

Day 5/ Issue 4 – Other Housing Matters (Q8 -10)

8 Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation: With reference to the Council's Documents HO8 and HO9, is the provision for gypsy and traveller accommodation in policy CN5 appropriately justified and effective, e.g. in relation to Government policy as set out in DCLG: Planning Policy for Traveller Sites?

8.1 No Comment

9 Housing in the countryside: Is policy SS6 justified and in accordance with national policy?

9.1 No Comment

10 Neighbourhood Plans: Does policy SS5 provide an acceptable level of guidance for the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans, especially in relation to the delivery of housing?

10.1 Our principle concern with policy SS5 is that the level of housing proposed within the main villages will be treated by those promoting Neighbourhood Plans as a ceiling as they will believe that to be 'in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan' they have no option but to do so. Policy SS5 should provide those promoting Neighbourhood Plans with the opportunity to provide for more housing than identified in the policy if they feel this is justified and can be supported through the SA process. If this does not happen then the statement in the March 2015 committee report (Ref PS/02/14) that '*It is possible that some neighbourhood plans may include policies that will ultimately deliver higher housing numbers than the number in Policy SS5.*' is totally unrealistic as, as is clear from figure iv of the updated Housing Land Supply Statement (Ref PS/02/43), the Neighbourhood Plans being produced will just look to deliver what is set out in policy SS5. No more. Amending Policy SS5 so that the housing targets quoted are recognised as a minima would in our opinion help address this point and provide the BC with some flexibility in their HLS; albeit it's probable too late for Oakley and Overton as both plans are at Reg 16 consultation.