

Jinder Ubhi

From: Ethics Committee OMD [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 November 2017 10:27
To: Londonplan
Cc: Mayor
Subject: Draft London Plan
Attachments: download.pdf

Dear Colleagues

I have for 12 years worked for the Showman's Guild of Great Britain on a variety of matters including Planning. I worked at the time Mayor Livingstone was drafting a Plan which was then taken over by Mayor Johnson.

Mayor Livingstone quite specifically and in accordance with the then Government Policy arranged a full London wide GTAA for Gypsies Travellers AND Travelling Showpeople with the intention of including the findings in the London Plan. Mayor Johnson when he took over omitted the findings even though they had been through a full Examination in Public.

The Guild would welcome Mayor Khan's approach apart from the fact that there is no mention of Showpeople whatsoever. Why is this? Showpeople sites are described as Plots and not pitches as they are larger needing space for the fairground vehicles. Travellers and Showpeople do not share sites for practical reasons; showpeople move vehicles in and out regularly and the family and community traditions are very different as indeed they are amongst different traveller groups who are not one homogeneous "lump". The current Government Guidance still includes a separate definition for Showpeople that whilst needing tidying up at least requires they are done. Separately!

Can you please correct this at once? We would want to see positive policies for showpeople in the draft NOW so we can comment and support. We do not want to waste this precious period banging on about this omission.

If you do not then it is certain that local authorities commissioning GTAAs may well either ignore showpeople completely or include them in an overall traveller count and this would give no useful data at all.

I attach the previous GTAA from 9 years ago and await an explanation as to why this long standing London community, many of whom are at present for the Capital's great festivals in Hyde Park Clapham Common and Crystal Palace, have been erased from your plan.

Yours faithfully

Ray Smith

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Mr Ray Smith comments

Page: [Policy H16 Gypsy and Traveller accomodation](#)

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Whilst I support the positive message in policy H16 in general there are two major aspects to which I object. The first, and main one, is that there is no reference within this policy whatsoever and frankly inexplicably to Travelling Showpeople who whilst part of the overall travelling community in some respects have separate needs which have been recognised in Government Guidance since 1991 and were fundamentally part of the previous considerations around the London Plan including the GTTSAA in 2008 to which this section refers. At that time there were 185 plots with circa 900 people living there and a need for an additional 85 for 425+ people. They have now disappeared from this report's consideration.

Showpeople living on privately owned land and many of the communities in London have been in the area for over 100 years. They provide leisure and entertainment for events large and small from Winter Wonderland to local fetes and of course many fairs in London parks where they not only entertain the public but also pay significant fees to the local authorities. They are part of all religious festivals from Christmas and Easter, Eid and Diwali, the Chinese New Year and many more. Without showpeople there would be no theme parks as these evolved from the industry and they also provide quality mobile catering and other services. Their exclusion is astonishing.

Showpeople living spaces are defined as plots to differentiate them from Pitches for other travellers. This is because a showperson's site requires space for fairground equipment adjacent to the home to protect it and space for maintenance. An average plot will be 0.5 hectares but these do vary. There have been no new sites since 2008 but some boroughs have permitted expansion of existing ones and I give praise to Bromley in particular.

The definition quoted in the 2008 survey is the one I would suggest taking that of members of an organised group of Travelling Showpeople or Circus People whether travelling together or not. They include those who may have ceased travelling either temporarily or permanently due to their changed patterns of work, or their families' health or educational needs, but excluding Gypsies and Travellers.

The omission of showpeople will even during the consultation period give difficulties for showpeople as it will indicate to local authorities and others that Showpeople are not considered to have any status in the mind of the Mayor and an early indication this will be rectified will be appreciated.

The second objection relates to Showpeople and also to Gypsies and Travellers. At the EiP of the 2010 London Plan the Panel accepted the views of the Showmen's Guild and the representatives of the Travelling Communities that need identified should not just be the responsibility of the boroughs in which the travellers lived, otherwise travellers would be effectively ghettoed in areas where they already live which is poor planning. Regional need, from neighbouring areas, should be a factor in joint working and this improves planning as land in one borough where there are no Travellers or showpeople may meet the needs of those communities nearby. Furthermore where need arises outside the GLA boundary, for instance in Thurrock where Europe's largest site for showpeople is around 250 metres from the Haringey border, should be recognised within the policy.

The land needed to meet the appalling conditions of all sections of the Travelling Community, including Showpeople, is very little and this is a "problem" that can be solved with political will and courage. The failure to include Travelling Showpeople is shocking.

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see attachment

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The policy is something I would fully support but it is important that this reflects the huge contribution made by Travelling Showpeople to the family provision of entertainment for communities in London. Funfairs and Circuses, small and large, visiting local areas bring people to their local parks for high quality value for money entertainment and also pay to local authorities significant revenue, therefore rather than subsidised festivals which are of course vital to the life blood of the Capital, they are contributing in every way. Furthermore Funfairs are now found at events celebrating the cultural diversity of London at functions such as Christmas, Diwali, Eid, Chinese New Year and many more.

Unfortunately the Draft London Plan has no reference at all to Travelling Showpeople in any section, including the vital aspect of homes where they are excluded from any mention. They should also appear in this section.

Page: [Policy HC5 Supporting London's culture and creative industries](#)

Section: [N/A](#)

Support - Sports and Recreation

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