

# **GYPSY COUNCIL**

## **Press release – Dale Farm**

The Gypsy Council have worked behind the scenes at Dale Farm for 7 years, and the last 3 years has focused on alternative site provision.

During that time the Gypsy Council have worked with a range of agencies including the EHRC and Basildon Council itself, to find alternative sites, and we accept that all legal avenues have now been exhausted for Dale Farm.

We have put significant resources into finding alternative sites that would save Basildon Council and local tax payers a great deal of money.

The proposed eviction is a contradiction because as we all face monumental financial cutbacks, Basildon Council needs to protect their front line services, instead of using their resources to evict the residents of Dale Farm.

How many jobs does the money to be spent on the eviction represent?

Basildon Council have our planning application for Pound Lane, and we await their determination of this application. We have 2 more applications (which we have discussed with Basildon Council) on the brownfield land at Gardiner's Lane South.

On the eve of the seminar co hosted by The Gypsy Council and Basildon Council (7th April) which will highlight the HCA site delivery grant of £60 million brought in to replace former site delivery funds, we ask for time to be able to access it.

We welcome the new grant and hope some of the grant can be used to re-house Dale Farm residents, to facilitate the works needed on the potential Essex sites to replace their existing site.

So there is still a choice, either waste a huge amount of public money by continuing with the eviction of Dale Farm, or follow the pragmatic solution of providing alternatives sites for the Dale Farm residents to live.

We and the families accept that they cannot stay on land without planning permission and wish to abide by the same planning restraints that apply to everyone else.

We are not an exception and wish to be able to pursue this alternative site approach.

Gypsy Council (2010)  
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