

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
COUNCIL HELD ON 28 SEPTEMBER 2023

Agenda Item 2

STATEMENT from Ms Kerry Andrews, Executive Director of the LEVEL Centre, Old Station Close, Rowsley.

"I am writing to you from the LEVEL Centre to raise a matter that is once again being discussed at a meeting at the end of this month regarding traveller site proposals. The Old station Close / Station Road car park and land in Rowsley is once again under consideration.

This proposal is very concerning for us. LEVEL is an award winning arts centre working with Learning Disabled people and disabled creatives based on Old Station Close. It is the main car park used by audiences, visitors and participants. When the planning permission was granted for the building it outlined that LEVEL would use this car park as our car parking facilities are limited at LEVEL with only three parking spaces, two of which are for disabled parking in our courtyard. This does not provide sufficient parking for our staff, participants and visitors and Old Station Close car park is used as an overflow. This proposal could have a significant impact on our business model and people wanting to attend and visit LEVEL. It should be noted that this car park is also used as our Fire Assembly point as it is the safest location near to where we are located.

We would welcome support in challenging this proposal that will impact on parking for our users, audiences and our place in the visitor economy."

STATEMENT and from Mr Gary Quittenton-Shaw, Local Resident

"Dear Rowsley Parish Council & Members of Derbyshire Dales Council

Could you please circulate this email to all Council Members for consideration

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to express my deep concerns and strong recommendations regarding the proposed establishment of a permanent traveller site in our village of Rowsley

As a concerned resident and local Business Owner, I feel it is crucial to outline several factors in the Councils interest that makes our village unsuitable for such a development.

To begin, I would like to emphasise the frequent flooding that occurs at the proposed site where the River Wye meets the River Derwent. It's a 'bottleneck' of two great rivers meeting together and floods frequently occur.

This area is well-known for its susceptibility to flooding and is officially recognised as a flood awareness zone by the Environment Agency

If you remember Annie Hall, the Former High Sherriff of Derbyshire tragically lost her

life in 2019 only 300 metres from the proposed site due to flooding in that area. This tragedy was covered by the National Press and put Rowsley in the 'spotlight' for the wrong reasons, I cannot believe you are now proposing to put Travellers at the same risk settling them in a well-known flooding spot.

I feel it would be highly irresponsible for the council to consider locating a permanent site in this area prone to flooding. Not only would this endanger the travellers themselves, but it would also put the entire community at risk during periods of heavy rainfall or severe weather events.

When floods occur in Rowsley, all the Village comes together to help others, putting our own personal safety at risk, By locating Travellers in that area (please remember there are no houses in that area for a reason) you are putting locals at risk who will go to help the travellers during times of flooding.

Furthermore, our village suffers from several existing infrastructure issues that would only be exacerbated by the establishment of a permanent traveller site.

The closure of Caudwell's Mill has already resulted in a significant reduction in available car parking spaces for tourists visiting our village, putting pressures on available places for Tourists to park.

You are proposing a site situated on our last remaining "free" car parking area, it would exacerbate the parking challenges and cause nuisance for local residents and businesses. This would have a detrimental impact on the overall well-being and economic vitality of our village.

Furthermore, I would also like to draw your attention to the issue of policing in our village. Currently, we do not have any permanent officers stationed here, and response times from nearby towns such as Bakewell or Matlock can be lengthy.

This not only endangers the traveller's but also puts the vulnerable residents of Rowsley, many of whom are elderly and living alone, at risk. Adding a permanent traveller site without addressing these policing concerns would only compound the existing safety issues within our community.

Please also bear in mind the busy A6 road that runs through our village already poses significant traffic issues and safety concerns. By introducing additional vehicles and congestion from a permanent site would further compromise the safety and accessibility of our roads, placing residents, travellers, and other road users at increased risk.

Moreover, the uneven pavements throughout our village create a hazardous environment for pedestrians and cyclists. This issue is particularly concerning for older residents and those with mobility challenges. The proposed site would not address or alleviate this existing concern, further compromising the safety and well-being of both residents and travellers.

Also In addition, the lack of street lights in Rowsley during the evening poses a significant safety risk for all residents and visitors. As autumn approaches and

daylight hours diminish, the absence of proper lighting makes evening walks treacherous around the village due to slippery conditions because of fallen leaves settling on uneven pavements that have been neglected and left unrepaired and cleaned by the council for years. This has been an ongoing problem and is an unsafe environment for both residents and travellers alike.

Considering these compelling reasons, I strongly urge the local council to reconsider the establishment of a permanent traveller site in our village. It is essential to prioritise the safety, well-being, and quality of life for all residents, including travellers. I kindly request that alternative locations, unburdened by the aforementioned concerns, be thoughtfully considered for the betterment of our community and any new residents regardless of their background as a whole.

For your information, I reserve the right to call upon this email should you decide to go ahead and create a permanent traveller site in that location, if heaven forbid anything happens to a resident or traveller as a result of the above being ignored, I will send this email to the press that the Council were pre-warned of the problems in selecting the car park in Rowsley for this location, it is ill-suited or equipped to cope.

I sincerely appreciate your attention to these critical matters and trust that you will make the right decisions that align with the best interests of our village and its residents, more importantly the travellers themselves, they have spent Years dispersed, I think a more suitable protected area that has better amenities, infrastructure without flooding risk, would make more sense and will demonstrate that a proper site evaluation process has been investigated by the Council, instead of a 'short sighted' 'quick fix' that not only has the risk of "embarrassing" the Council and its members, but more importantly risk the health and well-being of the travellers themselves, along with the residents of Rowsley

If you require any further information or would like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your understanding and consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Gary Quittenton-Shaw”

STATEMENT from Mr Matthew Pett, Local Resident

“As a employee of a business at Station Yard I have very serious concerns over the consideration of locating a travellers site in the carpark of the same location. These issues and concerns must be addressed at the meeting on Monday 25rh this month. Please share this email with Paul Wilson chief exec DDDC.

Kind Regards

Matthew Pett”

STATEMENT from Ms Cally Marriott, Ashbrook Roofing

“Good Afternoon

I understand that there are talks in regards to travellers being moved back to Old Station Close Car Park Rowsley.

I am writing to object to the proposal due to the impact this will have on the car parking facilities for the businesses opposite and for the people who use the cycle track and that the Car Park has previously used and was deemed unsuitable.

I give consent for this information to be shared with all councillors and also Paul Willson Chief Executive.

Many Thanks & Kind Regards

Cally Marriott”

STATEMENT from Ms Ali Twells, Ashbrook Roofing

“Good Afternoon

I understand that there are talks to move some travellers to the council carpark at Station Close, Rowsley in due course.

I am writing to object to this proposal due to the impact this will have on the ability to park in the car park due to limited space, and also from a safety point of view for people returning to their car in the dark, especially with the nights drawing in. Also I have concerns about my car being left unattended during the day, that may be damaged/stolen.

There are many people who use the cycle path leading into the carpark, who will be adversely affected if this becomes a traveller site, of which I am one of them, and who will uncomfortable going into the carpark.

I give consent for this information to be shared with all councillors and also Paul Wilson, Chief Executive.

Regards

Ali Twells”

STATEMENT from Ms Clare Ashbrook, Ashbrook Roofing

“Dear Committee,

I would like to object to the proposed Travellers Site at Station Yard, Rowsley for numerous reasons as listed below.

1. *Economic reasons - all the businesses in Station Yard are still fighting to make a profit after the very hard impact of Covid which has affected each business dramatically. The businesses at Station Yard employ local people and the impact a Travellers site will have on the businesses will be drastic as customers have shown in the past that they will not leave their cars close to the Travellers site, also when the Travellers were at Station Yard last time they took over the whole car park, not leaving visitors to Rowsley, businesses or their customers anywhere to park.*
2. *Safety - Last time the travellers were present on the site some aggression was shown to the Businesses, employees, and visitors at Station Yard and some offensive and inappropriate behaviour was reported coming from the Travellers Site.*
3. *Environmental - The site and surrounding area were also littered with faeces and toilet paper, making the beautiful woods a no-go area for locals and walkers. I also believe a huge amount of rubbish was left for the council to take care of after the Travellers left previously.*
4. *Just because this site is tucked in a corner and away from site of the road, doesn't mean it won't impact the lives and businesses of people who live and work in Rowsley. We have already witnessed what happened last time and again no thought or common sense is being put into the decision to possibly use this site.*

The Locals and Businesses of Rowsley are owed a DUTY OF CARE by the Council too, so that the Councils decision will not impact on our lives or livelihoods.

Yours sincerely ,

Clare Ashbrook”

STATEMENT from Ms Sian Bacon, Rowsley Parish Council

“Dear Committee,

Rowsley Parish Council wish to express their concerns regarding the situation with the Travellers that is once again up for discussion by the District Council. This issue has appeared time and again with no resolution. Ultimately these families are homeless due to the lack of action by the District Council over the last twenty years to provide them with a proper managed site.

Although we recognise the need for a site for the two families that have declared themselves homeless within the Derbyshire Dales, we do not think that Old Station Close in Rowsley is a suitable place for them. Rowsley is a small village and the car park is essential to our local business on the Industrial Estate as well as to tourists using the Derwent Valley Heritage Way, Cycle Trail and numerous walks through the National Park to Chatsworth, Bakewell, Stanton Moor and Haddon Hall that start in the village. This car park is full of cars all day every day. The contemporary arts

centre, The Level was located on Old Station Close because of the essential amenity of the car park close by.

Rowsley is a small village and the impact of forcing a Traveller site on its residents and businesses is therefore disproportionate. In addition, when travellers stayed in Rowsley in the past, there was no enforcement of the rules established for the site. Several anti-social behaviour incidents occurred. These incidents include aggressive and intimidating behaviour from individuals towards staff members of local businesses and users of the car park as well as defecation on the Derwent Heritage Way which exits onto the car park. The constant barking of the dogs chained up outside 24/7 and shouting in the early morning disturbed local residents and guests staying at the Grouse & Claret pub which is located opposite the site. After the Travellers left the Old Station Road car park, enormous levels of rubbish remained, which was finally cleared by local volunteers several months afterwards, NOT by the District Council team.

When they last left Rowsley the Travellers expressed their reluctance to return to the village, which was highlighted in an article by the Derbyshire Times. They have expressed their wish to be placed near Ashbourne due to family ties. The Old Station Road car park is not private, quiet, or near necessary facilities. There are much better spaces around the Matlock to Bakewell areas than a well-used car park in the centre of a small village that is essential to local businesses and visitors alike.

Finally we would like to point out that due to the illegal dereliction of duty of the District Council to provide proper permanent sites for Travellers in the area at the very least the undesignated temporary sites should be properly managed. All issues should either be anticipated with a level of risk assessment or resolved promptly when they occur. All sites should be returned to a spotless condition shortly after the Travellers have moved or been moved to an alternative site. The historic failure of the District Council to manage these sites effectively has created bad feeling which has led to residents around the Derbyshire Dales being opposed to Traveller sites entirely. This is deeply unfair to both the Travellers and the residents. If sites had been properly managed from the beginning much of the bad feeling would not have occurred.

Yours sincerely,

Sian Bacon

Clerk to the Parish Council

STATEMENT from Mr David Slater, Owners of Tyre Specialist, Rowsley

“We are the owners of Tyre specialist, unit 3 old station yard Rowsley and have operated from these premises since June 2000 I strongly object to the proposal to grant permission for a Traveller site on the car park at Old Station Close, Rowsley.

Our objection is based, not only on the anticipated impact on our business, our employees, our customers and the surrounding area, but also on real experience and proven outcomes following the previous occupation of this car park, by Travellers, for over a year. The grounds for our objections are as follows;

Security of Premises and Vehicles

Our premises are situated in a hollow between the A6 and the car park. The building and any vehicles parked on our premises cannot be easily seen from the road or the footpath alongside the car park.

In the event of permission being granted for the Traveller site we would need to invest in additional security for the premises in order to satisfy our customers that their vehicles are safe whilst in our care.

During the period that the Travellers were living on the car park we caught them trying car doors on a number of occasions and also found children in the back of an unlocked van.

The children of the Travellers would also use the steep ramp into the Station Close as a cycle racing track causing health and safety issues to themselves, our customers and our employees.

We would seek to recoup the cost of the additional security from the Council.

Anti-Social Behaviour

The previous occupation of the site by Travellers confirmed and reinforced the anticipated anti-social behaviour and its impact on the local community, businesses and visitors to the area.

The Council had provided toilet facilities for the Travellers but these were thrown down the bank. The Travellers proceeded to defecate and urinate on the footpaths surrounding the area. This was often done in full view of our customers, local residents and visitors including children who would then tread in the mess which, on occasions, had been covered with foliage.

The demeanour of the Travellers was often threatening. Shouting and excessive swearing was common. The Travellers also had a number of dogs which were constantly barking and intimidating passers-by.

The car park and surrounding area became an eyesore with rubbish everywhere which the council had to remove.

TC Harrison Ltd who own land in the area have security footage of some of the behaviour described.

If permission is granted for the Traveller site, then we are very concerned that we will be subject to the same anti-social behaviour that we experience previously and that had such an impact on ourselves, our business and the wider community.

Loss of Car Parking

This is the only public car park in Little Rowsley. It is used by visitors to the area, our employees and our customers. We employ 4 members of staff who all need to use this car park. Our customers also park there prior to us being ready to start work on their vehicles.

The car park is fully utilised on most occasions. It is at the start of the footpath following the old Rowsley to Matlock railway line which is a popular tourist attraction in the area.

It is also the designated car park for the Level Centre in the Station Yard. I understand that this parking facility was a consideration in granting planning permission for the Level Centre as they only have parking available on site for disabled drivers.

Loss of Business and Local Employment

The previous occupation of the site by Travellers led to a downturn in our business and we had no option but to let one member of staff go. We also had to shelve plans to take on an apprentice. We were then hit by the impact of Covid and had to work very hard to build up the business again. This has now begun to pay off and we have been able to employ 2 more staff.

There is a shortage of qualified motor mechanics and we need to be recognised as a preferred place to work in order to attract and retain the best staff. Lack of parking and the impact of the anti-social behaviour demonstrated above would have a negative effect on this.

We were considering employing a further mechanic and/or apprentice but this has had been put on hold until we know the outcome of this proposal.

We are very concerned that all our efforts will now be undermined if this proposal goes ahead as it will once again bring about in a loss of business as a result of;

- Customer confidence in security of their vehicles*
- Customer reluctance to be in that area*
- Loss of experience staff to other employers with resulting impact of loss of skill and cost of re-training*
- Additional cost of security*
- Lack of parking facilities*

If permission is given for this Traveller site, then we would vigorously pursue a financial claim for any loss of business resulting from this decision.”

STATEMENT from Mr Will Watkins, Owners of TW Auto Engineers Ltd, Rowsley

“We are the owners of TW Auto Engineers Ltd and have operated from premises in Station Yard, Rowsley since 2003.

We strongly object to the proposal to grant permission for a Traveller site on the car park at Old Station Close, Rowsley.

Our objection is based, not only on the anticipated impact on our business, our employees, our customers and the surrounding area, but also on real experience and proven outcomes following the previous occupation of this car park, by Travellers, for over a year.

The grounds for our objections are as follows;

Security of Premises and Vehicles

Our premises are situated in a hollow between the A6 and the car park. The building and any vehicles parked on our premises cannot be easily seen from the road or the footpath alongside the car park.

In the event of permission being granted for the Traveller site we would need to invest in additional security for the premises in order to satisfy our customers that their vehicles are safe whilst in our care.

During the period that the Travellers were living on the car park we caught them trying car doors on a number of occasions and also found children in the back of an unlocked van.

The children of the Travellers would also use the steep ramp into the Station Close as a cycle racing track causing health and safety issues to themselves, our customers and our employees.

We would seek to recoup the cost of the additional security from the Council.

Anti-Social Behaviour

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The Council had provided toilet facilities for the Travellers but these were thrown down the bank. The Travellers proceeded to defecate and urinate on the footpaths surrounding the area. This was often done in full view of our customers, local residents and visitors including children who would then tread in the mess which, on occasions, had been covered with foliage.

The demeanour of the Travellers was often threatening. Shouting and excessive swearing was common. The Travellers also had a number of dogs which were constantly barking and intimidating passers-by.

The car park and surrounding area became an eyesore with rubbish everywhere which the council had to remove.

TC Harrison Ltd who own land in the area have security footage of some of the behaviour described.

If permission is granted for the Traveller site, then we are very concerned that we will be subject to the same anti-social behaviour that we experience previously and that had such an impact on ourselves, our business and the wider community.

Loss of Car Parking

This is the only public car park in Little Rowsley. It is used by visitors to the area, our employees and our customers. We employ 6 members of staff who all need to use this car park. Our customers also park there prior to us being ready to start work on their vehicles.

The car park is fully utilised on most occasions. It is at the start of the footpath following the old Rowsley to Matlock railway line which is a popular tourist attraction in the area.

It is also the designated car park for the Level Centre in the Station Yard. I understand that this parking facility was a consideration in granting planning

permission for the Level Centre as they only have parking available on site for disabled drivers.

Loss of Business and Local Employment

The previous occupation of the site by Travellers led to a downturn in our business and we had no option but to let one member of staff go. We also had to shelve plans to take on an apprentice. We were then hit by the impact of Covid and had to work very hard to build up the business again. This has now begun to pay off and we have been able to employ 2 more staff.

There is a shortage of qualified motor mechanics and we need to be recognised as a preferred place to work in order to attract and retain the best staff. Lack of parking and the impact of the anti-social behaviour demonstrated above would have a negative effect on this. We were considering employing a further mechanic and/or apprentice but this has had been put on hold until we know the outcome of this proposal.

We are very concerned that all our efforts will now be undermined if this proposal goes ahead as it will once again bring about in a loss of business as a result of;

- *Customer confidence in security of their vehicles*
- *Customer reluctance to be in that area*
- *Loss of experience staff to other employers with resulting impact of loss of skill and cost of re-training*
- *Additional cost of security*
- *Lack of parking facilities*

If permission is given for this Traveller site, then we would vigorously pursue a financial claim for any loss of business resulting from this decision.

** images available upon request."*

STATEMENT from Ms Christine McGuinness, on behalf of James and Joanne Harrison, Wyebridge House, Rowsley

"I am writing with permission on behalf of James & Joanne Harrison of Wyebridge House, School Lane, Rowsley as they are currently on holiday and not due back until this Friday.

Mr & Mrs Harrison have instructed me to lodge the strongest possible complaint and objection to the possibility that the Car Park on Old Station Road, Rowsley may be used as a temporary site for Travellers and under no circumstances would this ever be acceptable to them.

Could you please accept this email as their objection, and you have permission for this to be used in the next full Council meeting scheduled 28th September.

Thank you and kind regards."

STATEMENT from Ms Helen Grosvenor, Rowsley Local Resident

“As per my objections listed below, I strongly believe that a postponement of the discussion regarding the site in Rowsley is not adequate it needs to be made clear to all concerned residents and travellers alike that the proposals have been withdrawn and the sites taken out of the equation permanently.

I am writing to express deep concerns regarding the proposed establishment of a permanent site for travellers in Rowsley.

As a resident and business owner I feel there are several factors that makes Rowsley village unsuitable for such a development.

- 1. The proposed site is susceptible to frequent flooding as recognised by the environment agency. If you are aware of this as I am sure you are, why would you propose to settle people in a spot notorious for flooding.*
- 2. Rowsley suffers from several infrastructure issues which would only be exacerbated by the establishment of a permanent traveller site.*
- 3. The closure of Caudwells Mill has resulted in a significant reduction in available parking spaces for tourists visiting our village. You are proposing to establish the site on our last remaining free parking area. This could have a detrimental impact on the economic well being of our village.*
- 4. Policing, our nearest permanent officers are stationed at Matlock and Bakewell and response times can be lengthy, adding a permanent traveller site without addressing these concerns would only compound safety issues within our community.*
- 5. The site entrance is directly off the main A6 which runs through the village, it already has significant traffic issues, by increasing the number of vehicles this place's residents, travellers, and other road users at an increased risk.*

I strongly ask the council to reconsider the establishment of a permanent site in Rowsley.

It is extremely important to consider the safety, wellbeing and quality of life for all residents including travellers. I respectfully ask that alternative locations be considered as I believe that the car park in Rowsley is ill-suited and unequipped to cope. An area with better amenities would make more sense.”

