**D**

Report to the Parish Council on

**HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN**

The draft local plan has now been released and a copy of this is available on the Harborough District Council web site.

This is a draft of the desires and aspirations of HDC and will be considered by their committee on 10th July 2017 after which date it should go out for consultation in order for Parish Councils, public bodies, organisations or individuals to make their comments.

The section with reference to Claybrooke Parva is the provision of a three pitch gypsy/traveller site on Spinney View Farm (see page 73). Other references to housing and employment are not specific to the village and although they will possible have some implications on Claybrooke Parva it may be more appropriate that each individual Parish Council makes their comments and their views, objects and comments can be supported by Claybrooke Parva Parish Council if they consider it appropriate to do so.

It is hoped at this opinion would be reciprocated by the adjacent Parish Councils as and when specific planning proposals are submitted.

The Draft Local Plan does not override any planning or building regulations so although areas have been designated they will still need planning approval (or refusal) where appropriate. Although planning applications would receive favourable consideration because they are in the five year local plan.

**Gypsy Travellers and Travelling Showpeople accommodation**

**Section H6 – Page 73 onwards.**

Section 1. Provision will be made for a minimum of 5 Gypsy Traveller permanent residential pitches and 26 plots for Travelling Showpeople.

Section 2a. Lane at Spinney View Farm, Claybrooke Parva (3 pitches) as shown on the Policies Map.

The planning criteria is that each caravan pitch may have a permanent residential caravan with a second caravan adjacent which is used for travelling purposes. The travelling van should not be use as residential when on site but experience has shown that this is rarely the case.

There is no specification on the number of motor vehicles on the site.

In the case of the proposed Claybrooke Parva site this could equate to six caravans and an unknown quantity of motor vehicles be they usable, stored or dumped.

There are a number of questions to be raised regarding the proposed Spinney View Farm site.

Section 4b. The site is in safe walking distance to a settlement that has access to a range of services including health and education provision.

*Question … Can the Primary School cope with additional children and where will the over eleven year olds attend school? Lutterworth is not in safe walking distance.*

*Can the health facilities be considered within safe walking distance of Spinney View Farm?*

Section 4c. The site reflects the scale of the nearest settlement, its local services and infrastructure.

*One shop in Ullesthorpe and the next nearest would be Palmers Garden Centre. A Public House in Claybrooke Magna.*

Section 4f. The development does not put the health and safety of occupants at risk through

1. *Unsafe Access … The existing access would need to be included in any planning application.*

*iv Flood Risk … This area is known to flood.*

No doubt local individual will highlight other criteria that cannot be met on this site.

Finally it is noticeable that HDC has chosen to bulk together Claybrooke Parva and Claybrooke Magna and refer to them collectively as ‘The Claybrookes’. The two villages have always been separate entities. Have their own Parish Councils and in an opinion poll carried out in 2012 there was overwhelming public opinion that the two Parishes should not merge into one.

 