

Town & Parish Council 'Planning' Conference

5 April 2016
Conference Report

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WELCOME

Thank you to everyone who attended our 23rd Town & Parish Council Conference. I was delighted to welcome over 110 delegates, representing 44 parishes.

The event began with a detailed overview of the process to develop the new Local Plan before looking at how Gypsy and Traveller needs are addressed in the Plan, in particular the research and evidence gathering to undertake the site selection process. We ended the event with some informal workshops around planning for housing, employment and new infrastructure. Responses to the questions posed on the night and in the feedback forms have been collated and full replies are included in the report. The presentations used at the Conference are available to view on the [website](#).

We have learnt a lot from your feedback and appreciate that the content did not meet your expectations. We will try to ensure in future that we communicate more clearly the content of the Conferences in advance. We are clear however that your engagement in the Local Plan process is vital; this event was intended as one of a series of engagement opportunities that will take place with you throughout the Local Plan process. In the meantime, if you have any suggestions on how we can improve these events please do let me know.



Councillor Andrew Turner

Executive Member, Stronger Communities,
Central Bedfordshire Council

INTRODUCTION

Councillor Nigel Young introduced the Local Plan and the challenging timetable to submit it to the Secretary of State by December 2017. The Plan will cover the period 2015 – 2035 and set out the requirements for homes, jobs and infrastructure.

OVERVIEW OF THE CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE LOCAL PLAN

Andrew Davie, Development Infrastructure Group Manager reflected on the withdrawal of the Development Strategy and described the lessons learnt which are built into the new Local Plan process.

Key to this is refreshing the evidence base, more political engagement, and greater cooperation with our neighbouring authorities particularly around housing numbers. A fresh approach to growth is being adopted and will include options for growth whilst the Gypsy and Traveller site requirements will be incorporated into the main Plan.

Timetable and Evidence Base

Andrew presented the timetable and key milestones to achieve submission of the Local Plan by December 2017. The current focus November 2015 – November 2016 is to refresh the evidence base. Several pieces of work are being commissioned such as a Strategic Green Belt Review, Employment Land Review, Flood Risk Assessment, a Retail Study as well as the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment.

Duty to Co-operate

A key priority in the development of this Local Plan is to strengthen our engagement and co-operation with neighbouring areas to demonstrate our commitment under the Duty to Co-operate. Four Members have been appointed to lead these discussions as follows:

Duty Lead Member:	Cllr Nigel Young
Milton Keynes Housing Market Area:	Cllr Steve Dixon
Bedford Housing Market Area:	Cllr Ken Matthews
Stevenage Housing Market Area:	Cllr Kevin Collins
Luton Housing Market Area:	Cllr Sue Clarke

Call for Sites

Andrew described the recent call for sites which ran for 7 weeks and closed on 11 April. The call for sites is an exercise to establish those that have development potential:

- Housing sites (10 houses or more).
- Employment sites (10ha+)
- Gypsy and Traveller sites

Andrew confirmed that sites that were put forward under a previous call had been logged and did not need to be re-submitted unless additional information had become available. He also advised that the criteria for selecting housing sites was on consultation and available for comment.

5 Year Land Supply

Andrew referred to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which requires local planning authorities to " *identify and update annually a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide five years worth of housing against their housing requirements*".

This means that councils must prove that they have sufficient suitable and available development sites, which will deliver enough housing over the following five years, to meet their **five year requirement**. For a site to be included in the supply, it must have a 'realistic prospect' of delivering housing over that time. Sites which are included are called 'deliverable' sites.

Andrew explained that In order to demonstrate their supply, councils must provide robust site-specific evidence which is able to stand up to scrutiny when planning applications are considered at appeals.

If a council cannot demonstrate enough deliverable sites to meet their five year requirement, national planning policy states that "*relevant policies for the supply of housing should not be considered up-to-date*". Such policies include those which impact on the location of housing development like Central Bedfordshire's Settlement Envelope policy. This means that applications for developments outside of the Settlement Envelope for example, have to be approved unless any harm in doing so would '*significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits*'. This situation continues until the council can robustly demonstrate a five year supply.

Community Infrastructure Levy: Update

Andrew explained that the Central Bedfordshire CIL Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule was published for a 6 week consultation period on 14 January 2013. The second stage of consultation, the Publication of the Draft Charging Schedule was carried out in the summer of 2015. We are currently reviewing the Draft Charging Schedule following the withdrawal of the Development Strategy in November 2015. There is no agreed timetable for future work at this stage.

Neighbouring Authorities Plans.

Andrew briefly explained the timetable for Local Plan production in our surrounding areas, so Milton Keynes is planning to submit their Local Plan in early 2017 and adopt in mid 2017. Luton planned to submit their Plan in March 2016 and are looking to adopt later this year. Bedford will submit in 2017 and adopt mid 2018; Aylesbury Vale will submit in early 2017 and adopt in mid 2017. Central Bedfordshire as already mentioned plan to submit in December 2017 and adopt in September 2018.

