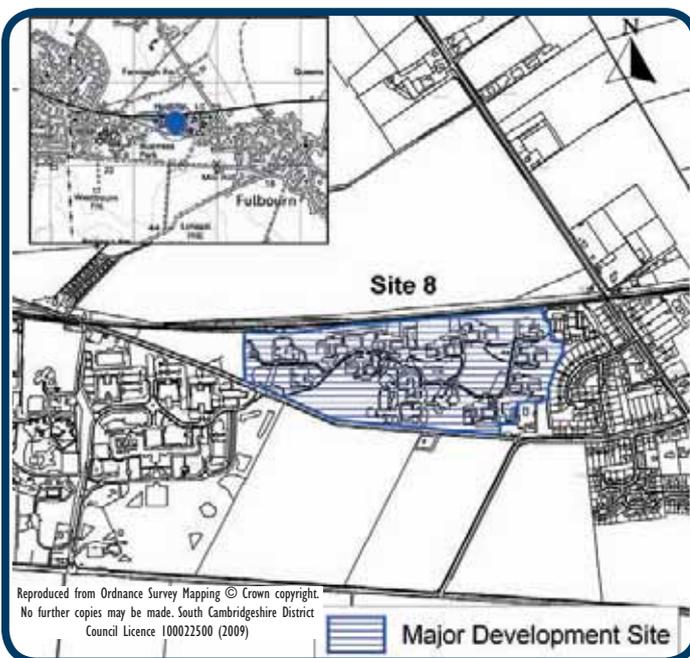


Site 7

Location: Cambourne

Provision: 10 pitches

Summary: The new village of Cambourne offers an opportunity to integrate new Gypsy and Traveller pitches with this major new development, so that it meets the needs of all sectors of the community.



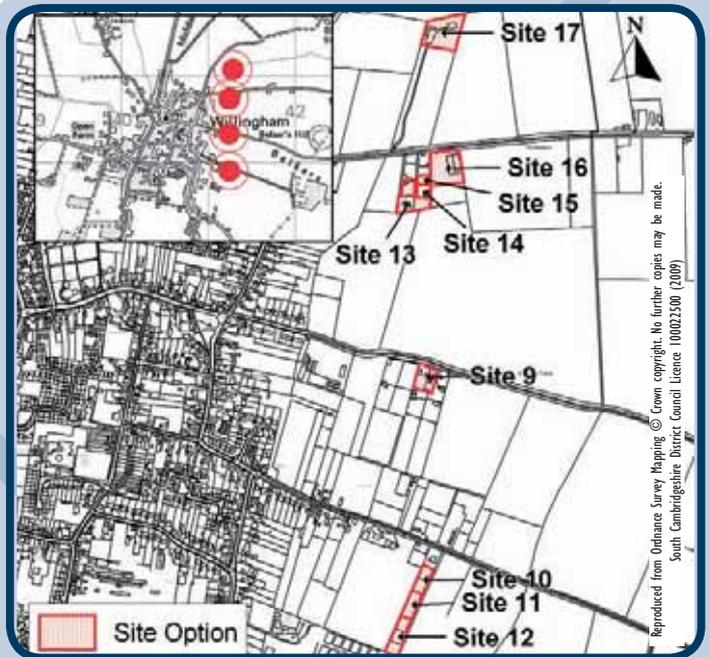
Site 8

Location: Ida Darwin Hospital site, Fulbourn

Provision: 5 pitches

Summary: Redevelopment is planned at the hospital site, partly for residential development and partly for

open space. At only 250 - 275 homes the development is smaller than others included as options, but has the potential to include a small Gypsy and Traveller site with good access to Fulbourn and Cambridge.



Site 9

Location: Grange Park, Foxes Meadow, Iram Drove (off Priest Lane), Willingham

Provision: 1 pitch

Summary: This existing temporary site is close to Willingham's services and facilities and is already meeting Gypsy and Traveller needs.

Site 10

Location: Plots 1 & 2 Cadwin Lane, Schole Road, Willingham

Provision: 2 pitches

Summary: This existing temporary site is close to Willingham's services and facilities and is already meeting Gypsy and Traveller needs.

Site 11

Location: Plots 3 & 4 Cadwin Lane, Schole Road, Willingham

Provision: 2 pitches

Summary: Unlike surrounding sites, this site does not have temporary planning permission, but would be a logical addition if surrounding sites were allocated. Education provision would need to be in place before the site was developed.

