



New Gypsy and Traveller site consultation dates

New arrangements are now in place to give people the chance to air their views on plans for the possible use of two areas of land as Gypsy and Traveller sites.

The public consultation on the use of land at Coombe Farm, Mowhay Road, St Budeaux, and at the Imerys Works at Coypool will now take place from 31 March to 12 May.

The original consultation period was due to start on 6 February but was delayed when the decision to consult the public, made by the Council's Cabinet, was called in by the Overview and Scrutiny Commission.

Members of the commission voted in favour of allowing the consultation to go ahead at its meeting on 12 February so new dates and venues have now been arranged, and are set out on the back of this newsletter.

Maps and other useful information are also available on the Council's web site:
www.plymouth.gov.uk/gypsyandtravellersitesldf.htm

Councillor Peter Brookshaw, Cabinet member for Safer and Stronger Communities, Housing and Supporting People and Community Cohesion, said: "This is a chance for everyone to have their say and I urge people to do this in a constructive way. We welcome all comments as long as they're not racist or abusive and we'd like to hear from anyone with ideas for suitable sites which we may not have considered so far.

"We need people's help with this because we have a statutory duty to provide sites so doing nothing is not an option for us. It's not helpful if people simply criticise our efforts to tackle this difficult and sensitive issue without suggesting viable alternatives."

The current lack of authorised sites in Plymouth means the city currently deals with an average of 25 unauthorised encampments a year. Last year these unauthorised camps created considerable social tensions and cost the City Council £160,000.

Come along to one of the drop-in events to discuss further!





Don't forget Derriford – Now is the time to have your say...

The council has put together ideas designed to create a thriving community that will act as a new heart for the north of the city.

The council wants to hear what residents think about the ideas outlined in its Derriford and Seaton Area Action Plan which includes providing up to 5,000 new homes and creating over 120,000 square metres of new employment space.

The plan is part of the Local Development Framework and also outlines proposals for a new community park, health care and leisure facilities and a district shopping centre, as well as improved pedestrian and public transport links and new road layouts. They have already been on show at Estover Community College and the park and ride at the George junction.

Come along to our drop-in events - further details on the back of this newsletter.

The draft Area Action Plan aims to improve the city by transforming Derriford into a new urban centre with a mix of new and existing commercial, residential and community facilities.

It seeks to create two new residential neighbourhoods – one in Derriford and another in the Seaton area – each with its own schools, shops, restaurants, open spaces and community facilities, as well as a strong, vibrant sense of community. Other elements include:

- ◆ Expanding the city's science, technology and medical employment base and providing additional job opportunities
- ◆ expanding healthcare facilities
- ◆ two new primary schools and enhancing further education facilities
- ◆ new and improved leisure and recreation opportunities, including extending public use of the swimming pool at UCP Marjon and the creating a new community park covering parts of the Forder and Bircham valleys
- ◆ improving Plymouth Airport by reconfiguring the layout, improving access and relocating the engine testing facility to minimise noise
- ◆ encouraging sustainable travel and reducing congestion by improving pedestrian, cycle and public transport links (and providing a high quality bus priority scheme along the A386 corridor), providing new road links and potentially restricting new car parking facilities
- ◆ providing green space and making the most of the area's scenic views and historic environment, for example by providing a 'treetop walkway' and raising the profile of the nearby Palmerston forts.

Councillor Ted Fry, Cabinet Member for Planning, Regeneration and Economic Growth said: "People seem to think we are heading in the right direction. Derriford already plays a significant social and economic role in the city but these are exciting ideas to create a different feel and focus to this area. We want to create a strong sense of identity where people can shop, learn and play locally."

Making comments online can be done quickly at www.plymouth.gov.uk/ldf or by filling in a feedback form available from the Civic Centre, local libraries and local housing offices. There is also online forums to discuss ideas at <http://plymouth.limehouse.co.uk/portal/ldf/derriford>

A final version of the plan will be prepared, taking into account the comments received, and submitted to the Government for inspection later this year.