WORK IN PROGRESS: REFRESHING THE EVIDENCE BASE

Cllr Young emphasised the commitment to engage and converse with Town and Parish Councils throughout the development of the Local Plan. In the context of Andrew's update and the need to refresh the evidence base, Cllr Nigel Young introduced the next presentations which looked at the Gypsy and Traveller component of the Local Plan and the impact of legislative change.

This part of the evening was opened by One Voice 4 Travellers, a community based group seeking to promote understanding between the settled and travelling communities and build bridges where necessary. This was followed by two consultancies recently appointed by the Council to undertake studies to a) assess the accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople - including the needs for permanent provision, transit sites or emergency stopping places, and b) identify sites.

One Voice 4 Travellers.

Shirley Barrett and Janie Cordona gave a joint presentation providing some history to the origins of the gypsy community dating back to Romany Gypsy migration from India in 1505 and Roma migration to the UK commencing 1945.

It is estimated there are approximately currently 300,000 people in the UK comprising the Gypsy and Traveller population and at least 50% live in housing. All families retain their cultural and family connections and shared beliefs.

Shirley and Janie explained some of the issues that gypsies and travellers experience including racism and difficulty in accessing services, low levels of literacy, cultural barriers and a fear of being treated differently.

In terms of accommodation, it was explained that there is a shortage; sites are often full with an active waiting list coupled with a difficulty in identifying land for additional sites. Furthermore many existing sites are in poor locations, not fit for purpose and in need of refurbishment. Families need smaller sites living close to other family members' disabled facilities, larger kitchens and day rooms. It was advised that the community should be involved in the development of proposed sites and amenity buildings and that location is important. How the sites are managed is also an important consideration.

Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment Update.

Steve Jarman from Opinion Research Services (ORS) was appointed by CBC in February to:

- Provide a robust, defensible and up to date evidence base about the accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople and
- Identify any needs for permanent provision as well as transit sites or emergency stopping places.

Steve highlighted the changes to national planning guidance which came into force in August 2015. The new planning definition now excludes those who have ceased to travel permanently and Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments (GTAA's) now need to determine whether households fall within this new definition. Only those households that fall within the new planning definition need to be assessed as part of the GTAA.

Case law has tested the meaning of the term nomadic so that it is understood that it now means someone who travels for work purposes and stays away from their usual place of residence. Households that do not meet the new planning definition should have their needs assessed as part of the wider SHMA Strategic Housing Market Assessment

Steve explained how the new definition is being applied and gave examples of some of the questions included in the site interview to gather information - see presentation on [website](#). He also explained a similar approach will need to be put in place for assessing the accommodation needs of 'non – travelling' Travellers i.e. those travellers who fall outside the new definition.

So the key stages of the research include:

- Desk Based research
- Survey of Travelling Communities
- Application of the new definition
- Assessment of current and future need.

The final assessment stage includes an assessment of need for those households meeting the new definition; advice on possible additional need from 'unknown' households and recommendations on levels of the wider need that will need to be considered in the broader SHMA. The outcome of the study is fed into the site selection process covered in the next few paragraphs.

Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Site Identification.

Paul Jobson from DLP Planning Ltd explained the new national planning policy requirements (2015) for site identification requires local authorities to use a robust evidence base to establish accommodation needs (see above) and set pitch and plot targets to address the likely permanent and transit site accommodation needs of Gypsy's and Travellers in their areas.

As such the Council must identify and update every year a supply of deliverable sites to provide five years worth of sites against locally set targets.

It must also be able to demonstrate a supply of sites or locations for a further 6-10 years and where possible 11-15 years.

The new guidance also requires that Councils should 'very strictly limit' new traveller sites in open countryside.

Sites for Gypsy and Travellers are sourced from the current authorized sites, unauthorized sites, and those with a previous planning history of activity, council owned land and other surplus public sector land. In addition sites are identified from the recent 'Call for Sites' sites, emerging from other studies and strategic urban extensions.

Site identification is complex and must be based on robust criteria. DLP have suggested the following criteria

- Availability
- Flood risk
- Environmental designation – biodiversity and protected species
- Greenbelt and landscape
- Historic environment
- Site access and safety
- Contamination / instability/topography
- Noise and air quality
- Residential amenity
- Access to facilities
- Delivery

OPTIONAL WORKSHOPS

Delegates could choose whether to participate in table based workshops which were designed to demonstrate the complexities for identifying sites for housing employment and new infrastructure e.g. housing figures between 10,500 – 26,500 homes, commercial sites – consider proximity to other sites, deliver key transport routes – M1-A6, East/West Rail, whilst considering various constraints such as

- Green Belt, SSSI's, AONB, County Wildlife Sites, Flood Plain
- Range of sizes of site (50 houses – 5000 houses)
- Planning permissions already granted/in the system

Questions

A number of questions were asked following the presentations and also submitted on the feedback form. Answers to both sets of questions have been collated and are listed below.

