

Comment for planning application 24/00097/F

Application Number	24/00097/F
Location	Land South Side Of Widnell Lane Piddington
Proposal	RETROSPECTIVE - Material Change of Use of land to use as a residential caravan site for 12 gypsy/traveller families, each with two caravans, including improvement of access, laying of hardstanding and installation of package sewage treatment plant
Case Officer	Jeanette Davey
Organisation Name	
Name	Alan Hopkins
Address	Elliott Cottage,33 Lower End,Piddington,Bicester,OX25 1QD
Type of Comment	Objection
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>I would like to strongly object to the proposed application 24/0097/F.</p> <p>Before my objection a question, is there a need for a Travellers site in this area? I believe Cherwell CC have sufficient provision, since the Station Road park Banbury not lose any travellers pitches, as it was never a designated travellers site. There have now been an additional 13 pitches across Cherwell in the last 18 months which already meet all G/T requirements, see 2017 GTTA. NOTE: a previous application in a different area of the same field for 6 pitches (12 caravans) 17/01962/F was only granted at appeal due to the 'perceived need' and it is important to note that the Officer fully acknowledged the unsuitability of the field site.</p> <p>My first objection is that the developer has failed to adhere to pre commencement conditions placed in a planning application (mentioned above) for a 6 caravan site which was granted under appeal. Surely this non compliance invalidates that existing planning consent and should be taken into consideration to the attitude of the developer.</p> <p>I believe Thames Valley Police Wildlife/Countryside team are investigating the illegal "filling in" of 2 natural ponds as part of this work, which didn't have permission. I am also at a loss as to why no caravans have been allotted on the granted site - surely this suggests the site is not required, but purely a commercial speculative application.</p> <p>The remote field location of the site (8.74km from Bicester services & 3.54km from a small MOD shop in Arncott, both on-the-ground measurements) contravenes both Cherwell District Council (CDC) own Policy and also the Planning Policy from Department Of Communities & Local Government (DCLG) with regards to Travellers Sites because it is well outside the 3km stipulated by Cherwell in its own plan.</p> <p>"sites will be within 3km road distance of the built-up limits of Banbury, Bicester or a Category A village." This will of course add additional traffic to and from the site on roads that are not fit for purpose.</p> <p>Piddington is a Category C village with no amenities (only a church) of only around 160 properties. The proposed site would be the largest in the district and overwhelm and dominate the area. - Application 17/01962/F which only scraped through on appeal already has 6 pitches for 12 caravans. With a conservative estimate of 4 in each caravan, Travellers will total at least 48. This represents nearly a 15% increase in population of Piddington again against the policy of Cherwell</p> <p>Inadequate Facilities and Services: - no provision for any mains electricity power - no provision for any mains water supply - no provision for main sewage connection for foul drainage even though this is stipulated as the site is prone to flooding (which has got worse since the illegal work done on the site) and thus unsuitable for any septic tanks. Therefore there is a additional concern with contaminated runoff entering local water courses</p> <p>The proposed site is now adjacent to a cement works, which is both noisy and dusty running a 24 hr operation. Regarding the noise the site is also next to a MOD firing range which has explosions, artillery noise and pyrotechnics, is this an appropriate site for families to be housed.</p> <p>Access to the site is off a national speed limit road, which is too narrow for large vehicles and trailers. Access will be gained from roads through the village which have no footpaths adding further danger to walkers especially for people walking to the Jubilee Reserve and Widnell park to exercise.</p>

When reviewing the application I would also like the committee to consider: the unsatisfactory Amenities on Site: - no provision for adequate parking spaces - no turning space - no provision for recycling storage and collection from site - no attempt to minimise noise and light pollution from the site - no details are supplied as to the "lamppost style light per pitch". As said previously this is a speculative application aimed at wearing out the application process.

I hope that the committee realise this site is not appropriate to house families and reject the application.

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Attachments