

# **STEVENAGE LOCAL PLAN STAGE 3 EXAMINATION HEARINGS**

AGENDA – DAY 5 (PM)

Wednesday 29 March 2017 at 2pm

Venue: The Ibis Forum, Danestrete, Stevenage,  
Hertfordshire, SG1 1EJ

MATTER 17 – Gypsies and Travellers

Please note:

- All participants are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the hearing statements (and any additional evidence) produced by the Council and other parties in respect of the matters addressed at this session. These are available on the examination website.
- Most references to questions refer to those posed by the Inspector in her Schedule of Matters, Issues and Questions (already circulated).
- The hearing will run until around 5pm with a mid-afternoon break.

1. Inspector's Opening
2. Questions/procedural or programming matters
3. Council's opening statement
4. Does the Council's approach in relation to traveller sites generally conform with the expectations of Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (August 2015)? If not, why not?
5. Do exceptional circumstances exist to justify the removal of the site from the Green Belt?
6. Are the number of pitches being promoted through Policy HO12 in accordance with the recommendations of the Council's gypsy and traveller accommodation assessment?
7. It is widely accepted that caravan dwellers are more vulnerable at times of flood than those people living in bricks and mortar housing. The Council have acknowledged, in response to my initial questions, that there is a risk of surface water flooding in

the southern and western sections of the site. How much of the site is affected and would this potentially reduce the number of pitches that could be provided here? If that is the case does a suitable alternative site need to be found?

8. Is the proposed site in a sustainable location?
9. Would the Plan realistically provide for a five year supply of gypsy and traveller pitches on adoption and will the supply be maintained for the Plan period?
10. Would the site dominate the nearest settled community?
11. Close