Questions at the Conference

Q: Do you believe that the traveller community deserves greater rights than the settled community?

A: No group should have greater rights. We need to learn to work together. Every community has a right to be protected by the law. If someone does something that's against the law they should be accountable.

Q: In 2013/14 Potton Town Council used DLP to respond to G&T Plan – they disputed the figures found in ORS findings. How can we have complete confidence that figures are accurate?

A: Outcomes of assessments are regularly disputed across the country. Very experienced, robust, defensible and up to date needs figures are needed and we will work together. Cllr Young's decision to agree the 2% growth rate, took time to research and ORS now agree with this.

Q: Caddington has had its number of traveller sites expanded over the past 10 years. In 2013 CPC accepted 2 sites to be expanded by the previous G&T Plan – will this be included or will there be more? Accept the need for housing in Caddington and have asked travellers to interact but they don't want to.

A: We can't pre-empt what will be in the new Local Plan. Cllr Young and G&T co-ordinator Rachel Brydges offered to accompany representatives of the PC to the sites to try and encourage some more engagement.

Q: No statement that 300 acres of greenbelt were taken out in the last Local Plan. In the new Plan can we have the 300 acres back again – preferably in Lidlington?

A: A strategic Green Belt review will look at these issues as part of the new Local Plan.

Q: No-one doubts the need for sites if managed properly. Have lessons been learnt so you don't make the same costly mistakes again?

A: Yes.

New legislation and case law around G & T sites in Green Belt has changed

First place to look is on the edge of settlements – G & T representatives say they don't want to live in the middle of a village – it is still difficult to know what the Government wants.

Q: The Sept 2014 G&T Plan was withdrawn. The Development Strategy was withdrawn. How much is new? How will CBC's approach differ?

A: The main issue previously was duty to cooperate mostly around Luton and disagreements about housing numbers. We are reviewing our evidence base to achieve balanced judgements based on evidence. Duty to Cooperate (DtC) comments are most certainly being considered and changes are being made to our DtC process and method of recording. Members are involved and dealing with 4 Housing Market Area's. With regards to G&T issues in the Local Plan, we are adopting a holistic approach and decisions will be based on the evidence.

Q: How hard are you going to fight proposals to develop outside village envelopes in the absence of a plan?

A: Maintaining a 5 year supply of housing is the problem. We require housebuilders to build the houses when permissions have been granted. We are adopting an innovative approach which requires developers to sign a legal agreement for new sites to build within five years. It is an untested approach but means the Local Plan will be able to plan growth appropriately. It is a difficult situation.

Q: So you're not opposing it?

A: If we oppose sites in principle because they are outside the Settlement Envelopes we will lose on appeal. The NPPF says that if there is no 5 year land supply, permission must be granted unless the development is unsustainable. We negotiate hard to get infrastructure in place e.g. Houghton Conquest contribution to early years.

Q: Developers are not fools; they are businessmen and can cause shortage. Hopefully the new plan will provide for sustainability and infrastructure. Stotfold residents have to leave town to work and shop. Will CBC bear in mind sustainable infrastructure? Deal with lack of jobs and shops in towns to give better quality of life.

A: The Call for Sites was infrastructure led. If we are going to allocate sites and the area needs new school, it will need to be provided – we call it critical infrastructure.

Q: Dacorum and CBC have acknowledged that G & T sites of around 10 pitches are about right. The 2 owned by CBC are well run but private sites are more problematic. Kensworth has a pub and a shop so travellers in Caddington use our facilities. We try to reach out to them. Specific problem with some travellers using a flat / van / caravan causing issues. Hoping in the future that CBC and Dacorum will keep sites to 10 pitches and not add to them.

A: We know about this case but can't discuss specifics – would you like to be involved when we go to the site with Caddington?

Further questions from feedback sheets	
Aspley Guise	<p>We would like to have meeting with CBC regarding the Aspley Guise triangle, subjects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Green Open Space - Potential for compensatory greenbelt extension - Plans for the remainder of the triangle if any <p><i>We will be talking with Town and Parish Councils as part of the new Local Plan.</i></p>
Barton Le Clay	<p>If you build 31,000 houses where are the schools, doctors surgeries shops fire stations police etc.? Must create communities not just build houses. The mistakes of the 1950's can't be repeated.</p> <p><i>Agree; infrastructure will be planned alongside new housing development.</i></p> <p>Please provide details on 5 year land supply</p>
Eversholt	I should welcome more information on methods for calculating 5 year supply of housing
Flitwick	Details of 5 year plan and local information on planning for Flitwick
Toddington	Please send me info re the five year supply
Houghton Conquest	Please send email re: 5 year plan as HC is suffering from the lack of the plan
Northill	<p>Please could you send the details about the 5 year plan you mentioned. Also forward the PowerPoints for dissemination to the rest of our councillors.</p> <p><i>The presentation can be viewed on the CBC website.</i></p>
Brogborough	<p>Can you provide me with more information on the 5 year supply plan.</p> <p>In 2015 in 'call for sites' Brogborough PC has asked to expand the 'village envelope' to extend and encompass 13 residences on the periphery of the community. We have heard nothing about this. Please could you respond.</p> <p><i>Settlement Envelopes are being reviewed as part of the new Local Plan</i></p>
Biggleswade	Details of 5 year land supply
Please see page 5 of this report for information on the 5 Year land supply	
Brian Collier	<p>Are you building in future Inspector failure by not allowing for consultation with Cambridgeshire?</p> <p><i>All neighbouring authorities, including Cambridgeshire authorities are included within the Duty to Cooperate process</i></p> <p>What is the date for housing/emp allocations are being sent</p>