STATEMENT from Mr Jim Styles, Managing Director of Brosterfield Engineering Services Ltd

“Derbyshire Dales council / Rowsley Parish Council.

We are shocked that we have herd rumours that the council may be considering returning the traveller family to the car park in Rowsley.

The possibility of this happening would have massive consequences on our business to the extent this action by the council would put jobs at risk.

The last time the travellers were in the car park, we experienced several issues noted below.

- 1. As a company our turnover at Peak Tractors dropped by over 25% because many of the farmers who are our customers did not want their equipment we were working on leaving overnight in our yard because of the possible security risk.*
- 2. The extra congestion caused by the public not parking in the car park and parking on the estate road caused issues with delivery trucks not being able to safely enter the estate and make their delivery and also the extra congestion caused several very unsafe near misses to the public and cyclists.*
- 3. On several occasions the male members of the family were very aggressive towards our employees as they tried to carry out their work.*
- 4. At great expense we had to fit security cameras and we witnessed on several occasions the younger members of the family looking through our gates at the equipment at night time & weekends.*
- 5. The council provided the travellers with toilet facilities of which many of the travellers refused to use and would use the side of the footpath and river bank to carry out their toilet functions on the side of the footpath and river bank Human excrement and toilet roll were found in several places, this was witnessed by one of my employees as was one of the older ladies from the traveller family carried out her toilet function down the river bank.*
- 6. The council spent a considerable amount of money up grading the foot path and cycle way and as soon as the traveller's occupied the car park the use of the footpath and carpark disappeared over night to nearly zero and should the travellers move back again the public will once again stop using the footpath and car park.*
- 7. Old Station Close is a very busy little industrial estate and we have very little room as it is now and all the businesses have grown since the travellers were last here and space is at a premium as it is now and it would be very unsafe to everyone including our employees, the public and the travellers as there is not enough room to accommodate everyone together safely.*

IF THIS ACTION BY DERBYSHIRE DALES COUNCIL GOES AHEAD JOBS WOULD BE LOST FROM BUSINESS ON OLD STATION CLOSE ROWSLEY.

I Give permission for this letter to be shared with all councillors and also Paul Wilson Chief Executive."

STATEMENT from Mr J R Harrison, Chairman T. C. Harrison Group Limited

"TC Harrison have operated from Wyebridge Garage, Old Station Close, Rowsley, DE4 2EL for nearly 20 years and we are very disturbed to hear that a Gypsy and Traveller Settlement is proposed at the car park 150 metres away from our front entrance.

We would like to lodge the strongest objection to this and to state that the settlement in this location is not acceptable to us.

In previous periods of Gypsy/Traveller settlement in Rowsley we experienced several incidents where excrement and rubbish were deposited on the perimeter of our property and many occasions of rowdy noise pollution with an unsettling threatening air. In addition, access to premises was obstructed by the parking of vehicles from or visiting the settlement. If rules were in place for this previous occupation, it is clear that they were not adhered to and the site effectively managed, in this respect we are deeply concerned of the Council's experience in managing such a site in a village location.

The use of the car park removes an amenity for local residents and visitors to local businesses. This would be of particular concern in summer months with the influx of tourism to the area. We would also ask the Council to consider any environmental damage the settlement may cause and impact on the nearby river.

We go to great lengths to protect and maintain continuity of our business and to keep our law-abiding staff in safe employment. We feel that this proposed settlement would undermine this.

We also feel that it seems that proposals for the settlement at the Rowsley site have been formulated in a hasty and non-transparent way and it is not clear why proposals for alternative sites have been rejected.

Could you please accept this emailed letter as our strongest objection to this proposal, and you have permission for this letter to be used as a formal objection in the next full Council meeting scheduled 28th September.

I can confirm that permission is given for this letter to be circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting and to Paul Wilson and other officers of Derbyshire Dales District Council.

Yours sincerely

JR Harrison

Chairman”

STATEMENT from Ms Jo-Anne Wildgoose, Rowsley Local Resident

“Please share this email with ALL councillors and also Paul Wilson Chief Executive of Derbyshire Dales District Council.

I wish to register my objection to the proposed temporary traveller site at the Old station Close car park in Rowsley.

The site was not suitable in the past and is not suitable now.

The car park is well used by Residents, Rowsley School, Walkers, Cyclists and all the businesses near by.

DDDC left this site in a disgusting state after the travellers were there last time.

This site is not suitable.

Mrs Jo-Ann Wildgoose”

STATEMENT from Mr Daniel Jones, Rowsley Local Resident

“Good evening,

Please forward this email to all councillors and Paul Wilson - Chief Executive.

I would like to place on record my strong objection to the proposed travellers site in Rowsley village - the old station car park.

Rowsley is a picturesque Derbyshire Dales village bordering on the Peak District, with huge volumes of cars travelling through the village each day, with its road links to Bakewell, Chatsworth and Matlock. A proposed travellers site would be an eyesore to members of the public, a nuisance to locals and not to mention a heightened security risk, as inevitably crime levels WILL increase.

As a new homeowner in Rowsley, I can imagine this site would have a direct impact on house prices, as a travellers site less than a minute away from the front door would put off any prospective buyers in the future, however discreet the site may be.

The Peak Village shopping centre is almost across the road from the proposed site and is receiving significant investment to draw people in from outside the local area. This would be wasted if a travellers site were to be placed almost opposite the shops, as people would be put off coming to visit. This then inevitably snowballs into decreased footfall which directly affects the livelihood of local people.

I speak on behalf of the residents of Rowsley who are both alarmed and disappointed that such a site could be placed in Rowsley - minutes away from the Chatsworth estate and the picturesque town of Bakewell.

I urge this proposal to be reconsidered and taken elsewhere, to not ruin a beautiful village.

Kind regards

Daniel Jones “

STATEMENT from Mr Richard Bean, Managing Director, Natural Stone Sales Ltd and Mandale Stone Co, Old Station Yard, Rowsley

“Dear Susan,

I am objecting very strongly regarding this proposal as a resident and business owner adjacent to the car park.

There are strong concerns regarding the safety of the general public, my family, staff and customers visiting our business.

My family, myself and some staff members have experienced threats and aggressive behaviour from one of the travellers, who is known to have some form of disability.

This is a very busy car park used by local business staff and customers, hikers, walkers and cyclists using the white peak loop cycle path.

In the interests of public safety, we believe it is essential that this young man is assessed, as he will be exposed to the public including children.

With these concerns in mind, the council need to be aware that their decisions may hold them fully liable for any incidents that may occur.

Yours Sincerely

Richard Bean

Managing Director”

STATEMENT from Mr N Moisey, Local Resident

“I've been made aware of the application for change of use of the car park on old station close rowsley to a camp site for the travelling community.

As a mountain biker and walker in this area, I use this car park on a regular basis and it would be a great loss to visitors and local businesses in this area.

Further more, many thousands of tax payers has been invested in the cycle routes from this area by local authorities and would be used far less by locals & visitors if this application was successful.

Also I find this unfair to tax payers and local businesses who pay taxes to have this forced upon them.

I agree that the travelling community need areas to use but surly that should be down themselves to purchase their our land or local authorities or private investors in a more appropriate location to do this, at a cost to them.

Don't think you can park in many places overnight or longer in a camper van or caravan for free can you.

It would be a shame to spoil this beautiful area for many locals and visitors for this.

Thank you

N Moisey “

STATEMENT from Mr Bill Storey, Bakewell Local Resident

"I object to any proposal to allow land on The Showground in Bakewell to be set aside as a Travellers Site.

There are restrictions due to it being in The Peak Park. Much of the land in use by DDDC is leased, and allowing overnight parking would put you in breach of the lease.

Bill Storey"

STATEMENT from Mr Richard and Mrs Mary Chaplin, Bakewell Local Resident

"We see from the Agenda for the Meeting of the full Council on 28th September 2023 that there is an item for consideration to rescind the Motion passed on 24th November 2022 including use of the 'Car Park' site on Agricultural Way, Bakewell, as a "temporary site for Gypsies and Travellers".

We live across the river just as you come over the Meaden Bridge on Agricultural Way and have river frontage of about 350 metres. When the Travellers were illegally encamped we suffered from:

- Noise at any time from 5.00am when the person known as 'Johnny' who we believe has mental health problems used to put a loud speaker on and blast us all. He was frequently put in a fenced area (cage) to contain him.*
- The Travellers ran a hedge/tree cutting business and often dumped the cuttings in the river, or on the bank, which end up in our garden. On one occasion the Council had to hire an excavation machine to remove all this debris from the river.*
- The site was very unhygienic as they do not use the toilets provided by the Council at Tax Payers expense, preferring to use the open ground. In addition to excrement nappies and used toilet paper left on the field. Together with other rubbish.*
- Dogs running all over the road which is used to access the Cattle Market traffic including very large wagons.*
- Loss of parking for the town which impacts on the shops and cafes.*
- Continual poaching from the river which is the only river in the country with naturally breeding rainbow trout which operates on a catch and release basis.*

It is a myth that they need to be near shops and medical facilities as they always use their cars. During the Covid lock-down they were out and about all the time.

DDDC has a lease from the Bakewell Agricultural and Horticultural Society for Car Parking. No over night stays are permitted under the terms of this lease.

When the Agricultural Business Centre was built there was a clause that the gates should be locked by the Bridge at 10.00pm - this never happens now.

Whilst the area may seem rural it is still within the area of Bakewell Town which is residential.

Richard and Mary Chaplin

STATEMENT from R Baker, Rowsley Local Resident

“Hi,

As residents of the village, we are writing to voice strong objection to the proposal of a travellers site on the village car park in Rowsley.

The site is a wholly inappropriate location for a number of reasons.

Firstly the location is the village car park and on weekends and in holiday periods is full of visitor and walkers' cars. The car park is used by visitors who then walk, cycle or catch public transport to Matlock, Bakewell, Haddon & Chatsworth and all this will be significantly reduced with more traffic in the local area. Furthermore, without the car park there will be an increase in on road parking and the associated issues in a village which already has significant traffic and speeding issues.

The location is near to a village school and on previous traveller visits to the site there has been a lot of noise, disturbance, swearing and uncontrolled dogs wandering around.

Subsequent to the previous visit the site was left in an appalling mess with litter and waste strewn around the area and down the bank facing the A6 road and down into the River Derwent. There was also human and dog faeces plus toilet paper left in abundance.

The travellers used to burn waste and make considerable noise until late into the night.

Local residents were nervous about passing the car park site and using the riverside path with the loose dogs and intimidating behaviour, particularly from their adolescents.

Certainly there were virtually no cars parked in the car park during the period the travellers were there.

The site will no doubt affect local businesses as people will be put off by the site or the lack of parking.

The site has no waste disposal facilities, no water or power supplies and as such is wholly unsuitable.

I trust sense will prevail and a more suitable location will be selected.

We understand there is a more suitable site with hard standing, water and power available.

We would also like noted that there seems to have been very little consultation and it seems unlikely that if the village had been given the opportunity to have a proper local plan, this wouldn't be on the agenda.

Regards,

R. Baker”

STATEMENT from Ms Victoria Pheasey, Rowsley Local Resident

“Good afternoon

I understand that there is a proposal to locate travellers in the station car park at Rowsley and as a resident of the village, I wish to strongly object to this.

I have just come from a meeting with Rowsley Community and Sarah Dines, our MP for Derbyshire who wholly supports us, the residents, in our objections.

The reasons I shall give are as follows:

1. The site is totally unsuitable for the travellers as it's too close to the main A6 road that is a trunk road to Buxton.

2. The car park is the only parking area in the village and is used by tourists and visitors to the local businesses operating in Station Yard.

3. Previously when the travellers resided in the car park, local businesses were impacted financially and personally by items being taken, verbal abuse and loss of customers. I understand the travelling families were extremely intimidating!

4. Pollution in surrounding woodland and water courses due to the travellers defecating wherever they wanted (one local business owner has proof of this if required).

5. I understand one of the travellers has no mental capacity and is left to roam by themselves and is a huge risk to people. This really concerns and alarms me! The site is too close to residents' properties and knowing that potentially my family could be at risk, is a something that will give me sleepless nights! I won't dare to walk my dog in the area!

6. Noise pollution and waste should also be noted as the last time the travellers where in the car park, the rubbish that was strewn when they left was appalling. They have no regard for anyone or anything. The travellers are quick to say they aren't "all the same" but clearly these particular families are! Their dogs bark constantly and they shout at all times of the day and night - I could hear them in my back garden!

There is a lot more I could say on the matter but the upshot is; Rowsley Station Car Park never has, and never will be, suitable for the travellers and was identified as such in previous District Council meetings so why it's being proposed again is beyond absurd!

I chose where I live based on the local area, having been a Darley Dale resident for most of my life. My daughter attends Lady Manners School and the community is a very safe and secure one. If travellers were to be granted occupancy of the car park, that would seriously impede our quality of living and I would have to consider having to move, which is ridiculous. My house wasn't cheap, I pay my council tax and I feel we contribute greatly to our neighbourhood and we use local shops and services wherever we can. Please tell me what the travellers contribute in comparison? I also applied for planning permission to extend my house but was turned down. That's fine but why are there so many rules and regulations for contributing residents but travellers get to do whatever they want at the cost of law abiding tax payers? Where are our rights in all this?

I understand the travelling families concerned don't get on. If I didn't get on with my neighbour, would you pay for me to move somewhere away from them?

The absolute head scratcher over all this is why this is even being proposed when the Council have granted planning permission on a site just past Cromford? Why am I having to spend my precious free time (I work full-time locally too) emailing this when it shouldn't even be an issue? I am told the granted site is completely appropriate for them and can even be separated for each family so please, just get on with the job and stop wasting everyone's time, money and effort.

Please could you share my email with ALL councillors together with Paul Wilson, Chief Executive of Derbyshire Dales District Council.

Yours faithfully

Victoria Pheasey “

STATEMENT from Ms Sandra Jenkins, Rowsley Local Resident

“I understand that there is a proposal to relocate travellers to the car park at Rowsley. As a resident of the village I wish to express my concerns and objection to this.

The site is the only public car park in the village of Rowsley. It is well used both during the week and at weekends, often appearing full. People working in the adjoining industrial units and “Level” premises need to park there, no other parking area is available. It is the start of the cycle and pedestrian trail which has been developed all the way to Matlock so the car park is also used by the many locals and visitors who use the trail.

The parking of vehicles on Chatsworth Road is a major problem already for anyone trying to drive along that road. The loss of this car park can only make that worse. The private car park for Peak Village is provided only for those premises and is closed by locked barriers after the businesses close.

Unauthorised use of the car park by the travellers has previously led to mountains of rubbish, human excrement everywhere and abuse towards anyone trying to pass by. Local businesses lost money as no one would go near their premises because of the

risk of harm to their person or property. It was not possible to use the Rowsley Trail from the start and necessitated walking or cycling along the main road until just after the Shalimar, which was the next point of access.

An area towards the back of the car park which was made available to one family at great expense was rejected by them previously.

I understood that a suitable site had been identified which would be available for any travellers in Derbyshire and would satisfy the legal obligation of the Council to provide a site . I believe this is known as "The Woodyard" and is situated along the A6 in the Cromford area. I am at a loss to know why any other sites are being considered.

Please ensure that my email objecting to the use of the Rowsley car park as a travellers' site is shared to all councillors and to Paul Wilson, the Chief Executive of DDDC.

Sandra Jenkins"

STATEMENT from Ms Samantha Corney, Ashbourne Local Resident

"Good Evening

I OBJECT to any traveller site based in Ashbourne or the surrounding area, Ashbourne has been neglected for many years, the last thing we need is travellers being dumped on the town. These travellers pay no taxes, I don't see why we should be putting them up for free. Get them paying into the system and buy some land of their own. We have this issue every year and it's becoming tireless. If travellers want a permanent site surely this doesn't mean they are travellers. No town wants them what don't you understand. They have enough money to live in top of the range caravans, more than people like me who work full time and always have done, and paid into the system, yet these travellers are better thought of! They live rent free on council land yet if i don't pay my council tax you'd come down on me like a tonne of bricks, oh and put it up every year!!! For no benefits!! I don't think you've ever put them in Bakewell? Wonder why? Potential site maybe !"

STATEMENT from Ms Caroline Cooper, Ashbourne Local Resident

"I wish to register my disgust at the fact you wish to raise this issue yet again the Cllr wishing to resign the minute has I suggest a vested interest unit not staying in Matlock .

Ashbourne has just won 13.4 million for the improvement of the Town yet you wish to hinder this before we've started. Cromford was chosen as a site and could be up and running in not time.

We know they have to go somewhere but Ashbourne has had more than their fair share.

The relatives live in Uttoxeter the young man needs special help from professionals They were offered a home years ago and “turned it down they have invaded the Grammar school playing fields twice-costing the tax payer for the clean up lost count illegal parking on overspill car par leisure centre carpark and car park aside Lloyds chemist. How much has been spent on them with evictions one wonders. I expect we could have built them a house.

Ashbourne should be totally left if the list of places to come to we have taken the brunt of it building and has little in the way of S106 money in return. Ask yourselves this question why does this Councillor really want this item rescinded.”

STATEMENT from Ms Sylvia Hammerton, Local Resident

“I would like to ask why has the decision to rescind for the travellers when it clearly states that the showground cannot be used for overnight stay, therefore this decision should be applied to everyone, they are no different to anyone else!”

STATEMENT from Ms Anita Daniel, Ashbourne Local Resident

“Dear Sir,

Please do not allow Traveler's to return to Ashbourne. The community was abused enough last time they were here. They have no respect at all!

Anita Daniel “

STATEMENT from Ms Denise Brown, Ashbourne Local Resident

“Looking at your agenda for the meeting on Thursday 29 September, item 10,I see Councillor Franks is asking for a minute to be rescinded regarding temporary sites for travellers. She clearly isn't impartial as far as Ashbourne is concerned. It seems our car parks and open spaces are up for consideration as temporary sites. Cllr Franks would also appear absolutely clueless about provisions in Ashbourne as she mentions done sites twice changing the name slightly and also suggest a site that is a flood plane.

This seems to me to be somewhat underhand and discussion by stealth as it doesn't afford Ashbourne Town Council or its residents an appropriate time to respond.

Please take my email as my objection to the item and also the Ashbourne sites. I trust as Ashbourne ward members your will also support the town and object loudly & strongly to this ludicrous proposal.”

STATEMENT from Mr Chris Sargent, Ashbourne Local Resident

“Dear committee

As a resident of Derbyshire Dales and of Ashbourne in particular and as a Liberal Democrat member, I wish to protest as much as possible against the committees decision to remove the Ashbourne Traveller sites from the "unacceptable" list.

The proposed site near the A6 at Comfort is an idea location and can be bought on stream very quickly and has just had planning approval granted.

When the sites at Clifton Rd and Fish Ponds in Ashbourne were last used instances of anti social behaviour and petty crime increased. There was also an impact to the local economy due to a lack of parking and the security and visual impact that was disheartening and discouraged visitors.

The sits are not appropriate, they have no amenities and no security both for local residents and travellers.

Yours

Chris Sargent”

STATEMENT from Mr Duncan and Margaret Sidders, Ashbourne Local Resident

“Dear Committee May I express my very strong objections to the proposed Travellers sites in Ashbourne, non of the site are appropriate for travellers or residents. I can't understand why these sites have been put back on the agenda, could you clarify please. I haven't met one single Ashbournian who agrees with any of the sites, most of which are small verges. Where do you get your information from?

Please accept this email as a strong objection to the Ashbourne sites.

Regards

Duncan and Margaret Sidders”

STATEMENT from Alderwoman Judith Twigg MBE, Ashbourne Local Resident

“Dear Mr McLaughlin

I would like to object and make some comments about Gypsy and Travellers provision in Derbyshire Dale particularly in Bakewell'

- 1. The land at the side Agricultural Way is not owned by the council but is leased from The Bakewell Hortucital and Agricultural Society.*
- 2. There is a condition imposed by the peak Park Planning Board that there is to be no overnight parking at all.*
- 3. There is also one about the Gates at the Meden Bridge which should be locked at 10 oclock at night. This used to happen when the ABC was first built it should start to happen again.*

4. The Peak Park Authority does not want any Gypsy or Traveller sites in the Peak park.

Regards

Alderman Judith Twigg MBE”

STATEMENT from Ms Carole Brown, Ashbourne Local Resident

“I too am disgusted by this about face by the committee and totally agree with the sentiments below submitted by another resident of Ashbourne. We’ve already been through this disaster once in the last year. Town centres are NOT the place for travellers and the mess that they cause and leave is disgusting. Please reconsider-quickly.

