



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Cheswick Green Parish Council
Mrs M Zizzi, Clerk to the Council
Cheswick Green Village Hall
Cheswick Way
Solihull B90 4JA

Our Ref: C.S/R.C
21st May 2018

Dear Marie,

In recent years local parish councils across the Meriden constituency have been faced with the challenge of unauthorised or illegal encampments being established on our public parks and recreation grounds. I am sure you will appreciate that these incidents cause local residents much concern and distress.

Whilst local councils, including SMBC, have made attempts to try to deter travellers from accessing publicly owned land - through the use of injunctions or by erecting fences or installing gates and ditches/mounds to act as a physical barrier - it is clear that the laws we have to protect landowners and the settled community are being exploited and need updating.

For that reason, I write to provide you with a copy of a Government consultation: '*Powers for dealing with unauthorised encampments and developments*' which details this Government's proposed changes to strengthen the laws on unauthorised and illegal traveller encampments. As one of many West Midlands MPs who have been calling for the Government to act on local concerns, I hope that you will join me in welcoming this consultation - which is the first step in the process of securing a change in the law - and that you will consider its contents and respond constructively to this document on behalf of the community.

Please do not hesitate to contact my constituency office if you have any questions with regards to this consultation, which closes on the 15th June 2018. To submit a written reply, please refer to the contact details on page 2 of the document.

You can also respond to this form online via www.gov.uk/government/consultations/powers-for-dealing-with-unauthorised-development-and-encampments. I would encourage you to share this link via any mailing lists you may have or on your website/social media.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention with regards to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Rt. Hon. Dame Caroline Spelman MP