



Emailed to Members
16/9/08

**Environment and Regeneration
Directorate**

Strategy and Planning Division

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Ask for: Julian Dipper

Your Ref:

Our Ref: PP/JHD/P/RP/43

Date: As postmarked

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Dear Consultee

The South East Regional Assembly has prepared a planning framework – the "South East Plan" – for the South East Region. As well as saying how many houses should be provided and where, the Plan also has to cover places to live for Gypsies, Irish Travellers and others. The main South East Plan was well advanced when the new Gypsy and Traveller Planning Circular came out in February 2006, and so the Regional Assembly is undertaking a special "partial review" of what the Plan should say on site accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers.

On the 1st September the Regional Assembly launched a public consultation on options for its 10 year target for the number of pitches that should be provided for Gypsies and Travellers, and for Travelling Showpeople, in each local authority area. The consultation runs until the 21st November and the document "*Somewhere to Live: planning for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in the South East*" can be found at

http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/consultation_qt08.php

Options that have been drawn up by the Regional Assembly, with advice on certain aspects from the local authorities, are based on the results of four Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments (GTAA's) in the North, East and West of the County and a separate GTAA covering Sevenoaks District. They identify the number of pitches needed in each local authority area but not the location of the sites. The local councils will be responsible for identifying suitable locations through their Local Development Frameworks.

Leigh Herington
County Planning Officer

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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The local authorities in Kent will be sending their own views to the Regional Assembly but are also helping in the arrangements for consultation. There will be **three meetings** at which the Regional Assembly's representative will talk about the consultation and the options being put forward and answer questions from the settled community, Gypsies, Travellers and Showpeople; local councillors and other organisations.

The meeting arranged for your area West Kent (Ashford, Maidstone, Tonbridge & Malling, Tunbridge Wells) and Sevenoaks is at Oakwood House, Maidstone at 7pm on Monday 27th October 2008.

If you would like to come to the meeting for your area please let us know by completing and returning the fax back form enclosed.

Yours sincerely



for Leigh Herington
County Planning Officer