Mrs Browne”

STATEMENT from Mr Stuart Allen, Chair of LEVEL Centre

“I am writing as Chair of LEVEL Centre to raise a matter that is once again being discussed at a meeting at the end of the month regarding traveller site proposals. The Old Station Close/Station Road car park and land in Rowsley is once again under consideration.

This is a concerning proposal for LEVEL Centre.

As an award-winning arts centre working with Learning Disabled people and creatives based on Old Station Close, it is the main car park used by audiences, visitors, and participants.

When the planning permission was granted for LEVEL Centre to be build, it was outlined that LEVEL Centre would use this car park as our parking facilities at LEVEL Centre are limited with only three parking spaces in our courtyard (two of which are disabled spaces). This does not provide us with sufficient parking for our staff, participants and visitors and Old Station Close car park is used as an overflow.

This proposal will have a significant impact on LEVEL Centre and our business model. We would welcome your support in challenging the proposal that will impact on parking for our users, audiences, and our place in the visitor economy in the area.

It should be noted that this car park is also used as our Fire Assembly point as it is the safest location near to where we are located.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

Stuart

Stuart Allen

Chair of LEVEL Centre “

STATEMENT from Mr Grant Draper, Rowsley Local Resident

“The amount of rubbish left all over site and river bank, human waste (poo) was every where including the foot path and cycle way, the toilets provided were thrown down bank, I believe the total cost was over £20,000 to clear up, the total amount of rubbish had to be seen to be believed, over 30 skips were used to clear the car park, however human waste was everywhere, noise was constant, local businesses suffered, ie post office, grouse & claret, add all the things that went missing from the industrial estate, now we would lose car park, so tourists would lose out, now cordwells mill is shut and that car park is blocked up. To sum up. Things did not go well last time, the whole community felt anxious, Grant Draper.”

STATEMENT from Cllr Alasdair Sutton, Bakewell Division

“I wish to register my objection to the proposed temporary tolerated traveller site at Rowsley Car Park. This is an extremely well used car park with access to the trail for bikers and walkers alike. It is close to local businesses, hotels and Peak shopping village. Having spoken to local business people I understand that on a previous occasion when a traveller’s site was situated here there businesses were adversely affected. I have also been led to believe that there were several confrontational occurrences between resident and the travellers, in the safety of all parties this again should be considered.

As a member of the previous working group I believe that the 2 sites chosen were the appropriate ones as was agreed by other members.

I would like to register my objection to The Fishpond Meadow Overspill Car Park to be considered as a Temporary Tolerated Traveller site . It is completely unfit for purpose , situated in the centre of town surrounded by local houses and shop . It is also used by school children and parents as a walkway to and from 2 schools . I also believe that were reports of an incident here at the end of August 2022 .

The council already has 2 temporary tolerated sites and the possibility of a permanent site at the Woodyard , Homesford .

I would like object to the Rescinding of the Council decision made on the 24th November regarding suitable temporary tolerated sites for travellers .

I feel that it would be a significant step backwards and a waste of tax payers money .

Kind regards

Alasdair

Councillor Alasdair Sutton

Bakewell Division”

STATEMENT from Ms Sue Warren, Ashbourne Local Resident

"I am writing on behalf of myself and husband. We do not want the fishpond meadow to be taken over by travellers. The last time they were there we had music blaring out at 630 in a morning, dog left outside barking from morning till night and a young man shouting his head off! My husband is disabled and doesn't want to be sat listening to this day in day out. Also, what is the point of putting toilets there as last time an old man was urinating at the side of them, I certainly don't want to look out of my kitchen window to see that."

STATEMENT from Ms Lisa Gee, Ashbourne Local Resident

"This email is to fully object on having the travellers based in Ashbourne. The reasons are as followed:

- Ashbourne is currently a tiring town, with no attention to it for at least 10 years. We need attraction from people from local towns and tourists.*
- Every car park that has been recommended for Ashbourne are not realistic. All car parks are full throughout the day for people working in town, people visiting the park and locals visiting the doctors/hospital or leisure centre. We don't have any place for lorries or HGV's within the town so why make it accessible for most of a car park to be blocked off for travellers?*
- When the travellers were last located at Leisure Way in Ashbourne (which was supposed to be temporary for 6 weeks, which ended being more than 8 weeks) there was anti social behaviour including loud music, shouting and a fully grown man pooing on private land behind someone else's car in broad daylight! These travellers don't mind creating litter, destroying land and leaving toxic waste on other peoples homes!*
- From experience from past times Ashbourne have 'welcomed' travellers, the saying 'give him an inch take a mile' comes to mind, they have been allowed a certain amount of caravans on their site, then within a few days 2 more arrive? There isn't any legislations or laws that they are scared of they don't care for repercussions of their actions.*
- Ashbourne fight for the play of Shrovetide every year. This is a sacred game which is played within the whole of Ashbourne streets and grassland, these travellers will sabotage the play wherever put in Ashbourne.*

I hope you read my email within the concerns of travellers permanent site in Ashbourne

Kind Regards

Lisa Gee"

STATEMENT from Mr Dave Mawbey, Ashbourne Local Resident

"Sirs,

It has been brought to my attention that at a meeting of DDDC on the 28th September an item will be discussed regarding 9 sites, 8 of which are in Ashbourne and one in Hulland Ward, already deemed unsuitable for traveller sites. It would appear that an attempt will be made to overturn the previous decision and return the sites to suitable status.

I wish to register my disapproval in the strongest possible terms and urge you to vote against the proposed motion and consider local residents rather than a minority group.

Some of the sites have been used in the past for travellers and have not been well received by local residents. We are soon to have £15 million spent on our town, do we really want it turned into a gypsy encampment with all the attendant disruption and detritus that it brings. I suspect the residents of Hulland Ward would not take too kindly either, having their playing field turned into a gypsy camp.

Dave Mawbey”

STATEMENT from Ms Kay Platt, Ashbourne Local Resident

“Good evening

I'm writing with my concerns regarding the travellers sites that you maybe thinking of using again. If these sights were deemed unsuitable I'm questioning why you think they will be suitable now?

The fishpond meadow ones are defiantly not suitable as the over spill car park floods, surely this is not right. The cockayne avenue one is used by people working in the town and at weekends by many families and youngsters taking part in sporting events. The leisure centre/lorry park is so close to the hospital and is very intimidating for many including elderly when visiting the hospital and doctors. It's also in a residential area as they all are. Regarding most of the car parks surely you would be loosing revenue which I'm sure you will then be thinking of putting car park charges up again.

I'm a business owner in Ashbourne and have had my salon for over 29 years, we've gone from a thriving market town to a ghost town.

We've fought to get the levelling up grant to improve the town and maybe bring people back for a travellers site to be placed in the town which will put people off. I've had numerous clients that have said they felt very intimidated by them. The gentleman with a disability shouting and exposing himself is definitely not right for others and himself. These are all within residential areas and causes friction for residents and should be reconsidered. Even though sometimes these are suppose to be temporary they end up being months with tax payers money.

Please Don't let us shop keepers that are keeping shops open and people in jobs suffer, please have some consideration for us. We are struggling with out this again we don't want more loss of earnings like last time as it does effect it.

Why are they not going to the site you have for them at the wood yard off the A6 surely this is better. You also have a duty for others not just non tax payers.

Yours sincerely

Mrs kay platt

STATEMENT from Ms Sarah Finney, Ashbourne Local Resident

“Good evening

I would like to voice my concern regarding the traveller family who are likely to be coming to Rowsley. This site is without a doubt unsuitable for a person who clearly has mental health issues.

Are there any safeguarding plans in place for this person? Apart from the obvious, there is a main road which ; although is a 30 mph speed limit vehicles do travel alot faster on this stretch of road.

I realise that DCC are very committed to the safeguarding and wellbeing of all the residents in Derbyshire . I look forward to hearing your response regarding the safety of this vulnerable person. Kind regards.

Sarah”

STATEMENT from Ms Claire Gregory, Local Resident

“Dear DDCC committee,

I am emailing to express concern that the proposed car park at Rowsley is not suitable to accommodate families and a much better alternative could be sought.

*Kind Regards
Claire Gregory”*

STATEMENT from Mr Ben Bowler, Local Resident

“Dear DDCC,

I do not believe the car park at Rowsley is suitable for accommodation and a better alternative could be sought.

*Kind regards
Ben Bowler”*

STATEMENT from Ms Bethany Stunt, Rowsley Local Resident

“Dear Rowsley Parish Council & Members of Derbyshire Dales Council,

Please could you circulate this email to all council members for consideration.

I am writing to you as I have strong concerns regarding the proposed establishment of a permanent traveller site on the Old Station Road Car Park, Rowsley.

As a concerned resident of Rowsley with a young family, I believe that the Old Station Road Car Park should not be used as a permanent traveller site for the following reasons;

- The proposed site is used as a public car park for people visiting local businesses as well as for tourists accessing the near by trail*
- The land frequently floods due to its proximity to two adjoining rivers. This would be dangerous for people to live there and in the event of flooding, the rivers would become polluted from the travellers waste*
- This is the last remaining free car park in our village and it would be detrimental to loose it to the travellers*
- Our village suffers from existing infrastructure issues and by having a traveller site here, would create more issues as the proposed site is directly off the busy A6*
- The proposed site is not habitable. The surface is uneven, there's no access to water or toilet facilities and it's dark from the surrounding woodland, with no street lighting*
- We are a small village with no police stationed here. Many of our residents are elderly and live alone, making them vulnerable. Without taking these policing concerns into consideration, puts the safety of our community at risk.*
- Whether we agree with the opinion or not, the presence of a traveller site is off putting to visitors. The proposed site is adjacent to two hotels, a caravan park & shopping centre and is a stones throw away from a National Park. We feel as though the site will impact on people's decisions to visit the area and all the businesses will suffer.*

Considering the above points, I strongly urge you to reconsider the permanent traveller site in our village. The safety, well-being and quality of life for everyone in the village (including the travellers) needs to be prioritised and I request that alternative locations, better suited to travellers are considered instead of the site in Rowsley.

Please note that I do reserve the right to call upon this email should you decide to go ahead and create a permanent traveller site in Rowsley, if anything should happen to a resident or a traveller as a result of any of my above points being ignored, I will forward this letter to the press and inform them that the Council were pre warned of the problems of the proposed site and how it is not suitable.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I believe that the points I have made are within the best interest of the residents of our village and the travellers. The travellers deserve a suitable, permanent site that has the infrastructure to create a safe home for them.

If you need any further information or wish to discuss further, please feel free to contact me.

*Best wishes,
Bethany Stunt*

STATEMENT from Mr Peter Cross, Bakewell Local Resident

“Dear Sir/Madam

With regards to the motion to rescind the decision of 24th Nov 22 that prevents travellers from using certain sites.

I am opposed to this motion being accepted for the following reasons:-

Rescinding the decision will lead to sites being considered which are completely unsuitable such as Bakewell.

In Bakewell travellers frequently illegally attempt to occupy the car park and fields at the ABC which in winter are prone to flooding and it is not a suitable area for a permanent site. I also understand the ABC cannot be used for overnight stays regardless.

The car park is next to the river and when they use the area there are issues with rubbish being thrown in the river as well as the poaching of fish. There are also instances of noise disturbance to the locals and the burning of rubbish, tree cuttings, tyres etc that impacts on local houses with the resulting smoke and pollution.

Furthermore, Bakewell is a town where many of the population are elderly and vulnerable and who often feel threatened when travellers arrive in the town with their reputation for being aggressive towards locals and lack of adherence to the law.

I trust you will take account of all the above.

Many thanks

Peter Cross”

STATEMENT from Ms Sarah Porter, Clerk to Baslow and Bubnell Parish Council

“To whom it may concern,

On behalf of Baslow and Bubnell Parish Council I am writing to express concern about rescinding a decision made previously by Derbyshire Dales District Council. This decision leads to a site in Baslow being considered again.

Please can the Council explain how the working group justifies rescinding the previous declaration. There has been no new research or consultation. Has the new working group even visited Baslow? Nothing has changed in the use or infrastructure of the car park in Baslow in the last 10 months. The Parish Council appreciates you are trying to keep all options open, but this proposal appears to completely ignore the balanced and information based decisions made back in November.

Please can you share these comments with the Councillors.

Best wishes,

Sarah”

STATEMENT from Mr Simon Boswell, Local Resident

“Dear Sirs,

I strongly object to concerns of any temporary traveller campsite being allowed in the Derbyshire Dales at the meeting arranged on the 24th November the dales are struggling enough as it is and by allowing the proposal will be even more damaging to the area local people and tourism by allowing such a detrimental suggestion using hardworking taxpayers money to fund it.

Also please could you forward my email of objection to all Derbyshire Dales District Councillors and the Chief Executive Paul Wilson.

Kind regards

Simon Boswell”

STATEMENT from Mr Alastair Sneddon, Senior Partner Bagshaws

“To whom it may concern

I am senior partner of Bagshaws LLP who operate the livestock market in Bakewell as tenants of Derbyshire Dales District Council.

I have been made aware very recently that the decision made by the Council on the 24th November 2022 may be rescinded and as a consequence there is a possibility that the Car Park at Agricultural Way Bakewell might again be considered as a suitable site for travellers.

Travellers have, in the past, parked their caravans on The Showground and on occasion on the car park close to the market complex.

Anyone who has attended Bakewell Livestock market on a sale day will appreciate that space is at a premium and to cordon off an area for use as a Traveller Site could only lead to problems for both the Travellers and the Farming community who attend the market.

I would respectfully ask that the DDDC ABC car park be considered as unsuitable for a Traveller Site.

Yours faithfully

Alastair Sneddon MRICS FAAV FLAA”

STATEMENT from Ms Jane Buckham, Local Resident

“Dear councillor,

I fully understand the need to provide temporary sites for traveller families, but as has been seen in the Matlock Station car park site, temporary can be of extremely long duration in years, rather than months. This is clearly unacceptable to those sites affected.

On this note the list of possible sites, which it is proposed to rescind at the next council meeting, was put together for valid reasons at the time of the original vote. Each site was ruled out for good reason, and unless usage and circumstances at each area has materially changed then that original decision should stand.

I can only comment directly on the Car Park at Nether End in Baslow, which is regularly full to capacity, during both summer and winter months. This is exacerbated by events held at Chatsworth House and Park. Already we have a parking overspill issue in the village, resulting in congested narrow roads around the village, restricting the access for large vehicles. It is clear that the working group did not visit Baslow in their reassessment of sites.

I urge the council not to rescind the list as a whole but to delete certain specific sites where there may be changes to usage or circumstances.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Jane Buckham”

STATEMENT from Ms Laura Crisp, Local Resident

“Dear Sir or Madam

I wish to object to the proposal to site travellers on our well-used, free car park on Old Station Road. It is of great value to businesses close by and to walkers and cyclists attracted to the natural beauty of our area.

The Peak Village car park, developed for shoppers, could be impacted significantly by the loss of this important village asset and retail businesses at the shopping centre may well suffer if parking spaces for shoppers are reduced. The proposal, if passed, would broadly have a disproportionate effect on our small community.

In closing, I understand that in the recent past that the Rowsley car park was taken off a list of potential sites to house travellers, as it was considered unsuitable. It is

puzzling to comprehend what is suitable about it now. It would be enlightening to hear a response.

Yours faithfully

Laura Crisp”

STATEMENT from Alan and Sally Pursglove, Bakewell Local Resident

“I am emailing to say that we (the local Bakewell community) do not want a travellers site in Bakewell on yeld close, ABC or Monsal Head! The amount of crime that ramps up in Bakewell and surrounding areas when the travellers are here is ridiculous. We have heard reports of people been attacked, mugged, poaching, theft and many more. There seems to be no laws for these people and they get away with everything but for us honest hardworking people we have to turn a blind eye and put up with it!! Why do you not put them on the Matlock County Hall Car Park? Everyone works from home and apparently it’s always empty, so you can have them on your doorstep as we definitely do not want them on ours!

Monsal Head is a joke, this is one of the Peak Districts most photographed and beautiful areas that tourists flock too and local people enjoy, do you seriously think we want travellers there. They have been seen in broad daylight peeing and pooing for gods sake, no one should have to put up with this behaviour. We don’t feel safe when they are in town. groups of men walking around at night, many of the locals in Bakewell will not let their children out to play. They also have been seen looking over peoples gardens and into properties, and I know our elderly community are frightened also. Will police presence be increased for us all as I doubt that very much!

For all the do gooders who want to help them and feel sorry for them see how long they last in their area and on their doorstep and have to put up with all the disrespect and trouble they cause! They have no respect for anyone or anything when they are here. We even had one traveller riding a bare back horse through a group of people in Bakewell in the middle of the town whilst drinking and swearing at them!! It’s a definite no from us thankyou.”

STATEMENT from Ms Nicola Rayneau-Kirkhope, Rowsley Local Resident

“Hello,

I relocated to Rowsley under one year ago, and part of my decision to move was based on the confidence that the car park in question was not deemed a suitable site for travellers. If plans were moving forward, I wouldn’t have bought my family home here, as I am not comfortable with living less than a 3-minute walk away to a traveller site.

The car park in question marks the start of a regular walking route I use to walk my dogs and exercise. This route is particularly important to me during winter, when I have a limited time window to walk my dogs and exercise in daylight, and the proximity of this walk helps me. **As a young woman who has experienced sexual assault that required police action, I do not feel safe walking anywhere at night and so I need spaces like this accessible. If a traveller site was located in the car park, I would not be able to use this route any longer;** I wouldn't be confident that the car park would be kept in a condition that would cause no harm to my dogs (e.g. broken glass and litter) and I am scared of the prospect of using a route where I could easily be followed and where there is no escape route/not much public view.

The thoughts above are based on what I have learnt regarding past experiences with the travelling community and Rowsley - and I have strong reason to believe that the learnings are actually based on the traveller families in question. [This article for example](#) states that locals have complained of litter, human waste, burning materials, noise, abuse, and violence - including being shot at with an air rifle - from the last time temporary traveller sites were used. **This is abhorrent and not a community I wish to welcome a stone's throw away from my home and the Rowsley community.**

Setting aside my personal reasons to oppose this proposal, practically the car park in question is not a suitable site for travellers. It is a well-used car park for businesses that are located in Rowsley as well as people visiting the area. Just this morning I was walking my dogs and the car park was brimming with vehicles by 8:15am. **The car park clearly has a vital use for businesses nearby and this should not be forgotten when trying to change the purpose a car park that is clearly utilised in the most appropriate way already.**

I understand the need for the council to find temporary and permanent sites for travellers, but assessing whether sites that have already been ruled out as suitable is a complete waste of time and public money. **I do not want Rowsley to be a victim of the council's desperation to tick off the list that you are serving travellers, when in fact their needs are also not being met. How can temporary sites with 6-8 weeks stays be a viable option when there are little to no permanent sites in sight.**

Similarly, the conditions for travellers to stay on temporary sites else they face eviction seem unreasonable - for instance, how can families that have declared themselves homeless be expected to pay rent? And if they fail to do so, what is the timeline for evictions? Either way, the conditions and this essence of going round in circles on sites on and off a list, feels like a distraction from the real issue that the council is running out of time to find permanent traveller sites.

The above - as well as other evidence such as what is stated in [this article about Hasker Farm](#) - adds to a growing feeling of deception from the council to residents like myself. I have no hope that our concerns will be taken seriously, and that those in charge of decisions are not taking on board the substantial past evidence on site suitability.

However as a new resident that loves her new home for so many reasons, I have to keep some faith that the emails that myself and other residents send will be not just heard, but listened to.

Thanks,

Nicola “

STATEMENT from Mr William Fell, Treasurer of Rowsley Village Hall

“I am writing to the Committee in my role as Treasurer of Rowsley Village Hall to inform you of the harm it would do to our Village Hall and local users if the Public Car Park on Old Station Close Rowsley was closed in whole or in part, temporary or permanent, for an alternate use which I understand is currently being considered by the Council, in this case I believe to be used as a Traveller Community Space.

