

 Greenlands
Sole St
Cobham
Kent
DA12 3AT

13 September 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Traveller site application White Post Lane Cobham/Meopham

I write with reference to the recent planning application which was featured in the recent edition of the Gravesend & Dartford Messenger.

I wish to register my objection to the planning application to change or extend the land use to a gypsy/traveller site. I write to ask the Council to reject the application.

My objections are as follows.

I believe the current occupier of the site has been flouting the restrictions on the land use permissions that were given when use of the land was first authorised by the Council. A temporary set of buildings for the overseeing and welfare of horses has now become a substantial brick built dwelling, with many outbuildings, a built driveway and walls. This has now become a permanent and established residential dwelling. This is, I believe, contrary to the original permissions; I believe all to be illegal. This then has already been a flouting of regulations. It is very disappointing that the Council has not taken action over this.

Recently, December 2024, a mobile home has been installed illegally on the site. I wrote to Gravesham Council about this at the time (letter dated 27/12/24). In order to install this mobile home the whole of White Post Lane up to the entrance onto the site was decimated. Trees cut down, branches, logs and other vegetation just left everywhere. An absolute disgrace; absolutely no regard for the environment or for the local people who used this road. These actions were totally premeditated as the necessary chainsaws, vehicles and other equipment were to hand to allow the mobile home the access it needed. What was once a lovely rural lane was devastated. The owners of the land on either side of White Post Lane then had to clear up the fallen trees and vegetation at their own expense. There was total disregard for the environment and the local residents.

The installation on the mobile home flagrantly flouted the Council's restrictions on the land use. The actions needed to get the mobile home in took no regard or consideration for the local environment, the adjacent land owners or the local people.

It is indeed very disappointing that the Council's original decision was rejected by the Planning Inspector in the latest appeal. This indeed does seem to open a door for the further development of the land as a traveller site. I urge the council to reject the current application as this could open up the whole of the land in that area as a traveller encampment. I fear that the travellers are going ahead with the development of the site irrespective of what the result of the application will be.

Some years ago the same scenario played out. This site was established to house horses and then late suddenly occupied by a dozen or more traveller families in mobile homes who set up residency. Again, they destroyed the vegetation along White Post Lane, then illegally accessed water and electric supplies. It took many many years and many appeals and legal processes before the Council was able to eject them. I fear this current application is just the starting process in a longer-term and different strategy to re-establish this much larger gypsy/traveller site. There were many problems at the time for the local communities as a result of this larger traveller community.

White Post Lane is only a narrow single-track road with very limited availability for passing. The vehicles mainly used by the travellers are wide flat-back trucks, vehicles for transporting horses as well as caravans, small flatbed trucks for their waste collection work, much larger vehicles when moving sheds, portacabins etc. These will have a detrimental impact on the sides of the roads and the vegetation along the roadside. All these vehicles plus the cars will cause an increase in vehicular usage along White Post Lane, the level of which it is not built for.

I ask that you will take into consideration the above points in your deliberations and reject the application.

I also urge the Council to take action on all the illegal work that has already been done on that site

Yours faithfully

