

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	Mrs S J Phillips
Address	Middle Cowleys Farm, Marsh Gibbon Road, Piddington, Bicester, OX25 1QG
Type of Comment	Objection
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>There have been various attempts by the landowner to get planning approved for this travellers site over many years. The overriding reason this should not be approved is because the landowner has not followed any of the conditions outlined in the planning applications. They have shown a blatant disregard for the law, having filled in ponds containing endangered newts and other biodiverse species in the area. They have not undertaken any of the infrastructure they were supposed to put in place and the land, once a lovely green field, has now become a dumping ground for fly tipping and waste disposal. What is more this is a speculative project based on profit and not on actual need.</p> <p>My other main objects are below:</p> <p>TOTAL DISREGARD FOR THE RULES AND REGULATIONS On October 29th, 2019, Planning Inspector, Mr Richard Clegg (BA Hons) DMS MRTPI, under reference APP/C3105/W/18/3209349, approved on appeal for 6 Gypsy pitches each with 2 caravans, to be sited in a field within the Parish of Piddington. The original application had been made to Cherwell District Council under reference 17/01962/F, originally dated 22.9.2017. But was withdrawn on several occasions. Mr. Clegg laid down a schedule of conditions with a proviso that no development should take place until a site development scheme had been submitted in writing and approved in writing by the local planning officer (Cherwell District Council CDC). To date no such application scheme has been made or approved. Recently work began at the site. Hard core was laid over both adjoining fields, two wildlife ponds which housed Great Crested Newts were filled in and two large mobile homes moved into place. A CDC Enforcement officer visited the site and stopped work immediately as no permission had been granted or applied for under the appeal terms. The Gypsies have demonstrated a total disregard of the planning officer's conditions.</p> <p>THE NEED FOR NEW PITCHES - OR LACK OF IT! The appeal was given on the grounds of 'Need'. In April 2020, the same applicant under Cherwell Reference 20/01122/F applied for change of use to 12 Gypsy pitches; an additional 6 pitches to those that had already been approved, at the same location. This application was refused by the Planning Committee by Cherwell on October 15th, 2020. Papers presented at that meeting was a document prepared by Cherwell's Senior Manager Planning Policy, Conservation & Design (Ms Heather Seale dated 13/8/20). This stated that Cherwell had sufficient supply of pitches, as assessed, and confirmed by the latest data and information. Despite this, since 2019, 13 new pitches have been allowed. The number of pitches in Cherwell District Council according to Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government count, dated January 2020, showed that there were 111 pitches, with an additional 13 added since.</p> <p>DIFFERENT NAME, YET SAME PERSON In July 2020, a new application was submitted for 6 gypsy pitches (20/01747/F) in the same field, under a different name. This application was refused by the planning committee on 15/10/20. In fact, this and the previous applications were heard on the same day by the planning committee, they were aware that 6 pitches on same field had already been approved. This case (20/01747/F is this appeal reference). The first applicant in 2017, was a Mr Foster. He indicated at the appeal hearing he was not</p>

intending to live on this site. He lives in a static home in Kingham Oxfordshire, 30 miles away. This home has 5 acres of land and is in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). He is of Romany birth.

At the hearing the Planning Officer asked who were going to be residing on this site and where were they coming from? Mr Foster could not answer the question, because he had no idea. These plots would be going to the highest bidders.

In His original application document dated 17/1/2017, under Certificate of Ownership Certificate B he gives the details of a Graham Legge, 36 Wensum Crescent, Bicester, Oxon OX26 2GL.

Mr L Sweeney the subject of this application and appeal, in his original document he gives the same address as Mr Legge. This address in Bicester is a nice semi-detached house, surround by all the facilities offered by a large town. Something doesn't quite ring true here. Mr Foster made his appeal against the refusal on his application (20/01122/F) for 6 pitches, the appeal was now asking for a further 6 pitches to be considered. Making a total application of 12 pitches. They are all in this scheme together.

DISPROPORTIONATE AND OVERWHELMING FOR A SMALL CATEGORY C VILLAGE

Piddington could, if all the appeals go in favour of the gypsies, end up with 24 gypsy pitches being approved. That would be 48 caravans. If each caravan holds 4 people (a conservative estimate) that would be an extra 192 people in the village. This represents an increase in population of 45% or more over the present Piddington population. Piddington has no facilities or infrastructure other than a Village Hall and a Church: There are no bus services, no shops, and no amenities.

These applications are purely the work of speculators interested in running a commercial venture, there is no known genuine need. Mr Foster's legal representative at the appeal, was brazen enough to state that pitches change hands for 100,000 plus each. The field was bought for 46,000.

The thought of two gypsy clans running a commercial operation in the same field, using the same entrance and exit is fraught with danger, both within the site and outside it.

The 6 original appeal pitches that have been granted are as much as this location and site could accommodate safely, and not overwhelm the village.

Incidentally this appeal site relates to part of the field which has a very high electricity voltage pylon in it.

SMOKE AND MIRRORS

These additional applications are intended to be confusing; the use of different names is a cover for the fact that they are from the same people, and they are using all possible options to get their original 2017 application for 16 pitches approved. By going for 24 pitches, they are banking on the planning inspector allowing 16 to be eventually approved.

There is no 'need' to grant any more than the original 6 pitches that were granted by Mr Richard Clegg. There is no 'need' because since then at least 13 additional pitches have been approved by Cherwell District Council. Clearly our small rural village could not sustain such a large influx of new residents.

The gypsy communities' human rights have been acknowledged by the granting of the 6 pitches. The residents of Piddington also have basic human rights; to live a private, family life, something that could not be sustained by such a large and overwhelming increase in the population.

Piddington is not part of the Cherwell Plan, there has not been, or currently is, any plans to include it in any housing schemes. This is due to its isolated location and lack of infrastructure. Residents of any sort cannot be accommodated.

The final question is. Who or where are these new residents for these sites coming from? No one knows. Probably from sites that are already in existence. So, there is no need.

Received Date

16/02/2024 13:58:40

Attachments