	<p>to parish councils? <i>We don't have a date as yet. The call for sites closes 11th April.</i></p>
Clifton	<p>Please send me a copy of the complex planning issues</p>
Eggington	<p>Does the new 'gypsy' planning definition make it possible for planning to take enforcement action when it is suspected / known that 'non gypsy' are living on sites where planning permission or SOS has given permission for G&T only? As this would remove non G&T families from sites thereby freeing up spaces and minimising the need for new sites. <i>We cannot answer this question at present, but it seems unlikely that enforcement action could be used in this way.</i></p>
Fairfield	<p>Has the council a policy which identifies how far along its pathway a Neighbourhood Plan has to be before it can be taken into account in planning decisions? <i>Government guidance is clear that policies in Neighbourhood Plans begin to have weight in planning decisions after the NP has been submitted to CBC and publicised prior to Examination.</i></p>
Harlington	<p>Why Green Belt review? 'Defendable GB boundary' following taking 3 miles out already. <i>It is necessary to have a Green Belt review as part of the evidence base of a new Local Plan because the only way to change GB boundaries is through the Local Plan process. A review may or may not result in changes to the GB boundaries.</i></p>
Leighton Linslade	<p>1. What is the government's timescale requirements for the current Local Planning process, and what would be the implications of not meeting them? <i>The Government wants Local Plans to be published by April 2017. If this is not met, the government could choose to intervene.</i></p> <p>2. Of all the 4 member areas mentioned the only ones to which the duty of co-operation exists e.g. there are Green Belt matters which CBC and AVDC could sensibly co-operate on. Will these – and any similar matters – be considered in developing the Local Plan? <i>Any cross boundary issues will be identified and considered under the DtC process including Green Belt</i></p> <p>3. The defunct Local Plan saw a CIL charging structure worked out in parallel. Will the revision of CIL under the current Local Planning process represent also a fundamental review of whether to adopt it or not? <i>Unknown at present</i></p>
No name	<p>I got an email on 31.03 on the NE LP consultation end date being 10.04 how many of the 15000 houses with full</p>

	<p>planning but not built are on brownfield? <i>The most recent figure we have to answer this query is that for 2014/15 50% of the 1522 dwellings completed are on previously developed land.</i></p>
Potton	<p>Potton has just started to develop a Neighbourhood Plan. To what extent does the Local Plan affect our NP Or are the recommendations of our NP included in the Local Plan? <i>Officers will work closely with Potton on their NP, some issues may be taken into the Local Plan, some will be more appropriate in the NP</i></p> <p>One of the major issues in the failed submission was the lack of co-operation with Cambridgeshire, particularly with regard to G&T sites on their border and the surrounding areas in N.E Beds. Why is Cambs not included on the slide showing neighbouring local authorities (or did we miss it)? <i>All neighbouring authorities, including Cambridgeshire authorities are included within the Duty to Cooperate process</i></p>
Sandy	<p>What about consultation with South Cambs Councils DC when formulating the Local Plan? <i>All neighbouring authorities, including Cambridgeshire authorities are included within the Duty to Cooperate process</i></p> <p>Your strategy for the Local Plan is already out of date. In addition to the current 'four' partners, the proposed E.W rail link will necessitate coherent planning with S.Cambs. <i>The four areas referred to are the Housing Market Areas, all neighbouring authorities, including Cambridgeshire authorities are included within the Duty to Cooperate process</i></p> <p>The plan does not appear to be taking into account the potential upgrade of the A1 and the route of the East West rail link by concentrating on the north of the CBC area. Uncertainties of the route of both A1 and EW rail should exclude development plans in the north until the infrastructure routes are decided. With the potential development north of Sandy why has there been no mention of consultation with St Neots and South Cambs? <i>The strategy for the new Local Plan has not yet been decided. New transport infrastructure is a very important component of the new strategy.</i></p> <p>If the number of licensed sites or pitches on licensed sites were to increase, would it reduce the number of travellers who are peripatetic / on the road / beside the road etc. who travel for work reasons? <i>CBC is unable to speculate on this issue</i></p> <p>And...if travellers cease to travel therefore they are based on permanent sites, does this jeopardise the head of the households ability to earn money – because many of the jobs are seasonal or dry up once the travellers have been in</p>