Our Village Hall has existed for nearly 100 years in Rowsley (centenary coming up in 2027) and is currently grappling with the financial side of operating in the 21st century particularly post-pandemic. We are losing money on an annual basis right now but after huge commitment and hard work by many in the Rowsley community are getting closer all the time to breaking even which is planned for our next financial year starting October 1st 2023 and ending September 30th 2024.

Fundamental to breaking even is the hiring of the hall by regular and one-off users for activities such as children’s parties, birthday parties, coffee mornings, bingo, indoor bowls, badminton, table tennis, Pilates, children’s dance lessons, fitness sessions, church activities, Rowsley School use, local Parish Council use (Rowsley and Northwood & Tinkersley), Haddon Hall estate use, Rowsley Christmas Panto, Community initiatives (such as Reel Rowsley and GRowsley) and not least our Warm Hub initiative, a huge success on Tuesday mornings for Mum’s/toddlers and people of all ages particularly including the Rowsley older generation. Indeed, this (Warm Hub) initiative has been kindly supported by grant monies from DDDC.

Our regular and one-off users and those attending/participating at the Village Hall need and rely on car park space and the car park in Old Station Close is the only public car park in Rowsley. Our Village Hall is situated in School Lane which is a busy road due to school use so public car park access is vital.

Without safe and reliable car park access our income will go down as users choose alternative venues for their activities. This would be catastrophic to our finances as we would fail to break even on our financial plan and inevitably be forced to close which would be the most awful outcome for the people of Rowsley. Therefore, I urge the Council to continue with the use of the car park on Old Station Close Rowsley as it is now, the only Public Car Park in Rowsley!

Kind regards

William Fell”

STATEMENT from Mr Mark Fairweather, Local Resident

“Hello,

I have been made aware that it is being proposed that travellers are moved to the 'Old Station Road Car park' I would like to raise an objection as this is completely unsuitable. I have serious concerns about the safety of the the travellers and also the businesses in the area, a huge lack of space as people barely have enough room to park as it is, and I have had experiences of travellers near businesses in the past and in nearly all cases it has caused a substantial security and safety risk.

Please share this with all councillors and also Paul Wilson Chief Executive please.

Thank you,

Mark Fairweather”

STATEMENT from Jan Hobot, Riverkeeper Haddon Estate

“Dear Derbyshire Dales District Council,

*I am writing to you to **object** to the proposal that Old Station Car Park is made into a site for travellers.*

My name is Jan Hobot and I am a full time Riverkeeper for Haddon Estate. Haddon own the fishing rights and land directly opposite the proposed traveller site. My full time job is to maintain a healthy river system, and deal with all the problems that may bring, including pollution, litter and illegal fishing. Anglers pay to fish the river through our fishing club.

I find it incredible that the site is even being considered to house travellers again after the problems we had last time. The last time the site was used it caused a vast amount of extra work and stress.

A reminder of the problems:

- We encountered numerous counts of illegal fishing (poaching), and killing of fish. This is a rural crime and is covered by the Theft Act.

*- Litter / Pollution. It took at least **1 year** to clear the rubbish that was left on the bankside directly below where the site was last time. This was made up of plastics, sanitary products, green waste and tyres. The worst thing was the Portaloo that had been provided by the coucil. It had been lifted and throw down the bankside. Everthing from the Portaloo deposited in to the river!*

- Many of my angling club members were shouted at, intimidated and not allowed to enjoy the river. That section of river became a no go area!

Secondly, as a resident of Rowsley, here are my reasons:

- Safety concerns. The last time the travellers were on this site, we would have them visit the road I live on numerous times a week looking for employment. The

individuals were confrontational and intimidating. Not nice when we would be enjoying time in the garden with my children. It also didn't help that I had dealt with many of them in regards to illegal fishing.

- Old Station Car Park is a well used car park by the general public (mainly walkers) and in current times is full to capacity most days. In the event of the traveller site being created again, the public will park else where in the village. This will mean already narrow side roads being impassable in places.

I give permission for this email be shared with ALL councillors and Paul Wilson of DDDC.

Regards,

Jan”

STATEMENT from Mrs Sandra Spencer, Local Resident

“To Members of Derbyshire Dales Full Council.

Regarding item 10 on the agenda of the full council meeting on Thursday 28th of September 2023.

I strongly object to the item being rescinded, as I believe that none of the sites suggested in Ashbourne are in any way appropriate.

The member of the committee who has asked for the minute to be rescinded, obviously does not live in Ashbourne and appreciate, the negative impact, that a site within the town can cause, not only for the residents, also for anyone visiting.

An angry Resident

Mrs Sandra Spencer”

STATEMENT from Mr Ben Edgson, Ashbrook Roofing

“Good morning,

I am writing to you today to object to the proposed traveller relocation.

To have this kind of arrangement so lose to businesses is ludicrous and not suitable at all.

I request for my objection to be shared with ALL Councillors.

Regards

Ben Edgson”

STATEMENT from Ms Helen Froggatt, Bakewell Local Resident

"I would like to register my strong objection to the proposed Traveller site on the Agenda August 28th. Bakewell was ruled out at Committee on November 28th 2022 for very strong reasons. The proposal for land adjacent to Yeld Close is not acceptable for the following reasons

1 Close proximity to housing and 2 Vakewell Methodist Junior School is less than 100 yards away. 3 There are no amenities close by.

I know from my experience as a District Councillor how difficult and problematic this issue is but the wellbeing of residents and children should be a priority.

I also know that the family in question want to be in the south of the county.

This is where the search should be.

Regards

Helen Froggatt"

STATEMENT from Mr Stephen Bones, Stanton Lees Local Resident

"I do work at Natural Stone Sales Ltd in Rowsley.

I wish to oppose plans to turn Rowsley car park into a traveller site on the grounds the site is unsuitable:

These points are from past experience when the site was occupied by the travellers in 2019

1) No electricity on site.

2) the car park is used by tourists, cyclists, children and dog walkers and the businesses in the immediate area creating a very full carpark most of the time.

3) Most of the employees and customers of the local area feel too intimidated to use the car park. This creates chaos parking vehicles any where other than the carpark.

4) Even though portable toilets are provided there was clear evidence that human excrement was on the cycle trail and around the site when the travellers arrived . When the travellers vacated there was not an increase in the excrement .

5) There is a school around the corner full of small children.

In addition can I comment that I understand there is a permanent site approved with all facilities at the wood yard, Cromford. Therefore I struggle to understand why there seems to be a need to move them to Rowsley or any other site.

Some transparency around why these sites are been considered once again as I understand that a working committee using tax payers money found these sites unsuitable under a previous administration. Constantly changing a previous administrations findings and decisions seem to me a nonsense."

STATEMENT from Mr Martin Spencer, Ashbourne Local Resident

“Dear sirs

Regarding Agenda item 10 of the full council meeting Thursday 28th September 2023, I strongly object to the item being rescinded.

I believe that the previously suggested sites in Ashbourne are totally inappropriate.

I hope you will take this into consideration at Thursday's meeting.

Yours sincerely

M.R. Spencer

Local resident.”

STATEMENT from Ms Fiona Truman, Ashbrook Roofing

“We have been advised that reconsideration is being given to allocating the carpark at Station Yard to a site for a travellers group.

Please can you note my objection to the proposal.

To allocate this area as a travellers site will be of great detriment to the hardworking, local businesses near to the site.

The car park at Station Yard is regularly at full capacity, being used by employees of local businesses (myself included) and customers to those businesses.

There would be insufficient parking if the proposal was to go ahead.

The small road network at the industrial estate is already at the maximum roadside parking for most of the day; if more people have to find roadside parking this will inevitably create a safety concern as vehicles will be unable to safely navigate their way around the roads – ultimately leading to difficulties and possibly obscured entering from / exiting onto the A6, which you will be aware is a very busy road which could lead to potentially serious consequences.

People also use the car park to enjoy the beautiful cycle path and walking in the area – local people taking exercise to benefit their health (supporting the local NHS facilities) and tourists from further afield potentially spending money at the local eating and retail establishments.

Recruitment in this area is already difficult due to the location and taking away sensible parking options will only make this more difficult, again putting further pressures on small local businesses who have faced challenge after challenge recently (COVID, increases in energy prices and materials etc).

Companies are just managing to hang on. We really need our local councillors to make the right decisions that support us, rather than make life even more difficult.

Please help us by voting against the proposal.

Kind regards

Fiona Truman”

STATEMENT from Ms Briony Marshall, Bakewell Local Resident

“Hiya firstly can I ask that this email be forwarded to all Derbyshire dales district councilors and the chief executive Paul Wilson.

I’m writing to forward my objections for the proposal of both sites in Bakewell for the temporary traveler sites.

Both the car park at the ABC and the Land on Yeld Close are not suitable at all. They are far too close to residents, schools and access roads. The travelers cause an awful lot of abruption as it is in the area. In the past when they have illegally resided on the ABC there has been a lot of theft, abuse to locals and vandalism. We as residents have felt unsafe living here when they have been on the ABC in the past and to have the small plot of land considered close to our home on Yeld close is terrifying.

We as a community should be able to feel we can go out of our homes feeling safe in the place we live and not under any threat. We have children who go to school here where we live, and id feel I couldn’t let them play out if the travelers were residing here, nor could we trust our animals would be safe either, especially since the travelers have been caught so many times poaching from rivers and farmland. We have in previous years they have been on the ABC caught them stealing from our property, and attempting to steal our horse trailer from the front of our house, so this is not something we welcome. When we have stuck up for ourselves we get threatened, and the police always favor the travelers, so we cannot even trust the law will back us up either.

We currently rent the plot of land on Yeld Close and this is our safe place for our ponies and our children. To have this taken away for the travelers would mean we would have to move away to feel safe again which is unfair as we are born and bred here. I feel angry that this plot of land is even being considered again, as it is currently not available as we have a contract for the field and have not been sent any prior warning to this plan. The local residents surrounding the field are happy with the improvements we have made to the field so far since taking it on 4years ago, and are still making. They enjoy seeing the ponies and love it’s a little piece of Greenland that is still Greenland near to where they live.

I’ve been informed the travelers are supposed to have been offered a temporary /permanent site at the Woodyard in Matlock. This has been provided by the council and meets the needs of the 8 plot area required by law. If the travelers are refusing this site why should we be expected to agree to them disrupting areas we live when they have somewhere already suitable???? You only have to go a speak to the

locals, business owners and shop keepers in the area to be given all the information you need why they would never be welcome here nor in any of the other proposed sites you have on your list. Another I have seen is the Monsal Head Car Park??? How may I ask would this work? Its one of the most beautiful places in the area, lots of tourists, families and school children visit. You propose to place the travelers here where they will no doubt make the place smell, dirty, dump waste and fly tip and leave human excrement's all over the place, even when you provide them with a toilet???? It was only recently everyone was objecting to the railway being put back in the area (not that I was, id love to see it back), so why place these people here who care nothing for the beauty spots of the area???

I would be greatly interested in attending any meetings that concern this matter in the future, especially if it concerns the plots in Bakewell. As my children and families well being are my main priority. I would appreciate hearing any outcomes too.

Many thanks Briony Marshall”

STATEMENT from Ms Jenny Duffy, Employee of Natural Stone Sales

“To whom it may concern.

I would like to express my concern regarding the proposed travellers site at the Old Station Road Car Park.

I'm work at Natural Stone Sales Ltd and use the car park everyday. The car park is normally busy at 9.30am when I arrive and I park in the back half of the car park. I will have no where to park. The last time we had travellers here they took up the entire car park and made it very clear no one else was to enter it and were very intimidating even when you walked past.

I also have concerns that so much money was spend on the new cycle path and it is widely used by walkers and bikers. I feel this will of been a waste of money as the path with end in the middle of a travellers site and will not be used by the public.”

STATEMENT from Ms Mia Garcia, Local Resident

“To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my concern regarding the proposed traveller's site in Rowsley.

I work on the site proposed and have concerns about coming into work, parking my car and leaving as they can be quite intimidating as I experienced the last time they were here.

As a young woman coming into work and leaving work on my own, I wouldn't feel comfortable on my own as last time I had people to walk me to and from my car as it was worrying what verbal comments would be made.

Thank you for taking the time to read through my concerns.

Kind regards

Mia”

STATEMENT from Ms Kathryn Middleton , Local Resident

“Ref the proposed temporary travellers sites.

I am extremely concerned that land off Yeld Close is being considered for this. There are a high proportion of residential properties in this area together with a very large school making it totally unsuitable.

There are no amenities in the area - surely a more appropriate site can be found.

Please take this as my household registering our objection.

*Regards
Kathryn Middleton”*

STATEMENT from Ms Sofia Marcovaldi, Local Resident

“Good afternoon,

I hope this email finds you well

Please ensure this email is be shared with ALL Councillors and also Paul Wilson Chief Executive, Derbyshire Dales District Council

I have been told about the proposal of travellers moving to the Old Station Road Car Park, and I would like to strongly object to this

The site is entirely unsuitable for this, it is at a very close distance to many businesses who may well have many negative impacts as a result of this change

There are many points to be noted, but it is important to bear in mind that the space is already being used - what sort of disruption would this cause? There is a clear lack of space. It will potentially lead to many businesses' insecurity and loss in sales / footfall as this does not provide a good impression when customers come in

Honestly, I am struggling to understand how this can even be considered

They need to be moved into a much more suitable site, where it would not affect small businesses in the area negatively

We need to be supporting small and medium sized businesses, not making it harder for them to trade

Thanks in advance for all your efforts”

STATEMENT from Mr Alec Maddock, Chatsworth Fireplace Centre

“Please forward / share this email to ALL councillors.

F.A.O – Mr Paul Wilson,

In regards to your propositions in regards to, allowing Travellers to move back into the car park on OLD STATION ROAD ROWSLEY, I would like to give my objections as a business owner, as I do not believe this is the right location for this, our customers and surrounding businesses / walkers etc.. use this car park and we feel this could affect our business along with persons wanting to visit Rowsley, please include my objection to this proposal, I do not feel this is the correct location for Travellers to be sited, there are far many other more suitable places than in the heart of Rowsley they could be sited, I hope you can find another suitable location for them.

Warmest Regards,

Alec Maddock”

STATEMENT from Ms Maureen Friend, Rowsley Local Resident

“Dear Council

I am alarmed to hear that once again Travellers are to be offered a place to camp out in Rowsley Village. I am a resident of the village and live very close to the Old Station Close car park and the last time they were here my nights were constantly disturbed by their dogs which are left chained up outside 24/7. They bark continuously from very early morning until late into the night. It seemed that every falling leaf set them off. I am now 81 years old and have severe arthritis and mobility issues. The very idea that I will again be forced to suffer countless sleepless nights at my age is making me ill.

I can also report that the last time these people were located on this site it did not work well either for them or us. In fact, after the Council had spent a great deal of money on the site the Travellers left saying that it was unsuitable. If they did that once they will do it again because it cannot be made more suitable without massive restructuring.

While they were here they completely took over the village’s one car park, even hanging an old settee between two trees to act as a swing. That car park is used constantly by the local businesses, their customers, walkers and cyclists. It is right beside the popular Derwent Valley Heritage Way and the adjacent cycle trail which, once extended as is planned, will go straight through the middle of the site. The Level Centre, a space dedicated to disabled artists, especially need to be able to use the car park and having a car park close by was one of the reasons that the centre was built on that site.

After the Travellers left last time the Council did not send in industrial cleaners to clean up the filth left behind. I imagine they ran out of money creating the facilities on the site, local people had to do that disgusting job out of civic pride.

The Travellers were provided with Portaloos but unfortunately for us it is their custom to defacate in the open. It appears that it is not their custom to bury their feces as normal campers would, but to leave it lying on the Derwent Valley Heritage Way.

I believe that the council decided only last year to take Rowsley off the list of potential traveller sites, so why is it now being considered again? What has changed?

Thank you for your attention.

Maureen Friend”

STATEMENT from Mr Ian Adkin, Darley Dale Town Council

“Dear Council Members,

On Thursday evening you will be discussing a report and recommendations from the Traveller Working Group (Agenda item 10) which, if implemented, will have immediate and lasting impact in and around the town of Darley Dale. I am therefore writing on behalf of the Town Council to urge members to consider these impacts before making any decisions and to instead ask the group to engage in wider consultation, especially with affected Town and Parish Councillors before proceeding.

We are not anti-traveller. However, any traveller site can and does have an immediate affect on the local environment, businesses and residents. We would therefore make the following points.

1. What’s changed? There may be different faces around the Council table but the case for and against certain locations has been pored over by all sides for some years and we wonder why the working group feel that they should ignore all the previous decisions and take the argument backwards.
2. We would also ask why the Old Station Close site at Rowsley is being pushed forward for an immediate consultation? There have been clear and significant issues when this site has been used in the past and it is strategically situated at an important part of the White Peak Loop, close to businesses and the revitalised Peak Shopping Village. We feel this is one of the least appropriate sites, affecting tourism and a long list of businesses. Clearly more thought and discussion are needed before proposals for a public consultation are approved.
3. As a general observation the proposals look rushed and take no account of previously expressed opinions and facts. We understand that these decisions are difficult and that people’s first response is to oppose rather than support any traveller site nearby but that isn’t an excuse for ignoring their views. If you want

support for a proposed way forward then simply pushing it through will achieve the opposite.

In summary then we would ask that Council note the recommendations but ask for more work to be done by engaging local Town and Parish Councils as well as businesses in the immediate vicinity before any recommendations are approved.

IAN ADKIN

TOWN CLERK

SENT ON BEHALF OF DARLEY DALE TOWN COUNCIL”

STATEMENT from Ms Laura Newbold, Bakewell Local Resident

“Dear Councillors

I am dismayed to have to be writing this letter to you all again with regard the meeting you will be attending on Thursday 28th September 2023.

Where I believe on your Agenda, point 10, you will be not for the first time discussing the siting of temporary travellers on DDDC land. I am writing to you for the third time to tell you why this will be detrimental not only to town I have lived in and loved for 40 plus years but also to the residents who not so long ago voted you all into your positions.

Can I start by saying it beggars believe that you are considering rescinding the only positive decision that has been made in respect of this town by the previous council, I dared to hope that a new lead at Derbyshire dales would change things up for the better, however it appears that instead you want to rescind the decision that was made on 24th December 2022 (after numerous letters by the residents of these towns and villages), because your working group have recommended it, please tell me that you as working group have consulted with residents of these towns and the people it will affect.

To give you some background; -

I live with my father and my two young children in the house directly behind the ABC in Bakewell and adjacent to the showground land which the District council lease and which has endured many stays by said travellers. I wish to raise our concerns for those families and indeed any travellers to be located there. I wish to reiterate my points from my previous letters to local councillors in July 2022 and June 2023 outlining the reasons it would be unfair and unsafe to house the travellers here.

One of my Main Concerns and I something I find so unfair is This land is within the Peak District National Park and as such should NOT have any type of travelling camp within it (temporary or otherwise) Not only does it fall within the National park but Bakewell residents have to pay a premium to live within this park, we have to adhere to the national parks rules and regulations, needing planning permission for small alterations, the correct windows, even the correct door colour etc, however it seems the council can house travellers on the showground (land that doesn't even

belong to them) in the middle of the most profitable tourist location in the peak district and nobody bats an eyelid.

Bakewell suffers heavily from having these sites located on its land, not only does the council lose revenue from parking but also the loss of much-loved community events which would normally be held on the showground land, would have to be postponed or even cancelled.

As lifelong resident of this town, I believe that siting travellers here would be to the detriment of both council revenues and to all the residents who live here. Not only that but the destruction and mess they leave behind once they move on is disgusting and dangerous, I have seen it with my own eyes, numerous times and the increase in crime in the area is not a coincidence.

I wrote to all councillors last year when the travellers were camped on the land adjacent to us, and I told them about the verbal abuse and threats my father had received from members of the travelling community which had led to him struggling with mental health issues, I also told you about the constant shouting and swearing we heard and how my children were scared to be in the garden alone, and the verbal abuse tourists faced when walking into the centre of Bakewell from the Monsal trail, a much loved and very well used footpath which runs straight past the locations on your appendix sheet. One morning my then 10-year-old daughter, opened her curtains to one of the members of these families, a fully-grown man stark naked, urinating and defecating all over the showground grass. They also have been seen doing their business and their washing in the river, which then makes it unsafe for the families who come here to picnic or let their children play in or around the river. Is this really what you want local children and the tourists, who pay so handsomely to visit and spend so much money in this town to be greeted with.

