

11. Grazing for horses and ponies must be provided. If not possible on site must be on adjacent land. This Uddens site would not be large enough to accommodate grazing, and as former forestry land would take years to produce a reasonable grass crop. They would be reliant on the grazing owned by local farmers (if the owners agreed to it). If more woodland was cleared to provide grazing, then that would reduce the recreational area of the land even further.

12. Managers have semi-permanent accommodation, this will also include an amenity building.

The consultation document has not provided all the above information, suggesting that there will be plenty of room for all uses. This we should challenge as I think we have been unintentionally misled.

MANAGEMENT OF THE SITE

HOW WILL THESE SITES BE MANAGED? One manager will hardly exert authority over at least 25 families, POSSIBLY UP TO 50. What will happen when the pitches are full? Will they park all over Uddens Drive or the Blunts Farm site? Dales Farm is back in the papers, how can the District/County Council and Police guarantee that there will be no repeat of this in Uddens, Dorset?

STANDARDS FOR ACCESSIBLE NATURAL GREENSPACE – ANGST

Staplehill is neither rural nor urban but the residents are hemmed in by busy roads and roundabouts restricting their movements unless they drive to a site. For those living on Wimborne Road West, the small cul de sacs and surrounding areas, this proposed gypsy and traveller site is on our nearest recreational area that can safely be reached on foot. We should have at least 2 hectares of accessible green space with 5 minutes walk from home, once this is gone then the local residents will have to drive to an open green space. If the space left to us is deemed 'uncomfortable', then even if 2 hectares are left, it will not be used by many of the elderly dog walkers for the reasons already given. This is also the nearest recreational woodland for many in Ferndown, and there are a number of Ferndown users. *Those planning for the Core Strategy say they will plan for lots of open spaces, but Dorset County Council want to take ours away.*

HEATHLAND PRESSURES

Additional pressure on Holt Heath and Ferndown Common, because these will be the logical and realistic alternatives for dog walking/ walking and horse riding. Please note 604 visits will be displaced, in a 2 day survey this was the amount the multiple visits totalled.

It was always understood that the role of the Uddens and Cannon Hill plantations were to take the pressures off the more sensitive areas by providing for the recreational needs of a large residential area. To help achieve this, £107k was allocated to Cannon Hill/Uddens for use in 2010/2011 to improve the attractiveness and access for recreational use. This was to encourage people away from the more

environmentally sensitive sites such as Holt Heath. This proposed site at Uddens would close the 'gateway' to Cannon Hill and the wider Uddens plantation to all those living to the east of Canford Bottom roundabout. Once people are in their cars and past Canford Bottom roundabout, then there is nothing to make them stop and visit Cannon Hill, they could just as easily drive on to Whitesheet and walk on Holt Heath. In fact they are more likely to as parking is restricted and well used off Cannon Hill Road.

There are no figures yet to show the extent to which the Heathland Mitigation policy is working: however, it is evident from observation that reducing pressure on these sensitive sites by encouraging dog walkers and visitors elsewhere, is helping to restore/prevent further degradation of the heath and encouraging its restoration.

SUSTAINABILITY

There are no shops or facilities within walking distance apart from The Old Thatch public house. The nearest bus stop is over 600 metres away and there is no footpath and only a narrow road. The nearest schools are at Hampreston and Ferndown so further school runs would add to the congestion problems in this area. There are no facilities at all at Stapehill.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The staggered junction between Uddens Drive and Wimborne Road West would need altering. Currently, any vehicle coming from the direction of Wimborne has a blind and narrow left hand turn into Uddens Drive. This is so dangerous for walkers using Wimborne Road West and trying to cross over Uddens Drive. This would be a threat to any school children getting off the bus at Uddens, they would have to cross Wimborne Road West (average daily flow for 2006 was 10,750), then run the gauntlet of Uddens Drive.

In combination with the Core Strategy proposals to develop all the land around Blunts Farm, the future increase in traffic would not be manageable.

PROCEDURAL FAULTS

We produced about 700 leaflets to inform all the households surrounding our Uddens site and who use it. We took the response instructions straight off the consultancy document. Unfortunately there were 2 problems.

- The response leaflet was not 'fit for purpose' as it was only tick boxes and did not give anyone the space to object to a proposed site.
- Neighbours and others complained that Furzehill and Ferndown library has run out of these useless forms.

We wonder how many responses we may have lost due to these problems, availability and suitability of the response leaflets.

We also find that the Government grant for this Uddens site was granted in January 2012, over a month before the initial round of consultations were finished. Is this democratic?

LIFESTYLE CHOICES

The emerging government policy on gypsy and traveller sites requires that the local authority must 'protect local amenity and environment'. What consideration has been given to this aspect of the emerging policy?

1.27 of the consultation document: 'To respect the residential amenities of the settled community; Your proposal will damage/remove our amenities.

Policy LN5 in the emerging Core Strategy for East Dorset District Council, point 4 'Sites should not have an unacceptable impact on the amenities of adjacent occupiers...'

This site will dominate the smaller community adjacent to the new proposed site, and deprive the wider community of a favourite amenity..

We all make lifestyle choices, the gypsy and traveller families have been housed in the past. Those that travel have chosen to do so, just as those of us in the surrounding area have chosen to live here and use our local woodlands as a much loved amenity. David Cameron wants a fairer society, this is not the way to achieve it.

ALTERNATIVE SITES

We noticed that in the Gypsy and Traveller DPD, the list of rejected sites in East Dorset, several have been rejected because they are within the Green Belt. **OUR UDDENS TRIANGLE IS WITHIN THE GREEN BELT.**

We did initially suggest that the much larger area the other side of Uddens Drive, the area that surrounds the site of Blunt's Farm, would make a more suitable location as this site runs all the way down to the roundabout at Cobham Road. Access could have been provided off this roundabout. However, the whole of this site has been marked down for future industrial use, also it is very open and therefore may be vulnerable to illicit parking and Dorset's own Dale Farm.

Another option for a site would be to the North of the A31 between the roundabouts of Ferndown bypass and St Leonards. The Moors stream SSSI would have to be avoided but there are already caravan parks there and storage sites.

Many would like to see the site used opposite the East Dorset police headquarters.

For permanent sites only, We would suggest a couple of pitches adjacent to the proposed housing estates in the draft Core Strategy. If families were picked who wanted to settle, it would help with integration. This would free up existing sites for transit pitches.

For transit sites, we would recommend having not one large site that would be difficult to manage, but a number of much smaller sites of 5 pitches spread around the District in suitable and sustainable locations that are not adjacent to accessible areas to prevent illicit parking..

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