It's not just about the LDF...

Homes for everyone... Lifetime Homes

With an aging population and increasing numbers of people with disabilities living independently, Lifetime Homes are designed to meet the long term lifespan needs of occupants.

Lifetime Homes make life as easy as possible for as long as possible because they are thoughtfully designed. They provide accessible and adaptable accommodation for everyone, from young families to older people and individuals with a temporary or permanent physical impairment.

Central Government has raised the profile of Lifetime Homes. 2011 is the target set by government for all 'public housing' to be to Lifetimes homes standards, and 2013 the 'aspiration' for all new housing to be to Lifetime Homes standards.

Plymouth's Local Development Framework Core Strategy states on policy CS15 that 20% of new dwellings will be built to 'lifetime homes' standards.

To qualify as a Lifetime Home there are 16 specified criteria – checked at the time of the planning application and 'spot – check' monitored post completion.

Information regarding Lifetime Homes, with frequently asked questions and more, can be found on the very useful website: www.lifetimehomes.org.uk



A cross-cutting work team has been established between Housing Services and Development and Adult Social Care Departments of the Council, to ensure the effective delivery of Lifetime Homes. Lifetime Homes will play an important part in Plymouth's Housing Strategy and Strategy for the over 50's.

Common concerns from developers regarding Lifetime Homes requirements are expense, topography and technical criteria. Most concerns can be easily resolved through negotiation.

Advice about Lifetime homes is available from Council's Access Officers on 01752 304577 or Housing Enabling Officers on 01752 307513, email: buildcon@plymouth.gov.uk

A revised standard for meeting needs of disabled people

A revised British Standard 8300:2001 has been published called 'The Design of buildings and their approaches to meet the needs of disabled people. It explains how the built environment can be designed to remove restrictions to disabled users.

BSI British Standards is the UK's National Standards Body (NSB). It represents UK economic and social interests across all of the European and international standards organisations .

This comprehensive document gives invaluable help to architects, surveyors, and all those involved in the design and construction of buildings to design an accessible building, so that disabled people can make full use of it.

The Access Consultancy in the Council's Building Control Service are able to advise on any aspect of disability and the built environment. If you would like to discuss the key changes to the document or have any questions please contact Paulette Furnival or Nick Smith on 01752 304577 or buildcon@plymouth.gov.uk

LDF diary of events...

All events are free and open to the public.

If you have any questions please contact Sharon Sheppard on 01752 307893

Derriford Area Action Plan

Please make your comments between 6 February to 23 March 2009.

You can drop in and speak to Council Officers at the following times and venues:

11 March - 10am to 12pm - Marjons and 12.30pm to 4pm - Asda car park

12 March - 10am to 4pm - Tesco car park, Roborough

13 March - 10am to 4pm - B&Q, Derriford

Gypsy and Traveller Sites

Please make your comments between 31 March to 12 May 2009.

You can drop in and speak to Council Officers at the following times and venues:

Thursday 2 April - 9am to 1pm - Coypool Park and Ride

Thursday 2 April - 1.30pm to 6pm - Sainsbury's car park

Monday 20 April - 5pm to 8pm - Novotel

Friday 24 April - 10am to 4pm - Kitto Centre

Tuesday 28 April - 5pm to 8pm - Tamarside School

Monday 27 April 2pm - Full Council Meeting to adopt the Statement of Community Involvement and the Design Supplementary Planning Document

Summer 2009 City Centre and University Area Action Plan pre-submission consultation

Please note that all these events may be subject to change, please call to confirm details before attending.

Please make your comments online...

Visit the website at www.plymouth.gov.uk/ldfgetinvolved



If you would like this newsletter in an alternative format
please call 01752 305477.

Keep in touch...

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What else should be in the newsletter?

This newsletter should be useful for you
– if it's not what should it have in it?
Let us know by contacting us.