The ABC was built on this site adjacent to the showground land as a community hub and to make the cattle market and surrounding land a more successful and more profitable establishment, Housing members of the travelling community on it does neither of those things. The Farming Community don't want it and neither do the residents.

DDDC have spent a lot of money improving parking, making low barriers, building premises, why would you be willing to put this at risk? Also why would you potentially take away the prospect of having much needed events for the residents of this town, things like the Christmas fairs, and the country show, Thornbridge festival, Circus, cycle rides, walks, dog shows and Many more would all be at jeopardy if you were to house the travellers on any part of ABC or show ground land and after the last few years I thought these events and the prospect of being able to get together as a community would be the priority.

You will be potentially putting all of this at risk by considering housing families from the travelling community on this land in the future.

The residents on this road are made up of at least 75% elderly and or frail people who have all paid their taxes for years and been able to purchase property in what is regarded by many as a quiet and green part of Bakewell in the twilight of their years.

*I am disgusted therefore that you would even consider putting such travellers on their doorstep, these elderly residents are upset and many are scared, now I appreciate you have a duty of care to these travelling families and the travelling community as a whole however you also have a duty of care to towards the residents who pay their council taxes and to the tourists who come to visit this town and spend their hard earnt wages, if you house travellers on this land you will be **failing** us all.*

I ask you to take all my points into consideration and I trust you will all do the right thing and not consider this land suitable for habitation by the travelling community in the future.

Please do not rescind this decision and if you must go back on your promises like so many of our leaders do, please take the land used by the Bakewell Community, the heart of the peak district off your list of proposed sites.

I have copied this email to all the local councillors, who I know have an interest in the wellbeing of Bakewell residents and also to Sarah Dines MP as a matter of courtesy as we have previously exchanged communication on this matter. If I have missed off anyone of importance I give permission for my email to be circulated more widely.

Best wishes

Laura Newbould”

STATEMENT from Veronika and Drew Fletcher, Rowsley Local Resident

“Dear Sirs,

We, as owners of Vernon House in Rowsley would like to object against "Travellers meeting point the Old Station Road Car Park.

We have a concern that there might be issues with a large group meeting in Rowsley yet not living in the local community. There were several examples when travellers stayed at their meeting points for months. Having people not from the community around our property do not give us a feeling of being safe. It has happened once that someone forced themselves inside the house, damaged windows and stole a couple of items.

I hope that my concern will be discussed during your meeting. I am giving you a permission of being shared with all councillors and Paul Wilson, Chief executive, Derbyshire Dales District Council

Thank you in advance.

Veronika and Drew Fletcher”

STATEMENT from Ms Jackie Starbuck, Bakewell Local Resident

“Dear Council,

I write to put forward my objection to rescind the decision taken on 24 November 2022 by the previous Traveller Working Group.

As detailed in the report, each site previously removed off the list 24.11.22 had already been identified as not suitable by an elected Working Party.

While not being privy to the formal details of each location, I write with respect to the ABC carpark Bakewell. My understanding is that DDDC hold leases for the carparks on the ABC which specifically detail restrictions and covenants. To use the land as a temporary or permanent traveller site would be in contravention of the leases.

Regards

Jackie Starbuck”

STATEMENT from Mr Andrew Burdett, Rowsley Local Resident

“For a variety of reasons, I’m opposed to using the all-season car park as a traveller site. It’s a car park and should remain thus.

Happy for the travellers to occupy the dedicated camping site at the Jug and Claret, paying their way and providing they’re able to provide satisfactory references from previous site occupations.

Andrew Burdett”

STATEMENT from Ms Eileen Langsley, Local Resident

“I am writing to express my concern that DDDC is considering rescinding a former decision which means that Baslow Car Park may now be up again for consideration as a traveller site.

I appreciate what a difficult process this is for all concerned but it seems utterly crazy to even think about using Baslow Car Park. As it is, we don’t have enough off road parking areas in Baslow and the village is frequently cluttered and blocked by visitors vehicles parking on our narrow roads (and who contribute nothing to local economy by paying to park in the official sites).

Should DDDC go ahead with considering Baslow and allowing travellers to park on that site, it will limit even further off road parking. Bear in mind that Baslow already copes with the huge impact of all Chatsworth’s major events – we have horrendous levels and volumes of heavy traffic through the village. It is unreasonable to expect this village to cope with an even heavier burden.

Please share my comments with all the councillors and with Paul Wilson the Chief Executive and ask them all to please look at the situation rationally.

Eileen Langsley”

STATEMENT from Mr Paul Smith, Local Resident

“Travellers Site Monsal Head Car Park

Dear Committee

I would like to express my concerns regarding the possibility of the above for the following reasons

INFRASTRUCTURE - there are no shops and amenities closer than Bakewell

NARROW COUNTRY LANES AND TURNING - for large vehicles vans/suvs pulling and maneuvering large caravans and the like

DISTRACTION - FROM POPULAR RENOWNED SPOT FOR VISITOR

I trust my thoughts are noted and perhaps consideration given to more suitable sites

Yours faithfully

Paul Smith”

STATEMENT from Jayne and Peter Bagshaw, Rowsley Local Resident

“Dear committee I cannot understand why this site is even being considered for the Travellers when it was deemed nor fit for purpose the last time.

This will be giving up a valued car park for the businesses in Old Station Yard and also for all the other uses of the car park, parking is hard enough in the village without using it for the Travellers when it was deemed not fit for purpose previously Please share my email with all the Coucil members

Yours faithfully

Jayne and Peter BAGSHAW”

STATEMENT from Mr Ben Rayneau-Kirkhope, Rowsley Local Resident

“To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to state serious, legitimate concerns regarding the potential site for Travelers in Rowsley.

Regarding the carpark:

This carpark is in regular use by both businesses and for private use for people heading out on walks, hikes and cycling. Peak village is regularly at capacity, so where will people park if this car park is out of use? There is already a problem with cars parking on Chatsworth road, Hinckley court and within the estate. Will you sort the necessary car parking arrangements to solve this? And if so, how?

Regarding the site being dismissed recently:

The site was recently dismissed. Why reduce trust in local government by going back on this?

To my knowledge, the site was ruled out due to the proximity to the busy A6 and distinct lack of amenities, how have they been corrected for since November?

Other questions:

Apparently, the travelers will be kicked off the site if they break the contract - how do you intend on policing this? What constitutes a violation of contract? What is the threshold for proof? Does not paying rent constitute a violation? What guarantees are there that they will be removed, and within what timeframe?

Ultimately, this decision is incredibly ill informed and given the recent press coverage of illegal travelers sites being set up - what are you going to do to give us faith in due process?

Ben.”

STATEMENT from Mr Mark Payne, Local Resident

“Hi

I just wanted to express my concerns regarding the proposed traveller sites in Bakewell

Neither sites are appropriate to be used, recently they broke into the ABC site causing damage and fly tipping all the garden waste they had on and into the river Wye

There is a large elderly population in Bakewell who they prey on ripping them off for sub standard garden/ tree work then tipping the waste for the tax payers to pay to remove

I work in a similar industry and I have no doubt if I did this I'd soon be in trouble!

They have numerous dogs that bark constantly disturbing the tax paying public and intimidating anyone who dares walk anywhere near

I would also be concerned with intimidation in the local pubs, I know this has happened with threats of violence and broken windows if anyone stands up to them, also the breaking in of sheds which I know increases with their presence

I would like this email to be shared with all DDDC councillors and Paul Wilson

There is big concern with locals about this situation

Kind regards

Mark Payne”

STATEMENT from Helen and John Watts, Baslow Local Resident

“Dear Mr Wilson

We read with surprise and disappointment the proposal to rescind the decision made last November to remove Nether End Car Park Baslow from the potential traveller site list.

Nether End car park is vital to the well being of the people of Baslow as it provides a much needed alternative for visitors to Chatsworth Country Park. Baslow regularly endures problematic parking due to the high influx of visitors for key Chatsworth events and walkers enjoying the stunning Derbyshire countryside. If the capacity of the car park is reduced and indeed there is a reluctance of visitors to park on a traveller site, the traffic and parking problems in Baslow itself will become much more acute.

We understand travellers need somewhere to live but given it is unlikely they will have family connections in Baslow, there is the prospect that they would feel isolated lacking the social network they need for families to thrive.

Therefore we are strongly opposed to using Nether End car park as a temporary or permanent traveller site and support the views of Baslow and Bubnell Parish Council.

Please share this email with all councillors as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Helen & John Watts”

STATEMENT from Mr Jacob Pugh, Ashbourne Local Resident

“Hi,

I got the leaflet through on the 26th informing me of the proposed traveller site in Ashbourne. It is disgusting that as a resident I am only just finding out about this.

We use the path through the proposed site multiple times a week and putting a traveller site there would impact everyone that uses that area.

1) The travellers would have hundreds of people a day walking past them, which is not something I think they would want.

2) The area is used as the overflow car park in summer, so where is the extra volume going to go, and these extra cars bring additional trade to the town which it needs so we don't want to discourage it.

3) Any settlement is going to ruin the existing look and beauty of the pond area and not improve it.

4) If you wouldn't let a builder put houses there why is it OK to have a permanent traveller location there? I would object to houses being built there and I object to a traveller site being there.

They need somewhere where they can have some peace and quiet and not be disturbed by people walking past constantly. The middle of Ashbourne is not that place.

Regards

Jacob”

STATEMENT from Ms Claire Smith, Local Resident

“Agenda item 10 Gypsy & Traveller Site Provision in the District.

Please accept this email as my objections to trying to overturn a decision to look at the Sites below again,

- i. Auction Close Car Park, Ashbourne*
- ii. Leisure Way Car Park, Ashbourne*
- iii. Clifton Road Coach and Car Park, Ashbourne*
- iv. Cokayne Avenue Recreation Ground, Ashbourne*
- v. Cokayne Avenue Car Park*
- vi. Shawcroft Car Park, Ashbourne*
- vii. Fish Pond Meadow Overspill Car Park, Ashbourne*
- viii. Fish Pond Meadows Playing Fields, Ashbourne*
- ix. Playing Field, Ashes Avenue, Hulland Ward.*

They have already been discussed and deemed unsuitable, so should not be being looked into again!

Many thanks

Claire Smith”

STATEMENT from Mr Mark Cresswell, Ashbourne Local Resident

“Hello, I wish to object to that the following sites are once again being considered, it is disgusting how Ashbourne People are being ignored.

The following sites should not be considered as suitable for designation by the Council as potential temporary sites for Gypsies and Travellers with a local connection to the Derbyshire Dales:

- i. Auction Close Car Park, Ashbourne*

- ii. Leisure Way Car Park, Ashbourne*
- iii. Clifton Road Coach and Car Park, Ashbourne*
- iv. Cokayne Avenue Recreation Ground, Ashbourne*
- v. Cokayne Avenue Car Park*
- vi. Shawcroft Car Park, Ashbourne*
- vii. Fish Pond Meadow Overspill Car Park, Ashbourne*
- viii. Fish Pond Meadows Playing Fields, Ashbourne*
- ix. Playing Field, Ashes Avenue, Hlland Ward.*

Thank You

Mark Cresswell”

STATEMENT from Ms Helen Todd, Ashbourne Local Resident

“Agenda item 10 Gypsy & Traveller Site Provision in the District.

The sites for Ashbourne are not suitable.

The following sites should not be considered as suitable for designation by the Council as potential temporary sites for Gypsies and Travellers with a local connection to the Derbyshire Dales:

- i. Auction Close Car Park, Ashbourne*
- ii. Leisure Way Car Park, Ashbourne*
- iii. Clifton Road Coach and Car Park, Ashbourne*
- iv. Cokayne Avenue Recreation Ground, Ashbourne*
- v. Cokayne Avenue Car Park*
- vi. Shawcroft Car Park, Ashbourne*
- vii. Fish Pond Meadow Overspill Car Park, Ashbourne*
- viii. Fish Pond Meadows Playing Fields, Ashbourne*
- ix. Playing Field, Ashes Avenue, Hlland Ward.*

They have already been discussed and deemed unsuitable. Now they want to overturn that decision a look at them again. This isn't a decision in the best interest of the Travellers.

Ashbourne can't be used as dumping ground.

Kindest regards, Helen Ellis”

STATEMENT from Mrs Tracey Clarke-kellow, Ashbourne Local Resident

“DDDC meeting 28th September. Matlock Town hall at 6pm

I would like to object to you in regards to locating of the traveller community in your agenda. The following sites should not be considered as suitable for designation by the Council as potential temporary sites for Gypsies and Travellers with a local connection to the Derbyshire Dales:

- i. Auction Close Car Park, Ashbourne*
- ii. Leisure Way Car Park, Ashbourne*
- iii. Clifton Road Coach and Car Park, Ashbourne*
- iv. Cokayne Avenue Recreation Ground, Ashbourne*
- v. Cokayne Avenue Car Park*
- vi. Shawcroft Car Park, Ashbourne*
- vii. Fish Pond Meadow Overspill Car Park, Ashbourne*
- viii. Fish Pond Meadows Playing Fields, Ashbourne*
- ix. Playing Field, Ashes Avenue, Hulland Ward.*

These have already been discussed and deemed unsuitable. These decisions shouldn't be overlooked or overturned without my/our consultation from where the lives this is going to impact.

So please acknowledge my objection

Mrs Tracey Clarke-kellow”

STATEMENT from Ms Diane Boot, Ashbourne Local Resident

“Dear Sirs

I object to the following sites being considered as suitable for designation by the Council as potential temporary sites for Gypsies and Travellers with a local connection to the Derbyshire Dales:

- i. Auction Close Car Park, Ashbourne*
- ii. Leisure Way Car Park, Ashbourne*
- iii. Clifton Road Coach and Car Park, Ashbourne*
- iv. Cokayne Avenue Recreation Ground, Ashbourne*
- v. Cokayne Avenue Car Park*
- vi. Shawcroft Car Park, Ashbourne*
- vii. Fish Pond Meadow Overspill Car Park, Ashbourne*
- viii. Fish Pond Meadows Playing Fields, Ashbourne*
- ix. Playing Field, Ashes Avenue, Hulland Ward*

All sites listed are very close to residential properties and are required by local residents.

The fishpond gets water logged and has new trees planted and near residents.

Cokayne Avenue is again residential area and car park needed for our sporting events for our children

Doctors/leisure centre needed for use for visiting doctors, hospital and residential areas

The Playing Fields Hulland Ward has been passed to the Parish Council so should be excluded from consideration.

None of these sites are suitable and should not be considered by the committee

Diane Boot”

STATEMENT from Ms Emma Walker, Ashbourne Local Resident

“Good Afternoon,

It has been brought to my attention that Derbyshire Dales are to re-consider a proposed traveller site in Ashbourne.

I am extremely concerned about a potential site being agreed near our home and routes to local schools.

My daughter has previously had very negative experiences having to walk past these sites on her way to school, being subjected to verbal abuse and inappropriate language/behaviour, including travellers openly urinating in full view of the public/children.

It was an absolute disgrace when after leaving their previous site in the QEGS playing field that the students were unable to use the field until it had been cleared of human excrement!

Absolutely no point investing money in the town if we don't feel safe to be able to use all the amenities and parks.

So sad for Ashbourne if this site is considered yet again! Worried for my vulnerable friends/neighbours/business owners.

Do any of the DDDC committee live near the proposed sites?

Regards,

Emma Walker”

STATEMENT from Ms Alison Micklewright, Ashbourne Local Resident

“Good evening

None of the sites in Ashbourne are suitable as traveller sites...Fishpond Meadow is too close to residents and tends to get waterlogged..it also has new trees planted.

The Leisure Centre carpark is definitely unsuitable as it is in constant use by leisure centre users and tourists...

The health centre carpark...how can you think this is a suitable site when elderly patients need to use it to access the surgeries and St Oswalds hospital...

Cockayne Avenue is again a residential area..to many elderly people and the space is needed for sports events for our children.

Please reconsider your decision on these sites...

Regards

Alison Micklewright”

STATEMENT from Ms Zoe Dawson, Ashbourne Local Resident

“Agenda item 10 Gypsy & Traveller Site Provision in the District.

the following sites should not be considered as suitable for designation by the Council as potential temporary sites for Gypsies and Travellers with a local connection to the Derbyshire Dales:

- i. Auction Close Car Park, Ashbourne- residential area and their parking to erect or not suitable or enough room*
- ii. Leisure Way Car Park, Ashbourne - facilities and carpark needed for leisure centre and parking for doctors, also tourists visiting and using the trail*
- iii. Clifton Road Coach and Car Park, Ashbourne - carpark needed for doctors and hospital- no space*
- iv. Cokayne Avenue Recreation Ground, Ashbourne - carpark needed for workers in Ashbourne, close to primary school and park facilities*
- v. Cokayne Avenue Car Park - as above*
- vi. Shawcroft Car Park, Ashbourne - the main carpark in Ashbourne needed for locals and tourists and will deter people coming to Ashbourne, Shrovetide plinth*
- vii. Fish Pond Meadow Overspill Car Park, Ashbourne - floods, Shrovetide plays through there*
- viii. Fish Pond Meadows Playing Fields, Ashbourne - floods, new trees have been planted, Shrovetide plays through there, children play area and sports facilities*
- ix. Playing Field, Ashes Avenue, Hulland Ward.*

These have already been discussed and deemed unsuitable, they are in residential areas where facilities are needed and used so do not need to be.

Past usage is they leave rubbish and waste in above areas is not advisable or adequate for anyone.

Regards

Zoe Dawson”

STATEMENT from Ms Victoria Shimwell, Bakewell Local Resident

“Hi

I am a concerned resident of Bakewell regarding the temporary tolerated sites for the travelling community.

I know these people need a place to park their caravans and I feel for them but that is what they are, travelers. I have family who are travelers but they live in property, they don't cause problems like these others that keep coming back. They are provided with toilets and still they do their business outside, they leave their rubbish wherever they like and they take things out of people's gardens. They just cause misery to the Bakewell town and residents. When they aren't in Bakewell nothing goes missing.

A company opened up in chesterfield this year, a couple of months ago they got broken into by travelers, police were informed, nothing happened. So no we don't want them here in Bakewell, at the two proposed sites or the two sites near to Bakewell.

Most of the people who reside in Bakewell work hard for their family, to provide for their family, not for the travelers to come and take what ever they want. We can't protect ourselves as we are in the wrong and yet they never get prosecuted.

They can't come to Bakewell, temporarily or otherwise.”

STATEMENT from Terrie and James Dawson, Ashbourne Local Resident

“To whom it may concern

I am writing in regards to the DDDC meeting 28th September. Matlock Town Hall. 6.p.m

Agenda item 10 Gypsy & Traveller Site Provision in the District.

The following sites should not be considered as suitable for designation by the Council as potential temporary sites for Gypsies and Travellers with a local connection to the Derbyshire Dales:

- i. Auction Close Car Park, Ashbourne*
- ii. Leisure Way Car Park, Ashbourne*
- iii. Clifton Road Coach and Car Park, Ashbourne*

- iv. Cokayne Avenue Recreation Ground, Ashbourne*
- v. Cokayne Avenue Car Park*
- vi. Shawcroft Car Park, Ashbourne*
- vii. Fish Pond Meadow Overspill Car Park, Ashbourne*
- viii. Fish Pond Meadows Playing Fields, Ashbourne*
- ix. Playing Field, Ashes Avenue, Hlland Ward.*

They have already been discussed and deemed unsuitable. Now you want to overturn that decision a look at them again.

As an Ashbourne resident who lives very closely to several of the above named sites, and who day to day uses the town shops and other facilities involving passing through or next to several of the sites named above, I strongly object to the use of the sites, or any other sites in Ashbourne, being used as temporary sites for Travellers.

We have a young family and have had negative experiences previously when Travellers have been placed both legally and illegally in the town.

It has a negative impact on locals, tourism, footfall in local businesses and crime in Ashbourne.

Please take this email as a strong disagreement from us to revoke the previous decision made on these site.

Kind regards

Terrie and James Dawson."

STATEMENT from Mr Sam Greatorex, Ashbourne Local Resident

"Many thanks for the leaflet that I received through my letter box.

