



HOUSE OF COMMONS

Councillor P Jackson
Leader of the Council
North East Lincolnshire Council

29 October 2019

Dear Councillor Jackson,

We write to you as the All Party Parliamentary Group on Gypsies, Travellers and Roma to share our concerns about some of the activities and comments surrounding the establishment of new Traveller site within your local authority area.

Firstly, we are encouraged to hear that North East Lincolnshire Council are looking to increase site provision, as many local authorities are falling short of their duties to meet the assessed need for pitches. Having authorised stopping places means Gypsy and Traveller families can access vital services such as healthcare and education as well as water and sanitation. Access to these crucial services and amenities is an important step towards addressing some of the stark inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller communities.

However, we were alarmed to hear of the comments made by Councillor Jane Bramley, as reported in the Lincolnshire Reporter article of 23 October; '*Warnings of "World War Three" on Grimsby estate if Travellers site goes ahead*'. The article reported Councillor Bramley said two of the proposed locations 'were "absolutely ridiculous" because they were either side of a new housing estate' adding that "If you put them on here it's going to be World War Three. There's going to be out-and-out war and there's nothing you can do to stop it." The article reported Councillor Bramley 'feared petrol bombs were already being prepared.'

We are concerned that Councillor Bramley's comments could further agitate any community tensions that exist and could lead towards inciting racial hatred. If Councillor Bramley fears there may be racially motivated violence in the form of fire bomb preparation, has this been reported to the Police?

We are sure you are aware that as Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers are defined ethnic groups protected by the Equality Act and we look to you as Leader of the Council to address any breaches of this in the handling of the proposed new Traveller site.

Yours sincerely



Janet Whitaker

Baroness Janet Whitaker and Kate Green MP
Co-Chairs, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Gypsies Travellers and Roma