

Councillor Mrs Janine Dixon-Wilkinson
127 Sundon Road,
Houghton Regis
Dunstable,
Bedfordshire,
LU5 5NL

Your ref:

Our ref: DI/exec-230609

Date: 29 June 2009

Dear Councillor Mrs Dixon-Wilkinson

Response of the Executive to the Houghton Regis Liberal Democrats Petition

Further to my letter dated 12 June 2009 I am writing to notify you, as the petition organiser, of the Executive's response to the petition from the Houghton Regis Liberal Democrats on behalf of residents objecting to the allocation of gypsy and traveller sites in Houghton Regis and requesting the drawing up of alternative proposals.

The Executive at its meeting on 23 June 2009 having considered the petition and upon hearing from Councillor Tom Nicols, Portfolio holder for Sustainable Development has agreed the following response to the petition:-

- No final decisions have been made of the location of any gypsy and traveller site that was identified in a study in 2008 which concluded that additional gypsy and traveller pitches were required across Bedfordshire and Luton.
- All sites which might be considered for future Gypsy and Traveller use will be subject to formal public consultation with the local community as part of Central Bedfordshire Council's Local Development Framework (LDF) consultation processes on the Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document. Formal consultation on the document along with separate consultation on future Gypsy and Traveller sites is expected to begin towards the end of this year and will be widely publicised.
- This consultation process will include a number of public meetings at which the Portfolio holder for Sustainable Development will be present and available to answer public questions.