I would like to highlight my utter disgust at the fact that the fish pond overspill car park is even being considered for use as a traveller's site. My reasons are as follows:

1. I am familiar with the family that this site would be predominantly for. With my own eyes, I witnessed one of them going out of his way to intimidate an elderly gentlemen (estimated to be in his 70s) when they were pitched up on Waterside retail park. He repeatedly shouted "Oi, old man." When eventually he grew tired of the man ignoring him, he shouted "prick," at the gentleman. Furthermore, every site they have visited in Ashbourne has been left like a pig sty on exit. I've witnessed this for myself. I live in Ashbourne and have done all my life. I currently live on the park. I for one do not want my son, who is currently 4 months old, to have to walk past such people every time he wants to take a walk into town.

2. Ashbourne is suffering massively at the moment, with many 'local' shops closing to extortionate rent and lack of footfall. A key redeeming feature of the town is the recreation ground, memorial gardens and sports facilities on the park. A traveller's site, which would be a complete eyesore, would instantly ruin one of Ashbourne's best features.

3. 9/10 years shrovetide goes through this car park, almost without fail. That would give two options should a site be built here. One: make it a no play zone. With the memorial gardens being out of bounds (and for good reason) this would give the upards 2 realistic roots. Go up Park Avenue which is likely to cause 1000s of pounds of damage or go up Belper road. Two: allow play to continue as it has done it this area for years. This would cause damage to the site and almost certainly cause tensions to arise between players, spectators and travellers. Either way, it could seriously harm the game, which is another unique feature of Ashbourne.

4. Go and sit at dusk by the pond. As with many waterways, the pond is full of wildlife, including countless rats. Knowing the diseases that rats can carry, this is another reason this site is unsuitable.

In summary, if your intention is to ruin Ashbourne and its history for good, go ahead with this moronic plan, but if the Lib Dems do so, and prove how utterly incompetent they seem to be, they can expect never to receive a vote from Ashburnians again.

I look forward to a reply.

Kind regards,

Sam Greatorex”

STATEMENT from David and Jessica Gibbs, Rowsley Local Resident

“To whom it may concern.

I am writing to express my position to the proposal to designate the Car Park at Rowsley as a temporary traveller site. While we understand the council has an obligation to find a suitable site for traveller families we are residents of Rowsley and past experience proves that the car park in Rowsley is not the place for these families. The main reason for our opposition is our previous experience of finding members of the families defecating along the footpath. This is simply unacceptable. Also when the council has found a permanent site why do you need a temporary site.

Yours

David and Jessica Gibbs”

STATEMENT from Kristian Fearn, Ashbourne Local Resident

“Dear Members of Derbyshire Dales District Council,

I am writing to you as a dedicated resident of Ashbourne who has invested countless hours in community improvement initiatives, including participation in groups such as

Friends of Ashbourne Park and Ashbourne Town Team. While the views expressed in this letter are my personal perspective, they reflect my deep commitment to our town.

In your manifesto for the May 2023 District Council elections, you emphasise the goal of "Making the dales greener" by reducing pollution and promoting biodiversity. This vision aligns with our community's values. I'd like to address a matter of concern: the proposed introduction of travellers to several locations within Ashbourne, namely the Cokayne Avenue Recreation Carpark, Fish Pond Meadows Overspill Carpark, and Fish Pond Meadows Playing Fields.

The potential introduction of travellers to these areas raises significant apprehension due to the potential impact on local wildlife and ecosystems, particularly the well-being of the fish pond. Enhancing biodiversity within our town necessitates addressing the needs of the fish pond and its surroundings. Past experiences have shown that without proper facilities and infrastructure in place, the introduction of travellers into these areas could have adverse consequences for our cherished natural resources.

Your manifesto's second segment highlights your commitment to "Creating a fairer, more caring District" by supporting local residents, community groups, and businesses. This leads me to the remaining sites within Ashbourne identified for potential traveler use: Auction Close Car Park, Leisure Way Car Park, Clifton Road Coach and Car Park, Cokayne Avenue Car Park, and Shawcroft Car Park. Given the current economic climate, where the high street is in dire need of support, I firmly believe that allowing travellers to encamp in these car parks, frequented by both visitors and locals, would have detrimental consequences for businesses and the overall local economy centred around the town.

Our community already faces the challenge of significantly high parking charges compared to neighbouring areas outside the Derbyshire Dales catchment area. Additionally, the recent decision to remove parking on Ashbourne Market Place adds to our concerns. Permitting travellers into these essential spaces could have a considerable impact on the town centre, which is something we cannot afford at this stage. As businesses grapple with various challenges, including disruptions from the levelling-up fund over a twelve-month period and the ongoing cost of living crisis, I fear that these establishments may not withstand any additional impacts resulting from the presence of travellers in these crucial locations.

In conclusion, the potential introduction of travellers to these areas within Ashbourne, as mentioned earlier, not only raises environmental concerns but also poses economic challenges. We must prioritise the well-being of our natural environment, including the fish pond and its surroundings, while also addressing the critical needs of our local businesses during their time of need. Permitting travellers into these essential spaces could have a considerable impact on the town centre, exacerbating the economic challenges we currently face. Given the disruptions from the levelling-up fund and the ongoing cost of living crisis, I fear that these establishments may not withstand any additional impacts resulting from the presence of travellers in these crucial locations

I urge you to carefully consider the ramifications of introducing travellers to these areas within Ashbourne. I am confident that, by making informed decisions that align with our shared values, we can work together to build a better future for Ashbourne, one that it truly deserves.

Sincerely,

Kristian Fearn”

STATEMENT from The Shenton Family, Ashbourne Local Residents

“Good morning,

I am emailing with regard to the proposed traveller sites in Ashbourne.

All the sites in question are not suitable for travellers to settle on, the overspill carpark is too wet plus saplings have recently been planted. The playing fields, well we all know how the travellers left that last time, the clifton road car park, again, travellers used that location and completely disrupted the car park, I witnessed intimidation from them towards shoppers visiting the chemist and poorly patients visiting their doctors surgeries and hospital.

Ashbourne isn't the town suitable for travellers so another site should be found elsewhere.

Regards

The Shenton Family”

STATEMENT from Ms Clare Lamb, Ashbourne Local Resident

“I would like to express my concerns with regards to the review again of traveller sites in Ashbourne.

Over the 10 years I have lived here each time they have been allowed to use a site they have caused a public nuisance, left a large mess during and after they have left and are verbally unpleasant to passer-by.

It takes up valuable parking in the area in which as a resident myself if I wish to use the area I have to pay unlike when the travellers are given the area for free which means Ashbourne loses that revenue and not only that they are given amenities such as toilets on top of that in which residents have to pay 20p to use such conveniences

For me its been tried and tested and they didn't do their best to fit in with the community do basis things like go and use the tip like residents have to in order to get rid of large items of rubbish etc.

They are running business etc so must also have homes to use so why do they need traveller sites in our community.

If they wish to travel then that is what they should do and travel around.

When they have been given a site within the community they always stay longer than intended which causes more issues.

It only seems they need a site in the summer also never the winter time – why is this ?

Why are the council going around this again if it has already been deemed unsuitable – that must have been for a reason.

Thanks”

STATEMENT from Ms Loretta Clayton, Ashbourne Local Resident

“The fishpond meadow which seems to be up for discussion as a travellers site is most inappropriate. Children and the general public use this area to walk and play. It has a footpath which people use up to brookside and if the travellers were residents there people would be afraid as the travellers are quite abusive and intimidating not to mention the shit hole they will make.”

STATEMENT from Mr Duncan Waring, Ashbourne Local Resident

“Dear Sir/Madams, I would like to express my frustrations in why public sites in Ashbourne are being reconsidered for travellers. Ashbourne people pay for the up keep of these sites and all of the locations are used throughly for their intended purposes.

They are all for public use only. Change the listed sites would make them private use to travellers, this makes them unusable for the population of Ashbourne where there is not enough parking generally.

The last time the travellers visited Ashbourne they disrupted my business on Clifton Road and the time before disrupted our home life. Radios blasting, shouting and generally making a nuisance of themselves. I am aware there were a number of cases of local business affected by theft and unreasonable behaviour.

I and my family strongly object to any of the sites listed in the official document being used even temporarily due to the disruption to our daily lives. We are tax payers and law abiding citizens.

I would like someone to email me with assurances these site will be deemed unsuitable as was the last view.

*Your sincerely,
Duncan Waring”*

STATEMENT from Ms Bev Bradley, Great Longstone Local Resident

“I understand that Monsal Head car park is being considered as a site for travellers i n a meeting on 28th September. As a local resident of Great Longstone, I would like

to express my concerns about this. Monsal Head is a beautiful spot for locals and visitors alike; I go there on a weekly basis to enjoy the views and visit the lovely cafe. The introduction of travellers to this area would spoil it for everyone: the sight of the caravans, the mess they make, the inevitable crime they will bring and the impact it will have on local businesses. I think a more suitable site should be found, away from residents and local beauty spots.

*Regards,
Bev Bradley”*

STATEMENT from Mrs Kathleen Eaton, Ashbourne Local Resident

“As a resident of Ashbourne for 56 years, I strongly object to any of the following sites be used to accommodate the Travellers.

Auction Close Car Park, Leisure Way Car Park, Clifton Road Coach/Car Park, Cokayne Avenue Car Park, Cokayne Avenue Recreation Ground, Shawcroft Car Park, Fishpond Meadow Overspill Car Park, Fishpond Meadow Playing Fields, Playing Field, Hulland Ward.

These sites have already been deemed as unsuitable, and therefore, this decision should NOT be overturned.

Mrs Kathleen Eaton.”

STATEMENT from Ms Tania Maria Gutierrez Dutra, Darley Dale Local Resident

“Please ensure that this email is shared with ALL Councillors and also Paul Wilson Chief Executive, Derbyshire Dales District Council.

I come to you to request the VETO of allocation of space to be used by travellers in this area, I live and work in the area and I am extremely concerned with such a proposal.

I do believe the area is not suitable at all to receive travellers - safety is a concern already of mine and other residents, and with travellers in the area it will get much worse.

Businesses in the area won't be as safe full stop and we all know. Neither will the residents.

Teenagers are very influenceable and will start to act as the travellers do, if a chance is given.

I am expressing my concerns in the view of being exposed to such, please reconsider.

Kindest regards.

Tania Mara Gutierrez Dutra “

STATEMENT from Ms Margaret Corbridge, Bakewell Local Resident

“Yeld Close, Bakewell.

How ridiculous to even consider allowing a traveller site in the middle of a housing estate. It is 100% asking for trouble.

Travellers like to be on their own. Even though the ABC is not ideal at least travellers are on their own there. On a housing estate expect conflict.

Please forward this email to all Derbyshire Dales District Councillors and to Paul Wilson Chief Executive.”

STATEMENT from Mr David Annat, Chairman and on behalf of Hartington Town Quarter Parish Council

“FOR THE ATTENTION OF DERBYSHIRE DALES DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICERS AND ELECTED MEMBERS

*Hartington Town Quarter Parish Council would like to record their objection to a proposed motion to be discussed at your meeting on Thursday, 28 September 2023 - namely Item 4. **That the Council rescinds the following decision taken on 24 November 2022:-***

(b) That having considered the views of Town/Parish Councils, local residents, businesses and Ward Members, the following sites not be considered as suitable for designation by the Council as potential temporary sites for Gypsies and Travellers with a local connection to the Derbyshire Dales.

Among the places currently protected from designation is a car park in the centre of our village, namely: Parsons Croft Car Park, Mill Lane, Hartington

We believe this site is particularly unsuitable, as correctly reflected in the 24 November decision, which was based on consultation and informed local knowledge, as distinct from the current motion’s ‘let’s examine everything again’ approach. Surely after so long the more appropriate sites are apparent and have been short listed!

Furthermore, this motion goes against the joint report commissioned by the Derbyshire County Council and the Peak District National Park Authority assessing the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers, where the evidence states there is no need for pitches, plots or moorings within the Peak District National Park.

Should the motion be passed and the Council drawn into an even larger, more expensive and time consuming consultation exercise, by involving these already reviewed sites, we will robustly oppose such an inappropriate use for our car park. Currently it provides some relief from the many hundreds of cars that seek to park in Hartington throughout the year and importantly helps to subsidise our important public toilet facilities.

We would therefore be grateful if our above comments could be drawn to the attention of all councillors and Paul Willson your Chief Executive, in the hope that a majority of councillors will oppose the motion.

Yours

David Annat

Chairman and on behalf of Hartington Town Quarter Parish Council”

STATEMENT from Mr Tom Rice, on behalf of Mr Jeremy Rice

“Dear Sirs

I am sending the below email on behalf of my Father Jeremy Rice.

Yours faithfully

Tom Rice

Dear Sir/ Madam

GYPSY AND TRAVELLER SITE PROVISION

I am a resident of Coombs Road, Bakewell. Our property backs on to the DDDC land, including its carpark and the Agricultural Business Centre (ABC). As such I see at first hand the daily events within that site.

I understand that in November 2022 the Council designated the carpark at Agricultural Way (amongst others) to be unsuitable as a potential temporary site for Gypsies and Travellers. I do not know what (if anything) has changed, but I further understand that the Council now proposes to reconsider that designation.

I should like to register my strong objections to redesignation of this site for the following reasons:

1. Car parking in Bakewell

Bakewell has a serious under-supply of car parking facilities. It cannot cope with existing demand from residents and visitors, producing severe congestion. The removal of any car parking spaces for residential purposes will seriously exacerbate the existing chronic shortage.

2. Danger

On ABC market days (every Monday and intermittent other days), all car parking spaces in the relevant area are over crowded by farmers with tractors, Land Rovers and other and other agricultural vehicles with trailers and with enormous articulated cattle/ sheep transporters. The carparks are teeming with large, unwieldy vehicles jockeying for space. The proximity of living accommodation cheek by jowl with such activities would self evidently be fraught with danger.

3. Noise

a) The ABC site is by its very nature noisy by day (and sometimes by night). The immediate proximity to the site’s separator is especially noisy. Resident

gypsies or travellers are likely to find the noise insufferable. And will doubtless let you know!

b) There have been reciprocal noise problems generated by the gypsies/ travellers on their visits to the Showground (dogs barking, vehicles left running, generators running overnight, disturbed bellowing at all hours) which are unfair on nearby established residents.

4. Detritus

The aftermath of gypsy/ traveller visits to various parts of the showground has, sadly but invariably, been a trail of debris, filth and untidiness. This is an unfair infliction upon not only other authorised residents but also upon Council staff charged with the unpalatable clean-up.

5. ABC

The ABC is of great importance for the sale, purchase and distribution of sheep and cattle both locally and regionally, and as an employment and commercial centre. Its uninterrupted continuation is of great significance throughout Derbyshire Dales and beyond.

In a nutshell, the carpark at Agricultural Way is wholly unsuitable for any permanent or temporary fixed or mobile home facility and should forthwith be re-designated as such before further scarce public funds are wasted upon it.

Yours faithfully

J.C. Rice”

STATEMENT from Ms Annemarie Fell, Rowsley Local Resident

“I am writing to you regarding the proposal to use the Old Station Close Car Park in Rowsley as a site to house traveller families. I believe the site to be totally unsuitable.

The car park is the only public one in Rowsley and is heavily used by the businesses on the industrial estate and by the Level Centre contemporary arts centre which does considerable work with disabled people. It is also used by cyclists and walkers using the Heritage Way and numerous other walks; by users of the Village Hall and parents of the local school who are finding parking near the school impossible since the closure of Caudwells Mill and its car park.

The car park at Old Station Close is not a large one and on previous occasions once the traveller vans are in there is no room for anyone else. In addition there have been incidents of anti-social behaviour and abuse directed at users of the car park and local businesses.

Last time it was used for this purpose the vans were parked in such a way that the entrance to the trail was blocked by vans with chained dogs. This made people very

nervous of using the car park and the trail. Local business was impacted as people did not have the space or feel comfortable leaving their cars there. At this time, when businesses are struggling with increased costs to put an extra barrier in their way by removing the parking seems totally wrong.

There are no facilities in the car park and despite the delivery of a chemical toilet there were numerous reports of the trail being used as a toilet and a great deal of rubbish was left along the start of the trail and in the car park.

When the vans left there was a huge amount of rubbish left which after some considerable time was cleaned up by volunteers.

Best Regards,

Annemarie Fell”

STATEMENT from Mr Harry White, Chair of Calver Parish Council

“Dear Council Commitee

I am writing with great concern about the decision made by the council recently to rescind the decision taken on the subject of Potential Temporary traveller sites last year on the 24th of November 2022.

I have particular concerns for the sites proposed local to Calver, these being The land to the rear of Edge View Stoney Middleton, Hawkhill road Car park Eyam, Nether End Car Park Baslow the Two sites in Bakewell and Old Station Close Car Park Rowsley.

None of these sites are appropriate for Traveller families as they are all too close to local residents properties and local businesses in the area.

I totally object to any of the above sites being considered and as Chair of Calver Parish Council I will have this view supported in our next meeting in October.

Last year it was decided by the council that these sites were not suitable.

I ask that this please be shared with ALL councillors and with Paul Wilson the Chief Executive.

Kind Regards

Harry White

Chair Calver Parish Council”

STATEMENT from Ms Penny Peysner, Local Resident

*"I whole hearted agree that the Netherend car park would be totally inappropriate for this useage, my objections are as followes, 1) This car park is always full of visitors if some of it is closed off there will be even more people parking illegally in this area, my driveway is often blocked by illegal parkers. 2) The public toilets in the car park will be used by the travellers these are already over used and unclean, lorry drivers ect illegally park to use them. 3) as a rate payer paying some of the highest fees in the country to live in Baslow i do not appreciate not being formally consulted over something that will be detrimental in every way to our area. In fact i think it is disgraceful. Please let me know when you launch a proper consultation.
Yours ect.*

Penny Peysner"

STATEMENT from Ms Michelle Scattergood, Local Resident

"I would just like to say it would be disastrous if the previous decision on this matter is overturned. As a business owner in the town we did struggle when the gypsies were in town last time. There is a higher theft rate and fear as they are intimidating and threatening.

I would also like to add that I live close to the carpark by the leisure centre and when they were there last year, we had no sleep my daughter had to sleep in the back room on the sofa. She works full time and this had an impact on her and her work. During the day and night the dogs are barking which make my dogs bark. The shouting is day and night and just not acceptable. Yes these people do need a place to live but it must be away from residential houses where noise and aggression is a major problem.

Also away from the town business is bad enough and this will have great impact on business.

Thank you M Scattergood"

STATEMENT from Mr Jeremy Cotterill, Chair of Little Longstone Parish Meeting

"F.A.O. Derbyshire Dales District Council Meeting Committee

This letter expresses the concerns and objections of Little Longstone Parish Meeting, regarding agenda item 10, of the DDDC full council meeting due 28th September 2023; reconsidering the decision made on the 24th November 2022, regarding temporary tolerated sites, be rescinded for four sites, one being Monsal Head car park.

A report was presented to the council 24/11/2022 regarding the provision of temporary Gypsy and Traveller sites. 29 sites were reviewed, but the conclusion was

that 27 of these sites were not considered suitable for Gypsies and Travellers with a local connection to the Derbyshire Dales.

However, it now seems that the 27 sites are to be reconsidered for use. We have concerns and objections to Monsal Head car being proposed for use as a temporary site as stated below:

- 1. Methodology Matrix Policy HC6 was used, with a Green, Amber, Red criteria for 9 different aspects when reviewing the 29 sites. Out of the 29 sites, 14 had no Red criteria, Monsal Head car park NOT being one of them. This raises the question / objection, why is Monsal Head car park being reviewed at all, as opposed to those sites only with no Red criteria?*

Monsal Head was identified with a Red criteria due to the lack of local amenities (>20mins walk) as a requirement stated in 4.2c of the report. To be clear, there are no amenities in Little Longstone, the pre-school has recently closed in Great Longstone, due to lack of funding and there are no other local child care facilities available. There are no local healthcare facilities and very limited employment opportunities.