Site 12

Location: Plots 5 & 6 Cadwin Lane, Schole Road, Willingham

Provision: 2 pitches

Summary: This existing temporary site is close to Willingham's services and facilities and is already meeting Gypsy and Traveller needs.

Site 13

Location: Rear of Longacre and Greenacres, Meadow Road, Willingham

Provision: 3 pitches

Summary: This existing temporary site is close to Willingham's services and facilities and is already meeting Gypsy and Traveller needs.

Site 14

Location: Rear of Longacre, Meadow Road (1), Willingham

Provision: 1 pitch

Summary: This site is currently vacant land, but is a logical addition if surrounding sites were allocated. Education provision would need to be in place before the site was developed.

Site 15

Location: Rear of Longacre, Meadow Road (2), Willingham

Provision: 1 pitch

Summary: This site is already occupied, but does not have planning permission. It is close to Willingham's services and facilities and is already meeting Gypsy and Traveller needs.

Site 16

Location: Site east of Longacre, Meadow Road, Willingham

Provision: 1 pitch

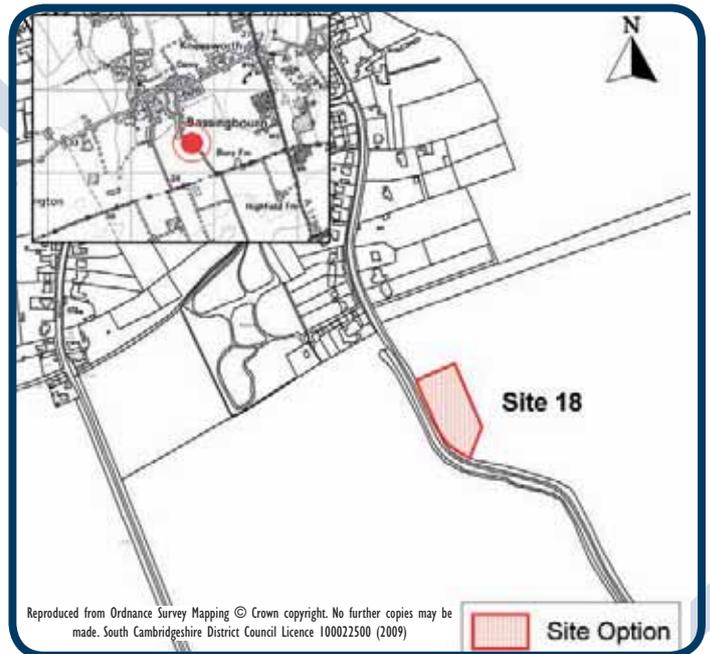
Summary: This existing temporary site is close to Willingham's services and facilities. Storage/agricultural buildings are a prominent feature on the site, but the use of adjoining land for a pitch would have limited additional impact.

Site 17

Location: The Oaks, Meadow Road Willingham

Provision: 1 pitch

Summary: This existing temporary site is close to Willingham's services and facilities. A small pitch around the existing buildings on the site would have limited wider impact.

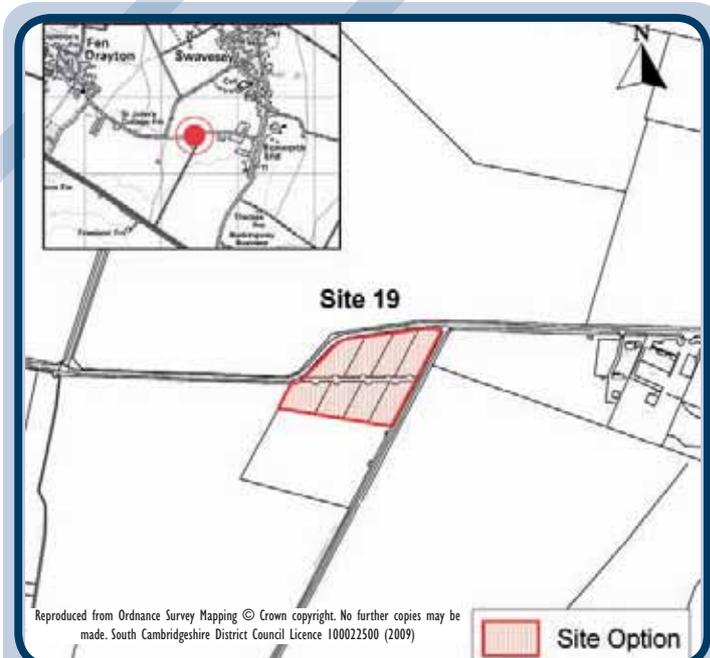


Site 18

Location: Spring Lane, Bassingbourn

Provision: 5 pitches

Summary: This potential new site is on land owned by Cambridgeshire County Council. It is close to village services and facilities and, if appropriately designed, would have limited impact on the landscape.

