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Maldon District Council – LDP
Princes Road
MALDON
CM9 5DL

14th October 2013

Dear Sirs,

Draft Local Development Plan – Consultation Aug – Oct 2013.

You have written to households in the district for comments. Although I have had some input as a Parish Councillor, I also want to submit my personal response as part of the consultation.

Firstly, I want to congratulate all concerned on a job well done (so far) in particular the clarity and plain English that has been used and the way that so much has been combined into one clear, comprehensive and user-friendly document. Very well done everybody.

I only have one important concern to ‘have my say’ about and that is policy H6 (1) and (2) concerning the siting of any future traveller pitches.

I would remind you of the often stated line by both Planning Officers and District Councillors over the last year or so concerning the need to accommodate additional housing (not travellers) because of government requirements. It has often been said that the parishes might all have to ‘take some of them’, rural allocations, etc., etc.

Why is the proposed policy on traveller pitch allocation not based on similar thinking? Surely, with the vast majority of the existing pitches (excepting those on the big Council site at Wood Corner) are in the villages around here, there should be moves to even things out a bit. As it is, there is already substantial pressure on the District Council to allow 2 pitches on land within this village on a large field - where future pitches would be favoured under the proposed policies. Whether or not that application succeeds is not the issue, this is a policy to stand for 15 years.

The traveller pitches should be balanced around the district – like the other housing. These two paragraphs in the policy might represent something easy to achieve but that is not the point.

My only other comment concerns an omission (I think). - the Parish Council Burial Ground in Beckingham Road, Tolleshunt D’Arcy. It is not listed in the LDP as a burial ground. Perhaps you had not realised that it and the Church burial ground, although adjacent, are separate places – at least until the Church one is declared as a closed churchyard.

Otherwise, well done with the LDP and please put it into use as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

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