



SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY

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Your Ref: Ipswich Local Plan Review
Modification consultation

Ipswich Borough Council
Grafton House
15-17 Russell Road
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15 September 2021

Dear

Ipswich Local Plan Review - Main Modifications Consultation

Thank you for inviting consultation on the Ipswich Local Plan review.

Policy CS11: Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation

It is understood that Ipswich Borough Council has a duty under national government policy to identify suitable sites for Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation. However, it is noted that the Gypsy, Traveller, Travelling Show people and Boat Dwellers Accommodation Needs Assessment identified 'strong evidence' of the preference in the Gypsy and Traveller Community locally for smaller pitches for family groups. Previous correspondence from Suffolk Constabulary has expressed the view that new sites should not exceed 20 pitches. Whilst the revised plan only identifies the need for an additional 13 pitches, adding those to the current 42 pitches at West Meadows would take the total pitch number to over 50.

Therefore, taking both matters into account, it is recommended that the policy is re-worded to reflect the priority of identifying, and evidencing that research, smaller sites, with expansion at West Meadows being an alternative option only if more suitable smaller sites cannot be found.

Objective 11- tackling deprivation and inequalities across the town

It is noted that one of the targets to evidence compliance with this objective is that the impact of designing out crime on anti-social behaviour statistics to reduce by a minimum of 25% by 2036 (from 2020 baseline).

Suffolk Constabulary will continue to work closely with Ipswich Borough Council to identify opportunities to design out crime at the planning stage. However, in order for this target to be realistic and achievable, clear definition of the parameters should be identified. For example: which statistics (including definitions of ASB) will be used to determine this target; how will the impact of the lockdowns during 2020 be reflected; how will population growth be factored into consideration and how will it be determined if 'designing out crime' has led to a decrease in anti-social behaviour?



A more measurable and defined target may be to ensure that all planning applications for Major Projects are submitted to Suffolk Constabulary for comment and acting on concerns raised. This would then ensure that IBC are tackling all crime types in partnership, not simply those related to ASB, this would create a safer, more cohesive town.

Yours sincerely,

Superintendent

Southern Area Policing Command