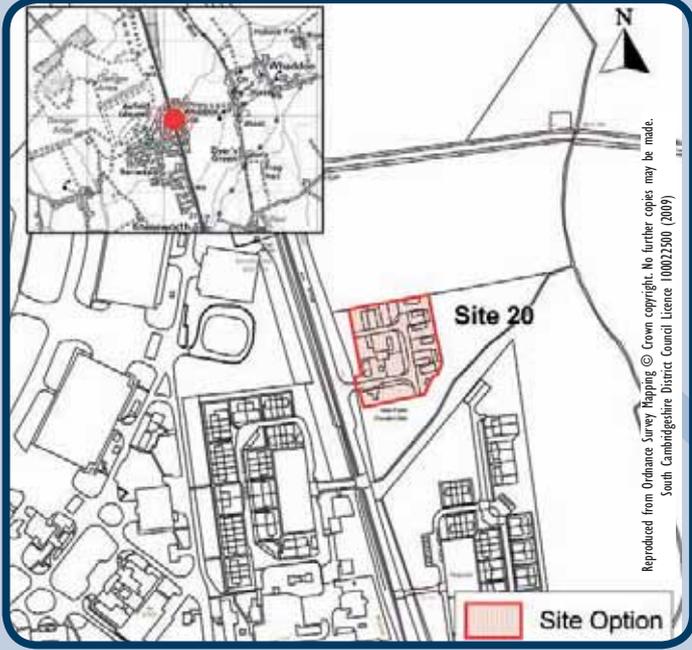


Site 19

Location: Rose & Crown Road, Swavesey

Provision: 8 pitches

Summary: This existing temporary site lies between Fen Drayton and Swavesey. A landscaping planting scheme has already been started, which will in time reduce the impact of the site on the landscape.



Site 20

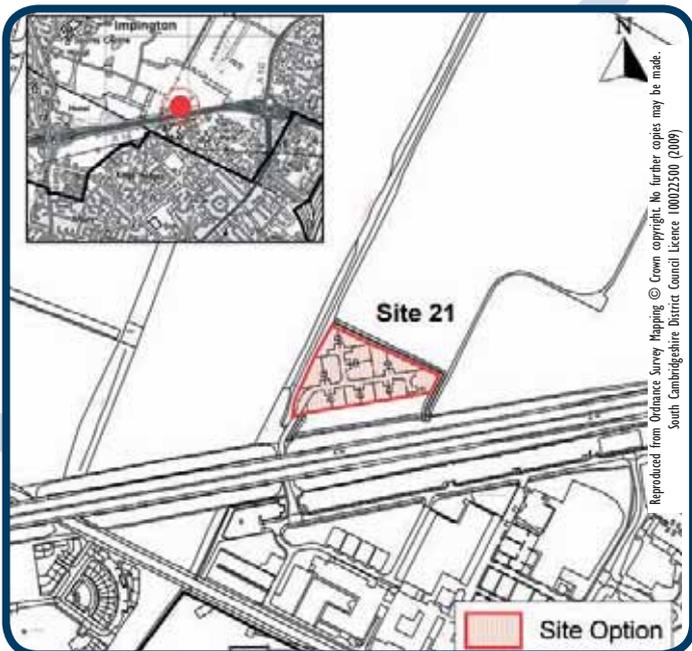
Location: New Farm, Old North Road, Whaddon

Provision: 2 pitches

Summary: This is an existing Council run site of 14 pitches. Site layout and facilities could be improved, slightly increasing the number of pitches.

Transit sites

Transit sites are temporary stop-offs used by Gypsies and Travellers who are simply passing through an area for a specific period of time. There is a need for additional transit sites in Cambridgeshire.