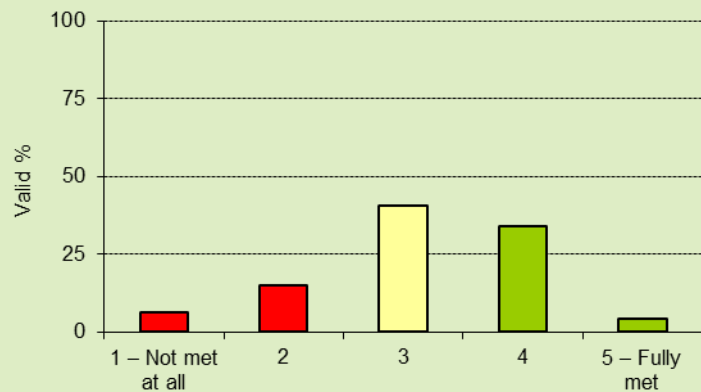
	<p>an area for a length of time. <i>CBC is unable to speculate on this issue</i></p>
Shefford	<p>What is the size of 'a plot'? What is included e.g. shed, toilet etc.? <i>A G & T plot or pitch may include sufficient room for a static caravan and touring van plus shed, toilet, parking and storage</i> How much does this 'plot' cost per week? <i>Unknown</i></p>
Sundon	<p>Why has the council chosen to undertake a greenbelt review? <i>It is necessary to have a Green Belt review as part of the evidence base of a new Local Plan because the only way to change GB boundaries is through the Local Plan process. A review may or may not result in changes to the GB boundaries.</i></p>
Totternhoe	<p>Please provide guidance on local plan as mentioned by Cllr Young.</p>

FEEDBACK ON THE CONFERENCE

A conference feedback form was provided in the delegate packs, and the results are shown below.

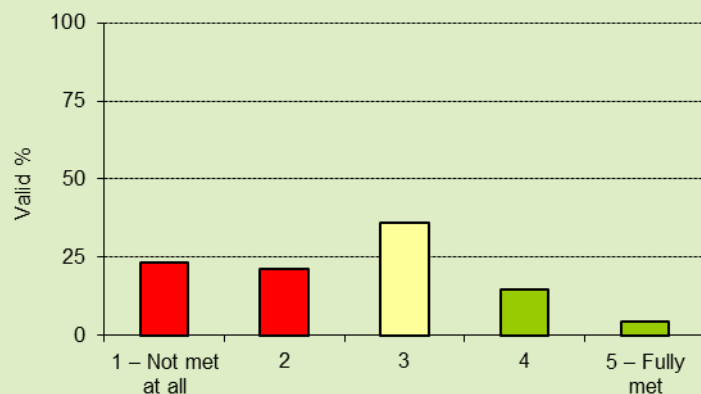
1a. Improving understanding of the process required to deliver the Local Plan

	Count	%	Valid %
1 – Not met at all	3	6	6
2	7	14	15
3	19	39	40
4	16	33	34
5 – Fully met	2	4	4
Total	47	96	



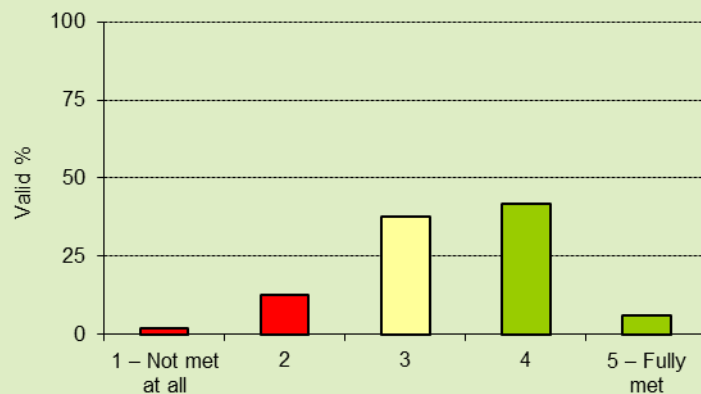
1b. Understanding how and when you can have your say

	Count	%	Valid %
1 – Not met at all	11	22	23
2	10	20	21
3	17	35	36
4	7	14	15
5 – Fully met	2	4	4
Total	47	96	100
Missing	2	4	



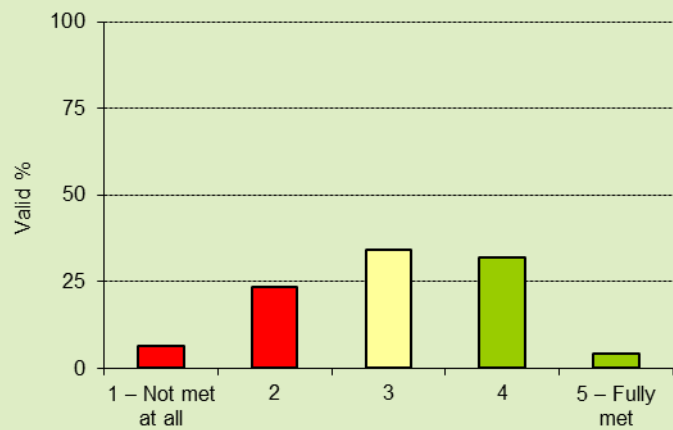
2a. Welcome and introduction

	Count	%	Valid %
1 – Not met at all	1	2	2
2	6	12	13
3	18	37	38
4	20	41	42
5 – Fully met	3	6	6
Total	48	98	100
Missing	1	2	



