
REPORT TO:	HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES	AGENDA ITEM: 11
DATE OF MEETING:	TUESDAY 8 th JUNE 2004	CATEGORY: RECOMMENDED
REPORT FROM:	MARK ALFLAT	OPEN PARAGRAPH NO:
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	ALAN TWELLS EXT 5945 & MIN CLARKSON EXT 5826	DOC:
SUBJECT:	PROPOSED SITE IMPROVEMENTS AT LULLINGTON X-ROADS AND WOODYARD LANE CARAVAN SITES	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	SEALES AND HATTON WARDS	TERMS OF REFERENCE: HCS01 & HCS12

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 Members approve the formulation of an application, in partnership with Derbyshire County Council, for a refurbishment grant for site improvements at Lullington X-Roads Gypsy Caravan Site, Netherseal and Woodyard Lane Gypsy Caravan Site, Foston.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 This report outlines to Members proposed site improvements for both Lullington X-roads and Woodyard Lane gypsy caravan sites, which will form part of a joint application for funding from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM). This is being undertaken in partnership with Derbyshire County Council, the site owners.

3.0 Detail

3.1 For the last three years the Gypsy Site Refurbishment Grants have been available from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. The grant scheme is available for the year 2005/06 for the provision of new transit & stopping places and the refurbishment of existing sites.

3.2 The grant is 100% for the provision of schemes for new transit & stopping places, whilst 75% for the refurbishment of existing sites. Application for grants have to be formulated and schemes put together for submission by January 2005.

3.3 Both Lullington X-roads and Woodyard Lane sites are owned by Derbyshire County Council and managed by this Council on their behalf.

3.4 Lullington X-Roads is a transit site providing 8 plots along with a warden's plot and is managed by the Environmental Health Division. It has been in operation since approximately 1984. The following site improvements are proposed for this site:-

- Provision of 2 extra plots, involving the removal of extensive earth banks (possible 100% funding).
- Extend existing shower block and refurbish existing facilities (possible 75% funding).
- Refurbish Warden's facility block (possible 75% funding).

3.5 Woodyard Lane is a permanent residential site managed by the Housing Division providing 18 plots and a warden's plot. It has been in operation since 1979. The following improvements are currently proposed for this site:-

- Complete drainage on whole site, which was started in November 2003.
- Refurbish and update shower /laundry blocks.
- Resurface roadway including raised kerbs to stop water pooling on footpath.
- Resurface footpaths round site.
- Resurface hard standings on plots.
- Landscape front area to obscure site from passing traffic.
- Provide three extra plots on the working area, which is no longer used as a working area.

3.6 As part of this process the following will need to be undertaken:-

- Consultation with Site Residents concerning proposals.
- Consultation with the local community.
- Employment of architects to undertake detailed plans and specifications for the work.
- Submission of planning permission as necessary.
- Formulation of complete costs.
- Achievement of support funding (25% of costs for refurbishment work, which could come from Derbyshire County Council and/or other grants).

3.7 As this process is very involved and will require additional resources from both Authorities in both officer time and money, it is important that Members are aware of and are supportive of the improvements proposed, before the projects' progress.

3.8 South Derbyshire is one of the leading Authorities within the Country for the provision of traveller sites. As with most Local Authorities across the Country we do have a problem with unauthorised encampments within the District.

3.9 The Authority currently has a Toleration Policy and Procedures for dealing with such encampments. Additionally, officers are now working with Derbyshire Traveller Issues Group in the formulation of a countywide policy and protocol for dealing with travellers. This work is on-going and is in response to the Guidance issued on managing unauthorised encampments by ODPM in February 2004.

3.10 Members should also be aware that a meeting is being arranged by this Authority with other Agencies to discuss the possibility and implications of the provision of further transit sites within or adjacent to the District. It is hoped to get representation from the Police, Environment Agency, Derbyshire County Council, Highways Agency, Government Office of the East Midlands (GOEM), East Midlands Development Agency and North West Leicestershire District Council.

3.11 As part of any policy in dealing with travellers it is important that existing facilities are maintained to a good standard along with the consideration of additional facilities. With the provision of such facilities it will provide a more sustainable approach to dealing with travellers.

3.12 Members are, therefore, being asked to support the proposals for both Lullington x-roads and Woodyard Lane Gypsy Caravan Sites.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 None for South Derbyshire District Council, as any support funding would need to be provided by Derbyshire County Council or other support grants if available.

5.0 Corporate Implications

5.1 The proposals outlined will support the Council's roles and responsibilities within the Equalities & Diversity Policy.

6.0 Community Implications

6.1 The proposals will ensure that existing facilities for travellers are improved and extended as part of the overall management of unauthorised encampments. With the provision of more plots this will also help, whilst not preventing, to reduce the number of travellers on unauthorised sites.

7.0 Conclusions

7.1 Derbyshire County Council in partnership with South Derbyshire District Council have the opportunity to bid for support funding for the refurbishment and provision of additional plots for travellers at Woodyard Lane and Lullington X-Road Gypsy Caravan Sites. Both of the sites are owned by the County Council and managed by this Council.

7.2 Members are asked to consider and support the improvements proposed at both sites so that work can continue into formulating the application to ODPM by January 2005.

8.0 Background Papers

8.1 ODPM Gypsy Site Refurbishment application forms and bidding guidance

8.2 ODPM "Guidance on Managing Unauthorised Camping"