- 2. Monsal Head only gets Green criteria for the fact it is a car park i.e., vehicle access and parking, as well as the fact is not at the risk of flooding. All other aspects get Amber which mean there are still numerous suitability issues to be addressed and investigated.*
- 3. There is no historic Gypsy or Traveller use of Monsal Head car park. The traveller families discussed in the report have effectively chosen where they want to be. Therefore, the focus should be identifying sites close to their chosen locations with sufficient amenities and fitting the criteria of the HC6 policy. Otherwise, it is highly probable that any designated temporary site will not be used by the travellers and thus public monies will be wasted, which would be seen as irresponsible.*
- 4. Regarding Monsal Head car park, there is likely to be a negative impact on the adjacent businesses and possible job losses. This needs to be considered against any proposal.*
- 5. Monsal Head is considered as one of the iconic beauty spots in the Peak District and attracts circa 110,000 visitors per year. These visitors spend money which help support the local economies. The whole car park needs to be retained for the safe parking of our visitors and ideally parking fees gathered used to support the car park toilets, which are in danger of being closed (again), due to lack of funding.*
- 6. Finally, and just as important, consideration needs to be given to the mental well-being of the elderly and vulnerable local residence, many of who live alone and have previously expressed concerns and anxiety at the thought of a local traveller site.*

Jeremy Cotterill

Chair of Little Longstone Parish Meeting”

STATEMENT from Ms Dianne Gilmore, Local Resident

“Dear Councillors,

I have been made aware that the decision made on 24 November 2022 by the previous Traveller Working Group is being reconsidered by the council (re land at the ABC Bakewell, including the carpark at the rear of the ABC building & directly in front of the cattle enclosure, deemed to be unsuitable for a temporary site for travellers).

I have written to you outlining my objections on this matter on several occasions and would like to register my objection to rescind the November 2022 decision for the following reasons ;

1. Noise

The travellers have created noise problems for local residents, in the form of dogs barking, generators and unacceptable shouting at all times of the day & night. This causes unnecessary problems for the local residents. You will already be aware as councillors that noise from the ABC travels beyond the immediate residents of Coombs Road which means the effects are far reaching. I would also like to point out that the ABC generates a substantial amount of noise anyway making the siting of travellers within the carpark itself, unacceptable. Cattle are often held overnight in the enclosures - the associated noise from this is often very loud, even indoors with windows closed - I can't imagine you would recommend siting travellers adjacent to this.

2. Safety

The carpark at the ABC is very busy most of the time, peaking on market days (not just limited to Mondays) with lorries, tractors & trailers. The associated risks with travellers living in close proximity to this is high. The increasing traffic as a result of changes regarding the movement of sheep from the Chatsworth Estate, will also have a big impact upon vehicle movement and thereby safety.

In addition, in my previous correspondence to you, I have outlined our own concerns regarding the personal disturbance we have suffered as a family. I have attached this correspondence for reference.

*Regards,
Diane Gilmore*

Copy of email sent 20 June 2023 :

Dear Councillors,

I have been made aware of a meeting taking place today to discuss the proposed permanent housing of travellers at the showground in Bakewell. I have copied the

correspondence from Laura Newbould of Twenty Acre House, Coombs Road, below. She has already written on behalf of all the residents of Coombs Road (including Brooklands Bank) but I felt it necessary to state that we are in full support of her comments.

In addition I would like to point out that my daughter, aged 16, on several occasions has been the subject of unwanted attention from some of the travellers located at the showground. I now have to advise her (and my older daughter aged 20) that under no circumstances should they walk our dogs alone past their current location. Both girls have been heckled & now feel unsafe - this is not an acceptable situation and cannot be allowed to continue. We have lived on Coombs Road for almost 13 years and have only ever had to be cautious when the travellers are on-site at the showground.

I find it astonishing that this subject appears to be back on the agenda. The showground is not, and never has been, an acceptable place to permanently house members of the travelling community for reasons already outlined in the correspondence below. As Councillors, you have heard the concerns of the residents over many years and continuously seem to forget this - this never fails to amaze me. I implore you to take this matter seriously now.

Many thanks,

Diane Gilmore”

STATEMENT from Ms Barbara Fearn, Bakewell Local Resident

“Dear Sirs,

*Re: Council Meeting 28th September 2023
Agenda Item 10. Provision of Gypsy and Traveller Sites*

I refer to the above agenda item regarding the proposed designation of travellers sites.

I wish to register my strong objection to the rescinding of the decision previously made on this matter on 24th November 2022.

I am particularly concerned about the proposal for the land off Yeld Close, Bakewell, which lies directly adjacent to and amidst a residential area.

All of the sites proposed have previously been thoroughly considered and discussed, and importantly been subject to public consultation.

A decision to dismiss these sites as suitable for use by travellers was made after objections from local residents, local Councillors and Town and Parish Councils.

To now rescind the previous decision and reinstate the sites for occupation by travellers without further public consultation is both undemocratic and unethical. The fact that the proposal is to be reconsidered, has not even been publicised at all. It was only some 3 days before the date of the meeting, on Monday 25th September

2023 that this matter came to light quite by chance, and has now been brought to the attention of local residents who would be severely affected by any decision.

To create a travellers site off Yeld Close Bakewell, would have a significant detrimental impact on the residential amenity of owners and occupiers of property in the locality. It would affect the welfare, well-being and safety of local residents in the surrounding area. It is likely that many residents including the elderly and disabled, would feel threatened by this development.

I note that the Council would intend to impose a long list of conditions on the travellers who would use this site. The conditions cover matters such as the use of portable toilets, involvement in criminal activity, keeping the site clean and tidy, the disposal of rubbish, and nuisance caused by noise and disturbance by generators and vehicles.

The very fact that the Council feel the need to impose such conditions, is acknowledgement to the fact that all such problems have arisen in the past, and that by previous experience are likely to arise again in the future.

The Council have already fulfilled their obligation to provide a traveller site by the development of the land at The Woodyard, Homesford, nr, Cromford. There should be no reason to provide any additional sites within the area, and especially where such sites would have a detrimental impact on local residents.

Please unsure this email is circulated and brought to the attention of all Derbyshire Dales District Councillors, and also to the Councils Chief Executive Paul Wilson. Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

Barbara Fearn”

STATEMENT from Mr Mark Sealey, Peak Rail General Manager

“Dear sirs,

Followingh the announcement from DDDC that the land at Rowsley Station and Harrison Way are being considered as temporary travellers sites once again, I would like to lodge Peak Rails objections to this decision for the attention of the committee.

Following attempts to site the travellers at Harrison way, on the entrance road to Peak Rails Rowsley station site, last year , we raise a solicitors letter to the council in objection to the decision on the grounds of unsuitability from the travellers point of view and totally unsuitable for Peak Rail on the grounds of security on site , damage to property and local businesses and likely nuisance to local residents. This objection still stands.

The site at Rowsley old station is also unsuitable on the above grounds.

We urge you to reconsider the use of these 2 sites, we rely on the tousists that visit the area, decisions to use the sites even as temporary will damage that business.

kindest Regards,

Mark Sealey”

STATEMENT from Ms Stacey Hare, Ashbourne Local Resident

“Dear Committee

I am writing to register my objection to this being brought back to the council agenda despite being rejected in November 2022

The following sites should not be considered as suitable for designation by the Council as potential temporary sites for Gypsies and Travellers with a local connection to the Derbyshire Dales:

- i. Auction Close Car Park, Ashbourne - visitor/resident parking*
- ii. Leisure Way Car Park, Ashbourne - visitor/coach parking*
- iii. Clifton Road Coach and Car Park, Ashbourne - visitor/coach parking*
- iv. Cokayne Avenue Recreation Ground, Ashbourne v. Cokayne Avenue Car Park - sporting venue/visitor parking*
- vi. Shawcroft Car Park, Ashbourne - main town centre visitor/resident parking*
- vii. Fish Pond Meadow Overspill Car Park, Ashbourne - becomes water logged*
- viii. Fish Pond Meadows Playing Fields, Ashbourne - recently had trees planted to improve the park for all residents/visitors*
- ix. Playing Field, Ashes Avenue, Hlland Ward.*

All sites have already been discussed and deemed unsuitable.

This isn't a decision in the best interest of the Travellers or local residents - the site should be away from town centres particularly as we continue the levelling up project to improve Ashbourne for locals and visitors alike.

Regards

Stacey Hare”

STATEMENT from Ms Chloe Gibson, Local Resident

“To whom it may concern,

I would like to object to item 10 on the agenda. None of the proposed sites are at all suitable and as a business owner in town I have no option other to strongly object to this.

*Best wishes
Chloe”*

STATEMENT from Ms Amanda Matkin, Ashbourne Local Resident

“I am just registering my objection to all proposed sites in and around the Ashbourne vicinity for the traveler sites.

We have a business within the town and feel this would impact the local economy by deterring visitors in the area and impacting on car parking spaces.

Ashbourne is a small town trying to recover from the impacts of Covid and we have a dedicated team working hard to accomplish this.

It would also impact locals using the leisure and doctors facilities.

I don't believe a traveler site within a 5 mile radius's of the town centre is beneficial to the locals or the travelers.

I fully understand they need somewhere to reside but it shouldn't impact a town and its local economy trying to recover and contribute to the greater good of the community.

Regards

Amanda Matkin”

STATEMENT from Ms Kerry Andrews, Executive Director, Level Centre, Rowsley

“Please can this email be shared with all Councillors and committee members please. Thank you.

I am writing in response to the press release shared today regarding the postponement of the Gypsy and Traveller site discussion tomorrow regarding Old Station Close by LEVEL Centre. A postponement is not good enough, the proposal for this site should be withdrawn.

I look forward to your reply and update.

Kind regards,

Kerry “

STATEMENT from Mr Peter Birkbeck, Chair of Hulland Ward Parish Council

“Dear Chair

I am filling in for our Parish Clerk - Brenda Kirkham , who is currently on holiday.

On the agenda of your meeting tomorrow evening , under Item 10, you may be discussing the re-introduction of certain sites for consideration as Traveller Sites. The Playing Fields at Ashes Avenue , Hulland Ward have been included in this list. For your information, the ownership of the said Playing Fields is the subject of a Community Asset Transfer agreement to Hulland Ward Parish Council, with completion scheduled for October/November of this year and as such, the Playing Fields should be withdrawn from the list. This information will be confirmed by Carolyn Lucas, who is handling the Transfer of Asset agreement.

Kind regards

Peter Birkbeck”

STATEMENT from Ms Caroline Cotterill, Little Longstone Resident

“I have concerns and objections regarding the Monsal Head Car Park being used as a Traveller Site, please see below details of these concerns/objections:

- 1. Lack of local amenities, in Little Longstone, the pre-school has recently closed in Great Longstone, due to lack of funding and there are no other local child care facilities available. There are no local healthcare facilities and very limited employment opportunities.*
- 2. There will be a negative impact on the adjacent businesses and possible job losses.*
- 3. Monsal Head is one of the iconic beauty spots in the Peak District and attracts circa 110,000 visitors per year, these visitors spend money which help support the local economies.*
- 4. The whole car park needs to be retained for the safe parking of our visitors*
- 5. The toilets, are in danger of being closed (again), due to lack of funding*
- 6. Finally, and just as important, consideration needs to be given to the mental well-being of the elderly and vulnerable local residence, many of who live alone and have previously expressed concerns and anxiety at*

Best regards

Caroline Cotterill- Resident of Little Longstone”

STATEMENT from Richard and Mary Chaplin, Bakewell Local Resident

“We wish to state that the postponement of the Motion to rescind the 27 possible Travellers sites made in November 2022 is not good enough.

It should be withdraw altogether.

Richard and Mary Chaplin”

STATEMENT from Ms Nicola Rayneau-Kirkhope, Rowsley Local Resident

“Hello,

I have just read that the discussion of the two recommendations concerning the car park in question at Rowsley have been postponed due to concerns expressed by the public.

I want to understand why the recommendations have been postponed rather than completely withdrawn? As surely it is more beneficial for the whole process to know what options are on and off the table.

If the council does stick with postponing the discussion of these recommendations, what timeframe is being considered for this postponement?

Transparency of the steps and processes that the council are making in line with this issue is critical, and answering the questions above fall under this remit.

Thanks,

Nicola”

STATEMENT from Mr Stuart Allen, Chair of LEVEL Centre

“I am writing in response to the press release shared today regarding the postponement of the Gypsy and Traveller site discussion tomorrow regarding Old Station Close by LEVEL Centre.

A postponement is not good enough, the proposal for this site should be withdrawn. The proposal will be detrimental for LEVEL Centre and have a significant business and economic impact.

I look forward to your reply and update.

Best wishes,

Stuart”

STATEMENT from Mr Ben Rayneau-Kirkhope, Rowsley Local Resident

“Afternoon,

While I'm glad to hear there has been an amendment to the agenda and discussions regarding potential sites in Rowsley have been postponed, I would like to understand

why this issue is being postponed rather than withdrawn completely, however. The concerns mentioned below regard the site itself - the utility of the site as a car park for businesses and the public, the lack of parking in the area, the sites previous dismissal due to the A6 and lack of local amenities - these issues and the aren't going to be fixed now or in the future, so why leave this issue open and hanging without a resolution?

The press release emphasises the need for open and transparent communications, which I support and encourage. This postponement is a step in the right direction; however, postponement obviously implies a temporary solution to permanent opposition - this is neither open nor transparent and, in the interest, transparent communication, I strongly suggest dismissing recommendations regarding rescinding prior decisions and this carpark in Rowsley in particular.

Ben. “

STATEMENT from Margaret and John Hawke, Ashbourne Local Resident

“Dear Committee

We strongly oppose the proposed sites that have already been deemed unsuitable and cannot understand why this is being discussed yet again. A more suitable site must be found with proper sanitation and suitable facilities.

I was terrified to walk past when they had a temporary site at the leisure centre because of the dogs. With the increase in people being attacked by dogs, this must also be taken into consideration.

Margaret & John Hawke”

STATEMENT from Ms Jackie Starbuck, Bakewell Local Resident

“Dear Council,

Reference:

10. GYPSY AND TRAVELLER SITE PROVISION IN THE DISTRICT - REPORT OF THE TRAVELLER WORKING GROUP (Pages 17 - 60)

I wish to put forward my objection to 'postpone' for its further consideration 2 of the 10 recommendations scheduled to be debated at this Thursdays full council meeting. For clarity the items should be 'withdrawn'.

Regards

Jackie Starbuck”

STATEMENT from Ms Jean Gledhill, Local Resident

“To whom it may concern,

I would like to register my concern re agenda item 10 at the meeting on September 28 2023 , with regard to Monsal Head car park.

1. Monsal Head is an extremely busy tourist site and parking is a problem throughout Little Longstone even with the car park being available - try driving an agricultural vehicle down the road from Monsal Head - almost impossible because of cars parked on the road side as the car park is full.

2. Lack of facilities- there are no shops within easy walking distance,

3. The only toilets are those that we have rescued from closure. Who in their wisdom thought of closing toilets at a tourist destination(110,000p.a.) ? These toilets depend on public donations to survive.

4. When the toilets were closed it was found that people defaecated in the car park and surrounding greenery - disgusting. This could well happen again should the toilets be ‘taken over’by travellers - where will they empty their toilets?

5. Living on my own I know I will feel very nervous being surrounded by people I do not know.

Please consider these points.

Jean Gledhill”

STATEMENT from Ashbourne Local Resident

“How wrong to put these people by the fish pond I go to the fish pond for a walk looks like this is going to end

Do not need them spoil everything they go to”

STATEMENT from George Elliott, Bakewell Local Resident

“I refer to the above agenda item regarding the proposed designation of travellers sites.

I wish to register my strong objection to the rescinding of the decision previously made on this matter on the 24th November 2022.

I am particularly concerned about the proposal for the land off Yeld Close, Bakewell, which lies directly adjacent to and amidst a residential area.

All the sites proposed have previously been thoroughly considered and discussed, and importantly been subject to public consultation but apparently not this time.

A decision to dismiss these sites as suitable for the use by travellers was made after objections from local residents , local councillors, and Town and Parish Councils.

To now rescind the previous decision and reinstate the sites for occupation by travellers without any further public consultation is both undemocratic and unethical and I would say illegal.

The fact that the proposal is to be reconsidered, has not even been publicised at all. Not very diplomatic. It was only some 3 days before the date of the meeting ,on Monday the 25th September 2023, that this matter came to light quite by chance, and fortunately has now been brought to the attention of local residents who will be severely affected by any decision .I believe the legal process demands more time than 3 days therefor your proposed decision to reinstate this site would be illegal. Consultation periods in this country are measured in weeks rather than days.

The creation of a travellers site off Yeld Close , Bakewell, would have a significant detrimental impact on the residential amenity of owners and occupiers of property in the locality. It would affect the welfare ,well-being and safety of local residents in the surrounding area. It is likely that many residents including the elderly and disabled , would feel threatened by this development.

It's noted that the Council would intend to impose a long list of conditions on the travellers who would use this site. These cover matters such as the use of portable toilets, involvement in criminal activity, keeping the site clean and tidy, the disposal of rubbish, and nuisance caused by noise and disturbance by generators and vehicles. Might have an impact if you're talking about the general public but not in this instance .

The very fact that the Council feel the need to impose such conditions, is acknowledgment to the fact that all such problems have arisen in the past , and that by previous experience are likely to happen again in the future. I would say it's a 100% certainty.

The Council have already fulfilled their obligation to provide a traveller site by the development of the land at The Woodyard, Homesford, nr, Cromford . There should therefor be no reason to provide any more additional sites within this area ,and especially where such sites would have a detrimental impact on local residents.

Please ensure this email is circulated and brought to the attention of all Derbyshire Dales District Councillors, and also to the Councils Chief Executive Paul Wilson.

Thank You.

Yours Faithfully,

George Elliott”

STATEMENT from Diane Gilmore, Bakewell Local Resident

“Dear Council,

I understand the council has postponed for its further consideration 2 of 10 recommendations initially scheduled for debate on Thursday 28 September full council meeting.

I would like you to record my objection to this postponement. The items should be withdrawn.

Regards,

Diane Gilmore”

STATEMENT from Mr J.C Rice, Local Resident

“Dear Council,

Reference:

10. GYPSY AND TRAVELLER SITE PROVISION IN THE DISTRICT - REPORT OF THE TRAVELLER WORKING GROUP (Pages 17 - 60)

I wish to put forward my objection to 'postpone' for its further consideration 2 of the 10 recommendations scheduled to be debated at this Thursdays full council meeting. For clarity the items should be 'withdrawn'.

Yours faithfully

J. C. Rice”

STATEMENT from Ms Linda Bradshaw, Ashbourne Local Resident

“I do not believe these sites listed below are suitable for Gypsy & Traveller sites

Linda Bradshaw

DDDC meeting 28th September. Matlock Town Hall. 6.p.m

Agenda item 10 Gypsy & Traveller Site Provision in the District. If you wish to register to speak on the proposed rescinding of the minute, that states the sites for Ashbourne are not suitable. You will need to register BY NO LATER THAN 12 NOON OF THE WORKING DAY PRECEDING THE MEETING.

The following sites should not be considered as suitable for designation by the Council as potential temporary sites for Gypsies and Travellers with a local connection to the Derbyshire Dales:

- i. Auction Close Car Park, Ashbourne*
- ii. Leisure Way Car Park, Ashbourne*
- iii. Clifton Road Coach and Car Park, Ashbourne*
- iv. Cokayne Avenue Recreation Ground, Ashbourne*
- v. Cokayne Avenue Car Park*
- vi. Shawcroft Car Park, Ashbourne*
- vii. Fish Pond Meadow Overspill Car Park, Ashbourne*
- viii. Fish Pond Meadows Playing Fields, Ashbourne*
- ix. Playing Field, Ashes Avenue, Hlland Ward.*

They have already been discussed and deemed unsuitable. Now they want to overturn that decision a look at them again. This isn't a decision in the best interest of the Travellers it's purely political. Lets show them Ashbourne can't be used as dumping ground."

STATEMENT from Mr Robert Hockley, Rowsley Local Resident

"Traveller site, Rowsley Station Carpark

I am a resident of Rowsley and a Parish councillor, living here for more than 40 years. I have been made aware that the above car park at the station ay Rowsley has once again been proposed as a temporary site for Travellers.

I am totally opposed to this and appalled that this area, after a very large, detailed survey a short time ago, deemed it unfit for the purpose has once again been proposed for a site. Over the years that I have lived in this village this has been a bone of contention as each time the site has been used as a temporary Traveller home there have been issues that have caused both residents and businesses problems. Items gone missing from gardens and yards etc. Business disruption and unwanted callers at our homes.

