



COUNCIL MEETING – 24 March 2026

Questions by Councillors under Council Procedure Rule 19.1

- Each questioner will have 2 minutes in which to ask their question.
- If a questioner who has submitted a question is unable to be present, the Mayor may ask the question on their behalf, or invite another Councillor to do so, or indicate that a written reply will be given and published on the website following the meeting. or decide, in the absence of the questioner, that the question will not be dealt with.
- Please note that following the response given by the Leader, a Cabinet Member or Committee Chair, the questioner may also ask a supplementary question which must arise directly out of the original reply.
- The **total** time allocated for Councillor questions will normally be limited to 40 minutes.
- Written answers will be published to questions submitted (but not supplementary questions) following the meeting.

	From Cllr:
1	White



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Question under Council Procedure Rule 19.1

QUESTION 1

From: Councillor White

To: Councillor Porter (Cabinet Member for Place and Local Plan)

The Council cannot demonstrate a 5-year supply of deliverable Gypsy and Traveller sites on adoption of the Local Plan to meet the identified accommodation needs, as stated on page 35 of the Inspector's report. In the Meon Valley currently, this unmet need has led to unauthorised development in the countryside and subsequent planning enforcement action and appeals.

The consequences for our residents have been wide-ranging: unplanned, ad hoc developments have had negative impacts on neighbours' quality of life and caused concern over environmental damage. The confidence and trust in the planning system have been undermined. These issues have exacerbated prejudice and social exclusion of Gypsy and Traveller communities.

What can be done to help ease these issues, given the lack of identifiable sites, over the life of this newly adopted Local Plan and in the next Local Plan?

Reply

Thank you for your question Cllr White.

The Inspector was content that the policies in our local plan 2040 will satisfy the need that you describe. These can be found in H12 to H18.

The NPPF makes it clear that sites for gypsies and travellers should be identified, and preferably these should be near communities rather than away from them. Our policies start with H12, a criteria based policy: sites must satisfy the criteria stated.

The other policies reflect the need to intensify use, extend or define new sites. I know in the past that another parish, specifically Denmead, has seriously considered the inclusion of sites to accommodate 1% of their housing for this purpose.

I urge all communities to consider how they could provide for this housing need in their ward and parishes : gypsies and travelers who have been an intrinsic part of the rich fabric of life in a rural district.

Indeed, there is actually a church dedicated to them and for their use at Bramdean, which may even be unique. If sites were identified before occupation, they could be better planned, at appropriate sites.