

22 November 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

Your ref: Planning application 20250764

I write with reference to the above planning application.

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

My objections are as follows.

The current occupier of the site has been flouting the restrictions on the land use permissions 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.

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.

The installation of 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.

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. As I feared this current application is the starting process in a longer-term 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.

More recently, as the Council is well aware, another unit was brought in and White Post Lane was blocked for two days. Again the natural vegetation along the road was decimated in order for the unit to be able to access the land. More devastation to what was once a lovely country lane.

The current application will only further lead to the further degradation of the environment along and around White Post Lane. The proposed 8 homes will probably mean that there will be 2 cars, a caravan and a truck or lorry to each home. This will mean a much increased traffic flow along WPL which is only single track. Passing will be a severe problem and inevitably lead to a further enforced widening of the carriageway and more destruction of the natural habitat. Also this is going to have an impact on those Sole St residents who would normally use this route.

How are all the services going to be provided? Water; electricity? Previously it was taken illegally. What about rubbish – not only the normal collection services provided by the Council but the rubbish and detritus that normally collects around traveller sites, which in turn will have a negative impact on the local rural environment changing the whole nature of the area.

The current occupants have not taken any consideration of the environment, the local population or Gravesham Council in their actions in relation to this site so far so why should breaking the law be retrospectively be given the green light? By the time this application is assessed the travellers will have gone ahead with their occupation anyway. As happened previously and then it took years for the Council to get them evicted. The Council should already have taken action against the initial occupant.

I therefore ask that this application be rejected. Any contravention or flouting of the law that has already occurred be refused and not legitimised. Any illegal occupation be removed and any illegal land change be restored.

