

Colchester City Council
Rowan House, 33 Sheepen Road
Colchester, CO3 3UG
Planning Services

10th December 2025

Consultation on the Proposed
Options Local Plan

Thank you for your letter dated 26th November 2025. Having contacted Mr Hughie Smith President of the Gypsy Council of which I am an Honorary Member, he has agreed that it would be good to respond both in this capacity and also as a house dweller who has lived in Colchester for over forty five years.

I am opposed to the vast amount of houses deemed to be needed by 2041. The hymn 'Jerusalem' based on William Blake's poem 'And did those feet in ancient times' ... In England's green and pleasant land comes to mind. which describes a vision of a pure ideal England contrasting with the 'dark Satanic Mills of the industrial age. Colchester will no longer be a green and pleasant land. If the numbers are correct Colchester cannot cope with this amount of houses - roads - hospital (singular) schools, Doctors, Dentists etc. Also, we must not forget the climate which is wetter in the winter, the land absorbs the extra water and if it is built on, flooding will be a big problem as is the case at the Hythe at the moment.

Where is the backbone of Colchester City Council who have done a marvellous job in preparing this Plan under the direction of Central Government. It is time to say NO, these figures are too high and wrong.

Twenty thousand eight hundred new homes in Colchester City between 2025-2041.

Fifteen pitches for Gypsy/Traveller Community until 2041. This is a wrong assessment, the figures have been taken from the 2013-2033 Assessment - this local Plan takes us to 2041, another 8 years.

Current unauthorized developments or encampments and seeking to stay in the area - O. What a surprise as Gypsy/Traveller people who visit the area and would like to live here are moved on as quickly as possible therefore cannot be included in the numbers - this is wrong.

Colchester is working collaboratively with Tendring District Council where 7,500 houses are to be built. Garden Community.

Back to numbers

Fifteen pitches (wrong figure) up until 2041.

Eighteen pitches - Local Authority - to be included in the Garden Community

Colchester Local Plan is saying nine of these will be towards the fifteen (wrong figure) needed.

This is 50% of the pitches and we must not forget there are Local Authority pitches, but we are working collaboratively (a word I have seen used many times by Central Government with reference to the Gypsy/Traveller

Community and the settled Community,) with Tendring District Council.

Seven thousand five hundred houses in the Garden Community therefore as the Gypsy/Traveler Community is taking 50% of the eighteen pitches leaving only six to be found (wrong number) then regarding the number of houses it should be three thousand seven hundred and fifty for Colchester - a 50% split and not one thousand, seven hundred.

Two thousand houses according to the Plan in North East Essex, over three thousand seven hundred + fifty houses will cancel all this out as it is too near the border -

Salney Brook, of the Garden Community. This leaves another one thousand seven hundred + fifty houses to be subtracted from other Areas in Colchester. It cannot be one rule for one and another for another as we have heard so many times before. 50% Pitches = 50% houses.

Whilst there is a need for Local Authority Sites we must remember that our current Local Authority Site was a Replacement for the one at the Hythe, with money used from the last Labour Government to build it.

Tendring District Council was unable to provide a Local Authority Site at the same time after wasting money on Consultants who reported that there was no land available.

Whilst there is a need for Local Authority Sites, as there is for Council Houses and affordable houses, there is also

a need for land to enable Gypsy/Traveller people to live on smaller private sites. We have a choice, houses, flats etc rented private etc. There must be the same choice - Private/Rented.

I quote from a recent column by Cllr. Kevin Bentley - Leader of Essex County Council - 'it's about putting communities at the heart of decision making. Supporting neighbourhoods to shape decisions about their local areas is a key principle of our plan.'

More empty words, only time will tell.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted]

MRS C. ATKINS
Honorary Member
of
the
Gypsy Council/President

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