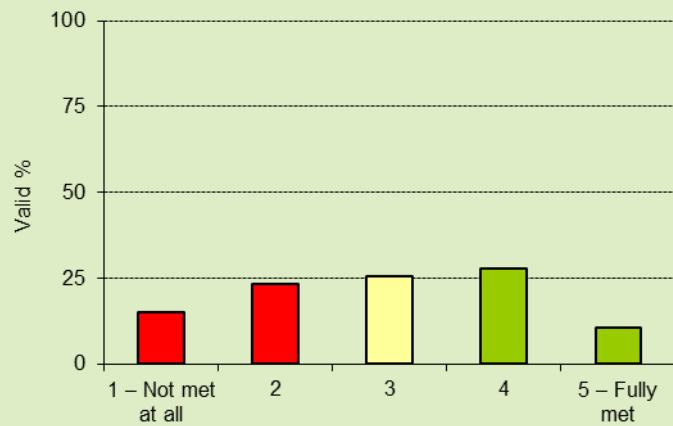
2b. Local Plan update

	Count	%	Valid %
1 – Not met at all	3	6	6
2	11	22	23
3	16	33	34
4	15	31	32
5 – Fully met	2	4	4
Total	47	96	100
Missing	2	4	
Total	49	100	
Mean score	3.04		



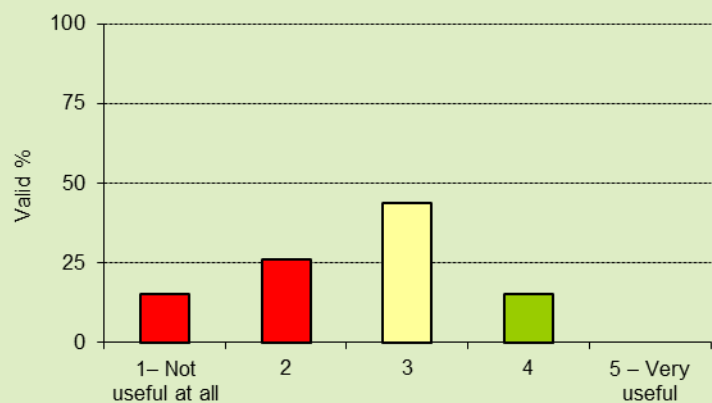
2c. Gypsy and Traveller Experience – One Voice 4 Travellers

	Count	%	Valid %
1 – Not met at all	3	6	6
2	11	22	23
3	16	33	34
4	15	31	32
5 – Fully met	2	4	4
Total	47	96	100
Missing	2	4	



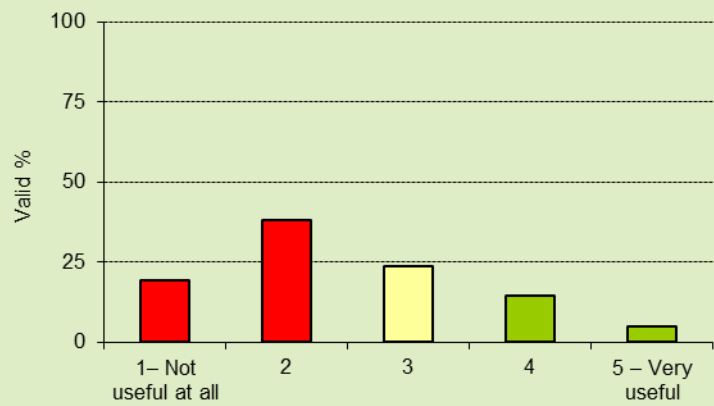
2d. Legislative Framework

	Count	%	Valid %
1– Not useful at all	7	14	15
2	12	24	26
3	20	41	43
4	7	14	15
5 – Very useful	0	0	0
Total	46	94	100
Missing	3	6	
Total	49	100	



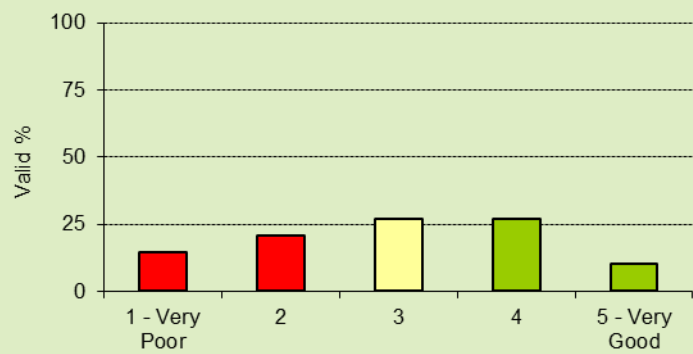
2e. Optional informal workshops

	Count	%	Valid %
1- Not useful at all	4	8	19
2	8	16	38
3	5	10	24
4	3	6	14
5 - Very useful	1	2	5
Total	21	43	100