Site 21

Location: Blackwell site, near Milton, Cambridge

Provision: 10 transit pitches

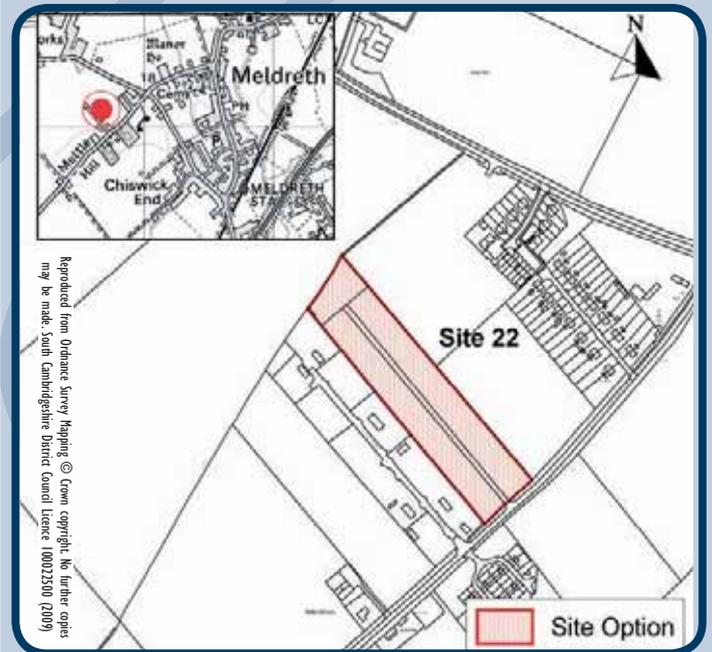
Summary: This Council run site was originally a transit site, but currently provides residential pitches. Reverting to a transit site could be a positive opportunity to provide a site with very good access to Cambridge and the major road network.

The needs of current residents would be met on other new sites in better locations, with the loss of the existing 15 residential pitches added to the need for new sites.

Travelling Showpeople sites

Government guidance requires that the needs of Travelling Showpeople are treated in a similar way to those of Gypsies and Travellers, and the East of England Plan requires new plots to be found in Cambridgeshire.

There are two Travelling Showpeople sites in South Cambridgeshire, both on Kneesworth Road in Meldreth. One site has the capacity for additional plots. When referring to Travelling Showpeople, a plot means a space for one accommodation unit.



Site 22

Location: Bidalls Boulevard, Kneesworth Road, Meldreth

Provision: 6 plots

Summary: The site can accommodate further plots for Travelling Showpeople with minimal additional impact.

How can I have my say?

We are inviting comments between 10 July and 12 noon on 9 October.

Comments that can be considered are those that focus on planning issues such as infrastructure, including education and health, access, traffic and parking, noise, pollution, historic buildings, landscape impact, conservation and wildlife.

There are a number of ways in which you can give us your comments:

- **visit www.scambsgov.uk/ldf and complete the online form**
- **download the electronic form and email your comments to us**
- **request a paper version of the form by contacting us on 03450 450 500**

During the consultation we will be holding exhibitions around the district and officers will be on hand to talk through the consultation process in more detail:

Venue: Willingham Ploughman Hall, West Fen Road, Willingham

Date: Monday 20 July

Time: 1pm to 8pm

Venue: Cottenham Village College (common room), High Street, Cottenham

Date: Wednesday 22 July

Time: 1pm to 8pm

Venue: The Limes Communal Room, High Street, Bassingbourn

Date: Friday 24 July

Time: 1pm to 8pm

Venue: Fulbourn United Reformed Church Hall, Home End, Fulbourn

Date: Monday 27 July

Time: 1pm to 8pm

Venue: Girton Glebe Primary School, Cambridge Road, Girton

Date: Wednesday 29 July

Time: 1pm to 8pm

Venue: Milton Community Centre, Coles Road, Milton

Date: Friday 31 July

Time: 1pm to 8pm

An exhibition will also take place at our offices in Cambourne for the duration of the consultation.

We are happy to help anyone who needs support when giving comments. This leaflet is also available in an alternative format such as audio CD or large print. Please call 03450 450 500.

The Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document Issues and Options Report 2 can be viewed online at www.scambsgov.uk/ldf and printed copies can be viewed from 8.30am to 5pm Monday to Friday at SCDC's offices at Cambourne Business Park.

Next steps

After the consultation, responses will be collated and the results assessed. If any new site options are submitted during the consultation period, they will be tested using the same criteria as those already identified. Any reasonable options will then be published for consultation to allow comments to be made.

Once we have considered your comments, a draft plan will be prepared and published for consultation, before it is submitted to the Secretary of State for consideration and adoption.

Produced by South Cambridgeshire District Council in July 2009. www.scambsgov.uk 0345 450 500.