



**Derry City & Strabane**  
District Council

Comhairle  
**Chathair Dhoire &  
Cheantar an tSraitha Báin**

**Derry Cittie & Stràbane**  
Destrack Coouncil

Ref: EIR / 1129

29 March 2017

Email:

Dear

**Environmental Information Regulations 2004 Request Additional questions NIHRC Travellers**

I refer to your EIR request as above and respond as follows:

**Planning**

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1. In relation to Daisyfield serviced/transit please provide details of the planning permission(s):
  - a. When was the application(s) made?  
30<sup>th</sup> Oct 1986 A/1986/0723 and 11<sup>th</sup> Sept 1987 – A/1987/0568
  - b. When was the decision(s) made?  
23<sup>rd</sup> Dec 1986 and 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1988 respectively
  - c. Why was planning permission(s) granted?  
No Planning Reports Available – see copy print outs of the available info from Planning Portal
  
2. In relation to the Ballyarnett transit site please provide details of the planning permission(s):
  - a. When was the application(s) made?  
3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2006 A/2006/0059/F
  
  - b. When was the decision(s) made?  
17<sup>th</sup> May 2006

**Derry**

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- c. Why was planning permission(s) granted?  
See Report attached
3. In relation to the Greenbrae transit site please provide details of the planning permission(s):
  - a. When was the application(s) made?  
4<sup>th</sup> Dec 1989 J/1987/0291B and 12<sup>th</sup> March 1990 J/1990/0077
  - b. When was the decision(s) made?  
1<sup>st</sup> March 1990 and 31<sup>st</sup> July 1990 respectively
  - c. Why was planning permission(s) granted?  
No Planning Reports Available – see copy print outs of the available info from Planning Portal
4. In relation to the Ballyarnett grouped housing scheme please provide details of the planning permission(s):
  - a. When was the application(s) made?  
10<sup>th</sup> Oct 2005 A/2005/0978/F
  - b. When was the decision(s) made?  
28<sup>th</sup> March 2006
  - c. Why was planning permission(s) granted?  
See Report attached
5. What is the average length of time from the submission of a planning application to a decision in relation to a small bricks and mortar development (for between two and twelve dwellings) in your Council area?  
It is not possible to say an 'average time' as no two applications / sites / issues are the same – but 4 to 12 months would not be unusual, even now.
6. What is the average length of time from the submission of a planning application to a decision in relation to grouped housing in your Council area?  
It is not possible to say an 'average time' as no two applications / sites / issues are the same – but 4 to 12 months would not be unusual, even now.
7. What is the average length of time from the submission of a planning application to a decision in relation to a permanent site in your Council area?  
It is not possible to say an 'average time' as no two applications / sites / issues are the same – but 4 to 12 months would not be unusual, even now. None have been received in recent years, none by this Council.
8. What is the average length of time from the submission of a planning application to a decision in relation to a transit site in your Council area?

It is not possible to say an 'average time' as no two applications / sites / issues are the same – but 4 to 12 months would not be unusual, even now. None have been received in recent years, none by this Council.

9. What is the average length of time from the submission of a planning application to a decision in relation to an emergency halting site in your Council area?

It is not possible to say an 'average time' as no two applications / sites / issues are the same. No such applications have been received in recent years, none by this Council. Any 'emergency' application would presumably need to be expedited as far as possible – by the Council and other agencies, but this would really depend on the exceptional circumstances prevailing.

## Services

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10. In terms of waste disposal:

- a. How regularly do bins at Travellers' accommodation have to be collected?  
Council provide the following refuse collection services to all residents. An alternative weekly collection of black and blue bins.
- b. How regularly are bins at Travellers' accommodation collected?  
as above
- c. How does your Council monitor that such services are effective?  
Any bins that are properly presented for collection are emptied. Should we receive a complaint about a missed bin the matter is fully investigated by the relevant Supervisor

11. In terms of street sweeping:

- a. How regularly do areas around Travellers accommodation have to be swept?  
Once per week
- b. How regularly are the areas around Travellers accommodation swept?  
Once per week
- c. How does your Council monitor that such activity is effective?  
Street Cleaning is audited both externally by Keep Northern Ireland Tidy and by our internal compliance section.

## Evictions

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12. We are aware that a Traveller family were evicted from land on Park Road close to Strabane Cricket Club:

- a. Who owns this land?  
Derry City and Strabane District Council
- b. Who initiated the eviction?  
Council, although the party vacated the site voluntarily before any eviction proceedings commenced.
  
- c. Why were they evicted?

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A caravan was placed on the land and the individual proceeded to fence the land off and installed gates and a padlock to deny Council access to it. So far as Council could establish there was nobody residing in the caravan.

- d. Were any other public authorities involved in the eviction process?  
No
- e. When were the family given notice?  
A letter was sent to the caravan owner on the 22nd. December, 2016 asking him to take down the fence and remove the caravan within 28 days.
- f. How long was stated on the notice?  
See above
- g. When did the family vacate the land?  
On or about the 7th. February, 2017.
- h. Were any actions required to enforce the notice?  
No
- i. What measures were taken to ensure that the family were not evicted at night time or during bad weather?  
The caravan was removed voluntarily
- j. What steps were taken to consult with the family?  
Not applicable. Nobody was living in the caravan.
- k. What measures were taken to ensure that the family had reasonable alternative accommodation?  
The caravan owner was not living in the caravan and has an alternative address.

If you are dissatisfied with our response you have rights of review and appeal; these rights consist of two review processes. Firstly our internal review procedure is available by contacting:

John Kelpie  
Chief Executive  
Derry City and Strabane District Council  
98 Strand Road  
Derry BT48 7NN  
Tel 028 71253253 or email [john.kelpie@derrystrabane.com](mailto:john.kelpie@derrystrabane.com)

Secondly, you can appeal directly by contacting the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
CHESHIRE SK9 5AF  
Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or email: [casework@ico.org.uk](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk)

Yours sincerely