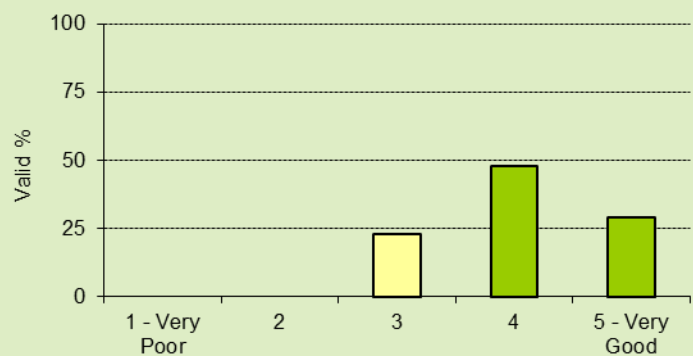
3a. Information sent to you before the event

	Count	%	Valid %
1 - Very Poor	7	14	15
2	10	20	21
3	13	27	27
4	13	27	27
5 - Very Good	5	10	10
Total	48	98	100
Missing	1	2	
Total	49	100	



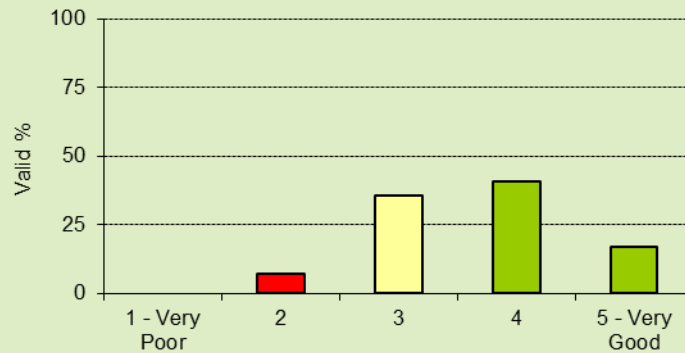
3b. Venue

	Count	%	Valid %
1 - Very Poor	0	0	0
2	0	0	0
3	11	22	23
4	23	47	48
5 - Very Good	14	29	29
Total	48	98	100
Missing	1	2	



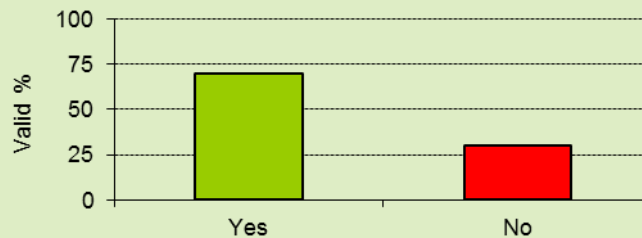
3c. Catering

	Count	%	Valid %
1 - Very Poor	0	0	0
2	3	6	7
3	15	31	36
4	17	35	40
5 - Very Good	7	14	17
Total	42	86	100
Missing	7	14	
Total	49	100	



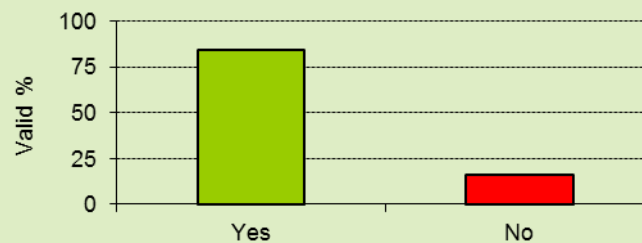
4a. Did you find this conference useful?

	Count	%	Valid %
Yes	28	57	70
No	12	24	30
Total	40	82	100
Missing	9	18	
Total	49	100	



4b. Would you recommend attendance at future conferences?

	Count	%	Valid %
Yes	37	76	84
No	7	14	16
Total	44	90	100
Missing	5	10	
Total	49	100	



Feedback from delegates

What topics would you like addressed at future events?

What other individuals, groups or organisations would you like to see at future events?

Barton Le Clay	Partnership working – Mark Saccoccio – Leighton Buzzard Council
Brogborough	The developers holding on to land not building once planning permission granted
Eversholt	Recycling, waste and litter
Haynes	Any planning conference Theft from farms Rights of Way Protection of land

	Illegal travellers Hare Coursing Fly tipping (NFU Mutual)
Houghton Conquest	These conferences are presented as if there will be involvement of attendees, but this one is just a lecture.
Leighton Linlade	Planning Inspectorate!
No name	CPRE
Sandy	Those with a 'more' relevant input to the topic – for example health, education and highways infrastructure East/West rail A1M / Black Cat / A421 link to Caxton Gibet? etc. etc. The Local Plan is a highly relevant topic. The future provision of up to 30,000 new residences over the next 20 years has many and varied ramifications which will need inventive consultations and co-operation between CBC and its town and parish councils.
Totternhoe	Police and Crime Commissioner

Any other comments

Biggleswade	Presentations on legislative change were far, far too detailed, and became <u>dull</u> , considering the importance of the subject. 5 year housing supply – further clarity.
Caddington	One sided on behalf of the travellers.
Clifton	This was a single issue conference instead of general planning assessments criteria.
Harlington	Disappointed at the concentration on G&Ts. Expected to find out more about the Local Plan the site assessment process and the GB review the housing numbers and other issues relating to this. Questions limited and whole conference was a wasted opportunity to engage in the Plan process.
Heath & Reach	The legal presentation was too detailed but underlines the complexity of planning
Houghton Conquest	1) I leave this event never knowing whether these events are a 'talking at' or 'discussion'. I fear the former. When questions were asked the answers were never given. Issue about the relentless house building was put to one side and instead we heard Councillor Young talk again of lovely market towns and villages soon to be lost. Feel there's a certain amount of flippancy from CBC. 2) The DLP presentation was basically a presentation of the obvious. Complete waste of time and unhelpful. Are you trying to inform or lecture? This is not community involvement. I was lead to believe this was a meeting about the new plan. It would be helpful to know what the definition of a village is. Can it just keep expanding until it meets another? There is no protection of villages and soon we will all be an urban sprawl.
Hulcote & Salford	1. Useless presentation by DLP inaudible speaker and unreadable slides. 2. Purpose of meeting was to tick a box – local plan DTC format not conducive to purpose. Feel like we have been used for CBC Planning purposes not informed and engaged.

Langford	Conference was not as agenda. It turned into a review and questions of G&T element.
Leighton Linslade	Far too over-balanced on gypsy/traveller issues. Much more on the local plan progress was a very significant and lamentable omission.
Maulden	Decent hot drinks would have been great. 2 nd presentation from ORS – difficult to read bottom right of slides – came across as not very professional.
No name	Would have appreciated more data on why and what was the target for the 26-30k new housing. I found this evening was purely to sell the gypsy and traveller policy and nothing else very disappointing.
No name	Questions should be after each session. G&T legislation <u>MUCH</u> too long and <u>VERY BORING!</u>
No name	You can't compensate for the green belt because the concept is to stop urban extension and sprawl.
Sandy	<p>1. <u>A missed opportunity.</u> The G&T element of the Local Plan is important but did not merit taking 50% of the timetable. Probably – no definitely the least inspiring and most tedious such meeting I have ever attended in 20+ years at MBDC, BCC or CBC. Without doubting their respective professional capabilities all the speakers were equally tedious in their delivery!</p> <p>2. Presentations tedious in the extreme. Raising awareness of the Local Plan is very important but an evening devoted almost entirely to the needs of the Gypsy and Traveller community was wholly inappropriate. Provision for G&Ts is essential, but this is a very small % of the housing needs for the next 20 years.</p> <p>Doing map exercise is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a copy of what MK did in their Vision workshops b) only draws on a small % of resident's views c) is not really a proper response to 'need to confirm and take into account' people's views.
Stanbridge	<p>1) Whilst the ladies from One Voice 4 Travellers spoke very well the picture painted of travellers was not a recognisable picture of local G&T in our area. Councils and parish / town councils need to work closely together to also lobby government for changes that will actually make a difference to settled communities. Remember it should be <u>FAIR AND EQUAL PLANNING FOR ALL.</u></p> <p>2) If G&T are not treated the same as settled people there will be anarchy. They already exist in 'no go' areas barricaded in behind high brick walls and electric gates.</p>
Studham	Rather one sided and not all questions answered <u>as usual.</u>
Tempsford	Very poor presentation skills <u>2d</u> and use of PowerPoint slides. Difficulty to see where the speaker is. A lot of jargon terms and acronyms make a presentation difficult to follow. Questions were a much more productive time and important points were made from the floor and hope CBC carry out their promises.
Tilsworth	Tilsworth Travellers Site has increased 9-16 since 2013; planning conditions have not been enforced. This means no licensing and problems like sewage and raw rubbish continue.

CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

Thank you for your attendance and participation at this conference. We have listened to your feedback and will ensure that your participation is ongoing throughout the local Plan process, in particular in relation to local infrastructure and site specific issues.

In addition you have given plenty of suggestions for future agenda items and we will endeavor to respond to this.

We will contact you as soon as possible with details of the next event. In the meantime, please contact Peter Fraser or me if you have any further comments or suggestions: peter.fraser@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk.

Councillor Andrew Turner

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Corporate Resources and
Lead Member for Localism,
Central Bedfordshire Council

A full copy of this report and the workshop presentations can be found on the Council's website: <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/local-government-in-central-bedfordshire/town-parish-councils.aspx>

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