Personally, have seen human excrement left in areas where children and adults alike walk dogs, cycle, and park cars so they can exercise and visit our area, not a great advert for tourists. The car park is turned into a rubbish site full of waste, tree and hedge cuttings and is a total mess needing days of work to tidy up. This is not happening at the current sites at Matlock and Cromford, so if it's not broken don't try to mend it.

A long-time friend of mine was harassed and jostled in his own house and forced to pay a ridiculous price for a negligible amount of work. He and his wife have since left

the village, a big thing for someone over eighty years old who had lived here all their lives. This is my experience of this temporary Traveller site, and I can only state that these things only occur when the Travellers are in the village.

I know that the sites in Matlock and Cromford have been successful and that a permanent site at the Woodyard has been approved, so why is it necessary to completely ignore a perfectly credible study by a large working party with knowledge and history of the Matlock area and the Traveller population and the list of sites mentioned for a proposal agreed after a quick study by 4 committee members who obviously have an agenda.

Please respond

Please note this is my personal opinion.

Robert Hockley “

STATEMENT from Ms Alison Waring, Ashbourne Local Resident

“Good morning

I wish to object to the proposed sites for travellers in Ashbourne. I understand the 9 or 10 listed possible sites for the travellers have already been rejected.

I live on Park Avenue and my garden backs onto the fishpond. I have serious concerns about my property and family living so close to proposed sites. I feel it would impact on my family’s quality of life.

My children walk to school across the park and overflow car park and would not feel safe to do that if the travellers were located there. The park location was one of the reasons we chose to buy our house.

The last time the Travellers were on the QEGS fields and overflow car park, they were very disruptive with loud and unsociable shouting and swearing, barking dogs, and the rubbish, litter and human waste was disgusting. I felt intimidated walking my dog near their caravans.

I understand that Ashbourne residents and business owners have extra funding to get the town looking and feeling like the best it can be, to attract the tourists and visitors that contribute to our local economy. Do you think having a traveller site in the middle of town, that’s trying so hard to pull itself up, will attract people? No. In my opinion it will have the opposite effect.

I realise that the travellers have to be allocated land somewhere but surely there are more suitable sites, away from our town centre.

Thank you for your attention. I look forward to following this matter.

*Kind regards
Alison waring”*

STATEMENT from Mr R Wells, Matlock Bath Local Resident

"Morning,

I'm sure that you were hoping our recent flurry of complaining had gone away and that once again you could sit back and do absolutely nothing regarding this situation !

*Following a conversation with some guests staying with over the weekend and their observation of the area - in particular describing walking over 'Lovers walk' only to find **piles of human excrement** and toilet paper along the path as they entered the Travellers holiday resort. I thought that I would walk over this morning to see what the situation really was - I can tell you it is **ABSOLUTELY DISGUSTING !** As you walk down what should be our village beauty spot you are met with:*

- 1. The incessant shouting (this is all day)*
- 2. Noise from generators going well into the night*
- 3. Dogs barking*
- 4. Leaf blowers*
- 5. Piles of human excrement in the middle of the footpath*
- 6. Litter*
- 7. Lack of visitor cars, coaches - losing the village essential revenue, especially during the Illuminations !*
- 8. More caravans turning up.*

I could go on and on.

We hear the constant noise all day into the night even with the windows closed !

I have been previously told that you will not install a height restriction barrier to prevent caravans as it would stop coaches What coaches ?? There has not been any coaches due to the Travellers taking all the top carpark !

I notice that when the Travellers have previously dumped tree cuttings and worse that your expensive video cameras don't seem to work or are completely Traveller blind ?

WHAT IS BEING DONE ABOUT THIS TRAVELLER ISSUE ?

Matlock Bath has had more than its fair share of this situation and it is turning our lovely village and once beauty spot into literally a SH..HOLE !

Regards

R Wells"

STATEMENT from Mr Christopher Harrison, Vice Chairman, Ashford in the Water Parish Council

“To Whom It May Concern.

Ashford in the Water Parish Council wish to register their strong objections regarding agenda item 10 of the DDDC full council meeting due 28th September 2023, reconsidering rescinding of the decision made on the 24th November 2022 regarding temporary tolerated sites, one being Monsal Head car park.

The Parish Council’s reasons for the objection are as follows:

- Monsal Head is one of the most popular beauty spots in the Peak District National Park and a travellers’ site would be totally unacceptable in this location.*
- The access via the B6465 is narrow and winding, making access via caravan difficult and dangerous.*
- There are no local amenities or places of employment for travellers to work.*
- The site in question is used by tourists, visitors, and families as a car park, which states no overnight parking. (There is a condition imposed by the Peak Park Planning Board that no overnight parking is allowed).*
- If this were to become a traveller site, families with children, in particular, may be intimidated by the sight of a traveller encampment and may choose to spend their leisure time elsewhere. This would have a negative impact on local businesses, which rely on tourism for their livelihoods.*
- The Monsal Head Hotel has just received planning permission for renovations. A traveller site will cause disruption to the building work being carried out and dramatically affect the hotel business.*
- The Monsal Head site has no arrangements for disposal of rubbish and waste. If rubbish is not appropriately disposed of, tourists and families will be deterred from visiting and will go elsewhere, depriving local businesses and hostelrys of much-needed income to support their own families. Not to mention an affect to the local environment.*
- Pressure on local schools and pre-school groups, where funding is already an issue.*
- Pressure on local NHS services, which are already over-subscribed and not within easy travelling distance of the site.*
- No local shops in the vicinity for travellers to obtain their provisions.*

I look forward to your reply regarding this matter and wish for our objections to be made clear and your forthcoming meeting.

Please can you share this with Paul Wilson (Chief Executive) and all District Councillors to ensure all are aware of this email.

Regards,

Cllr Christopher Harrison

Vice Chairman – Ashford in the Water Parish Council.

On behalf of Cllr Ben Taft

Chairman – Ashford in the Water Parish Council”

STATEMENT from Ms Laura Newbold, Bakewell Local Resident

“To whom it may concern.

I yesterday emailed various councillors and yourself with my worries concerning tomorrow evenings meeting with regards the siting of gypsy and travelling families at 27 sites within the Derbyshire dales. Today I have seen an announcement to say the two sites in Ashbourne and Rowsley, have been taken off the list and the decision regarding rescinding the other sites has now been postponed ??

Can I ask why those sites have been taken off but not the site in Bakewell.

I wish to ask the working party and councillors involved why this decision has only been postponed and has not been taken off the table all together. I believe there has been land obtained and available near Cromford for these families and I can not understand why you are wasting tax payers money going over the same old arguments and discussions that the district councillors have been having for years. Surely now is the time to put your money into giving the travellers the permanent site they require in cromford and not use it on any further time wasting consultation.

Please feel free to share and copy this email.

Regards

Ms L Newbould”

STATEMENT from Mr Robert Woolley, Local Resident

“What happens to the public footpath that goes across the overspill car park this path has been there for hundreds of years before any house getting built there when I was young this public footpath went from Black Bridge across the fields by the fish pond to Belper Road also across other fields to Sturston Lane Down Mayfield Road animals and amphibians didn't want them there and a lot of human nature don't want them on this site”

STATEMENT from Mr Stephen Gulliford, Ashbourne Local Resident

“I do not believe these sites listed below are suitable for Gypsy & Traveller sites

Stephen Gulliford

DDDC meeting 28th September. Matlock Town Hall. 6.p.m

Agenda item 10 Gypsy & Traveller Site Provision in the District. If you wish to register to speak on the proposed rescinding of the minute, that states the sites for Ashbourne are not suitable. You will need to register BY NO LATER THAN 12 NOON OF THE WORKING DAY PRECEDING THE MEETING.

The following sites should not be considered as suitable for designation by the Council as potential temporary sites for Gypsies and Travellers with a local connection to the Derbyshire Dales:

- i. Auction Close Car Park, Ashbourne*
- ii. Leisure Way Car Park, Ashbourne*
- iii. Clifton Road Coach and Car Park, Ashbourne*
- iv. Cokayne Avenue Recreation Ground, Ashbourne*
- v. Cokayne Avenue Car Park*
- vi. Shawcroft Car Park, Ashbourne*
- vii. Fish Pond Meadow Overspill Car Park, Ashbourne*
- viii. Fish Pond Meadows Playing Fields, Ashbourne*
- ix. Playing Field, Ashes Avenue, Hulland Ward.*

They have already been discussed and deemed unsuitable. Now they want to overturn that decision a look at them again. This isn't a decision in the best interest of the Travellers it's purely political. Lets show them Ashbourne can't be used as dumping ground."

STATEMENT from Ms Anita Daniel, Ashbourne Local Resident

"To whom it may concern;

Any proposed sight is unsuitable in Ashbourne. We have played host previously and the site was abused. The public passing by were confronted with a man exposing himself every day, along with noise of shouting throughout the day.

There were many incidents of theft in our local stores and I feel we should not have to extend our hospitality again.

Surely with all the outlay of expenses each time they set up camp and the clean up afterwards, would it not be worth considering building a permanent site with facilities away from the public?

If this is the law, surely the government has to come up with funding?

I look forward to your positive decision.

Anita Daniel”

STATEMENT from Mr Edward Keats, Rowsley Local Resident

“Having attended the meeting at Rowsley village hall on Monday evening I would like to register my concerns regarding the use of the old station car park as a traveller site. I feel the site is most unsuitable for such use

I look forward to hearing from you regarding this matter

Ed Keats”

STATEMENT from Mr Peter Davey, Rowsley Local Resident

“I wish to express my strong opposition to the Council’s view that Monsal Head should be considered as a potential travellers site. If there is a proven need for a site the Council’s own assessment has demonstrated that other more suitable sites are available.

To locate a traveller site next to one the District’s most popular visitor destinations is surely a complete nonsense and a further insult to the Parish given the Council’s previous decision to close the public toilets.

Peter Davey”

STATEMENT from Mr Gary Quittenton-Shaw, Rowsley Local Resident

“Dear Rowsley Parish Council & Members of Derbyshire Dales Council

Could you please circulate this email to all Council Members for consideration

I am writing to express my deep disappointment upon learning at the last minute, that the Council has decided to postpone the meeting scheduled for this Thursday regarding the proposed Traveller Site in Rowsley. The decision to delay the meeting by six weeks for consultation has left many people in our community feeling frustrated and in a state of uncertainty for another six weeks. It has been a very stressful time in the village over the past few weeks, and this delay will only exacerbate the situation.

I understand that consultation is an essential part of the decision-making process, and I wholeheartedly support it. However, the timing and way this delay was communicated to us have been less than satisfactory. It leaves us with numerous unanswered questions and exacerbates our apprehensions about the project.

Since 2013, we have been through countless consultations and meetings, proposing the use of this site as a permanent Traveller settlement and every time, after a great deal of work and stress by all parties, it was decided that the site was not suitable.

Was it not Albert Einstein who once said, "The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results"?

I kindly request that the Council provide more detailed information about the reasons behind this postponement and a clear timeline for the rescheduled meeting. Additionally, I believe it is imperative that the Council ensures that the consultation process is as inclusive and transparent as possible, involving all relevant parties and addressing the concerns and questions raised by the community.

This proposal is currently the only topic of discussion among Rowsley residents, and it is also causing anxiety among the elderly residents in single occupancy homes who come to the Post Office seeking updates. It is not our responsibility to provide this information; it is the responsibility of the Council. Your six-week delay only adds to the pressure on us, and it is completely unfair that, as the 'face of the village,' we are as much in the dark as they are.

Rowsley's residents have a vested interest in this matter, and we deserve to be kept well-informed and engaged throughout the decision-making process. I urge the Council to take our concerns seriously and to work diligently to restore our faith in the process.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to receiving more information about the rescheduled meeting and the consultation process.

Best Regards

Gary Quittenton-Shaw"

STATEMENT from Mr Pete Cross, Local Resident

"Dear Sir/ Madam

I understand you are postponing the motion regarding the rescinding of the decision that prevents travellers from accessing certain sites.

Postponing the matter will change nothing, the information contained in the email I sent on 25th Sept 23 will still be as relevant when you do get round to making a decision if you do postpone

There is obviously a great deal of opposition to the proposal otherwise I doubt you would take this course of action.

Delaying does no-one any favours and just continues the uncertainty and the proposal should be withdrawn now.

Regards

Peter Cross”

STATEMENT from Ian and Rachel Daykin, Rowsley Local Residents

“I object to the proposal for the siting of traveller/Gypsy caravans at Old Station car park Rowsley, and consider the location to be unsuitable for the following reasons;

Size of the site

The car park has been used as a temporary site before which was planned to accommodate 2 caravans but as many as 7 have been there at one time. The site is too small for caravans and all associated vehicles.

Tourism and local amenity

The site is heavily used by tourists using the old railway line trail to Matlock and by people visiting and working at the adjacent businesses and the art gallery on the industrial estate. The loss of the car park would have a severe impact on visitor numbers to the locality and to business revenues leading to hardship in the village. The displaced vehicles would also have to find alternative parking which is in very short supply in the area. Peak village car park will be an option but this usually full with shoppers and is not a public space to be used in a situation to help out the District council.

Traffic

The Old station site is used by vehicles transporting heavy machinery and is in close proximity to the busy main A6 road and must be too close to be considered safe for vulnerable people.

Environmental considerations

The site is very close to the River Derwent and therefore poses a risk of pollution to the watercourse.

The site is on the boundary of The Peak District National Park and is clearly visible from within the Park and would have a negative impact on the visual amenity of the National Park and The Rowsley conservation Area, which should be protected.

The site was a major source of noise pollution when last used. Shouting and screaming could be heard at all hours of the day and night together with chainsaws and barking dogs.

Smoke from bonfires was also a problem drifting across the village and main road.

I therefore urge the committee to consider an alternative more suitable site.

Ian and Rachel Daykin

STATEMENT from Ms Claire Fernihough, Ashbourne Local Resident

"I am writing this email to appose to the travellers site on the fishpond meadows site/overflow car park. My daughter who is 11 walks through this car park everyday to get to school and I don't feel she will be safe walking past these travellers as they have been there before and weren't very pleasant to the general public especially children. This site is too close to the town centre and will deter passers by stopping in our town and so will have effects on the towns income. Please re consider this. There are plenty of sites out of the town centre which would be more suitable.

Yours sincerely

Claire fernihough

STATEMENT from Glenn Cook, Ashbourne Local Resident

"Whilst we fully appreciate that travellers have to have suitable sites to live on we cannot think of a more unsuitable and inappropriate location than the Ashbourne Fishpond overspill carpark, for the reasons stated below:

- 1. Its in the centre of the town and it's amenities.*
- 2. Its next to a place of natural beauty.*
- 3. An area that both locals and visitors use for exercise, peace, quiet and relaxation.*
- 4. Next to to a public park where many public events take place.*
- 5. Many people of varied age groups feel threatened and uncomfortable being in close proximity to traveller family sites.*
- 6. Its a residential area with many of the flats residents overlooking the site.*
- 7. It would create a no go area in the centre of the town for many, both locals and visitors.*
- 8. Many unaccompanied children walk through the area on route to and from school avoiding walking along a busy main road.*
- 9. It's a local centrally used open amenity space.*
- 10. It's an overspill car park, it needs to remain a public area.*

The traveller families have occupied this site in the past, they have shown to disrespect their immediate surroundings and have not maintained an acceptable level of cleanliness and tidyness. Dogs barking, making it not only audibly unacceptable but also creating a threatening and aggressive atmosphere for many. Their presence prevented people wanting to walk in the adjacent area. Overall creating an antisocial atmosphere.

Park Avenue resident.”

STATEMENT from Ms Tessa Lindebaum, Darley Dale Local Resident

“Hello

I would just like to express my concern about the current information circulated at very short notice about this issue.

In particular I was shocked at the rescinding of the decision taken on 24 November 2023 concerning the sites not considered suitable for designation as temporary sites for Gypsies and Travellers in Derbyshire Dales.

I am also concerned that no length of time was proposed or suggested for the postponement announced.

*Yours sincerely
Tessa Lindebaum”*

STATEMENT from P and A Fletcher, Monsal Head Local Resident

*“In relation to **Monsal Head** being considered as a permanent traveller site*

we wish our observations to be included with other objections :-

*Currently **no overnight parking** of caravans or motor homes is permitted at Monsal Head.*

This is much appreciated by those of us who live neighbouring the car park .

All the houses at Monsal Head are occupied by permanent residents who are already regularly & disproportionately disturbed by excessive vehicle & visitor noise by some using the car park who have a blatant disregard or courtesy for the local community.

Furthermore the access to our field where we graze livestock is directly off the Monsal Head car park & any site would have a further negative impact on our ability to access our fields with agricultural vehicles .

To place a traveller site so close to a small number of long term permanent residents , not to mention a continuous high footfall of visitors , and with no access to any facilities close by , would be very ill conceived when other sites offer better provision for the travellers without causing such a negative impact to permanent residents.

Yours

P & A Fletcher”

STATEMENT from Ms Kate Bolderson, Ashbourne Local Resident

“I believe everyone deserves a place to stay and the travellers have been offered multiple of places, went on to reject them.

It's not fair to the local people who have to pay their way to stay in Ashbourne and give them land for free. Who pays for the clean-up when they have decided they've had enough of this area!?

When travellers have previously been set up in Ashbourne they were verbally aggressive to anyone nearby, also they were found shop lifting from multiple of shops.

It's not appropriate to get away car parks as there isn't enough spaces (pushing people to park on the side of roads).

We only have one coach park (coaches can't park up anywhere else).

From a very concern local

Kate”

STATEMENT from Mr Harry White, Chair Calver Parish Council

“Dear Council Committee

I feel that 'Postponement' is not good enough. The proposals should be permanently withdrawn.

These Sites are not acceptable to the Travellers or the residents and businesses of the local area.

Please can this be sent to ALL council members.

Kind Regards

*Harry White
Chair Calver Parish Council”*

STATEMENT from Mr Stephen Bones, Stanton Lees Local Resident

“Good Morning,

I understand tonight's meeting has been postponed .

I would strongly urge the council to abandon on the whole proposed subject matter on the grounds of :

1) *The previous administration spent time and money on a work party and reached a democratic conclusion.*

2) *A permanent site has been passed at the Woodyard Cromford , this meets the councils obligations to find a permanent site for the families concerned.*

It is in the interests of all businesses and the traveler families that the whole issue is not dragged out any further.

Many Thanks

Enjoy Today

Stephen Bones”

STATEMENT from Mr Simon Turton, Baslow Local Resident

“Dear DDDC

I am writing to express my concern about Derbyshire Dales District Council rescinding a decision that you previously made on the subject of potential sites for travellers across the region.

I realise that from a statement issued on 27 September that the debate on the matter has been postponed, but the issue remains unresolved.

The result of this U-turn is that a site in Baslow is being considered again.

I would be grateful if the Council can explain how the working group can justify rescinding their previous declaration? From my understanding there has been no new research or consultations.

I would especially like to know if the working group has even visited the proposed site in Baslow? The car park in question is often full to capacity and is also widely used by the local community going to a range of regular events that take place at the adjacent village hall — it is a totally inappropriate site for travellers.

Nothing has changed in the use or infrastructure of the car park in Baslow in the last 10 months and whilst you are trying to keep all options open, this volte face completely ignores the balanced and information-based decisions made in November 2022.

As a resident of Baslow and someone who sees the importance of the visitor economy to this village and surrounding area, I would like to request, in the strongest possible terms, that the decision to take Baslow off the table is upheld.

Please share these comments with all Councillors and the DDDC’s chief executive.

Kind regards

Simon Turton”

STATEMENT from Mr J R Harrison, Chairman T. C. Harrison Group Limited

“We have previously lodged our objection and accompanying reasoning to the site in my letter dated 20th September 2023 already lodged.

We note on the Derbyshire Dales District Council (DDDC) website in a news article published today that debate on the two traveller site recommendations due to be discussed at the DDDC meeting on Thursday 28th September has been postponed.

We note however that remaining recommendations will be put to full council.

We would like to reiterate our objection in the strongest possible terms to the proposals and would like to state that postponement of discussions does not go far enough and that proposals to use Old Station Road Car Park Rowsley should be withdrawn.

You have permission for this letter to be used as a formal objection in the next full Council meeting scheduled 28th September.

I can confirm that permission is given for this letter to be circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting and to Paul Wilson and other officers of Derbyshire Dales District Council.

Yours sincerely

JR Harrison

Chairman”

STATEMENT from Ms Sarah Porter, Northwood and Tinkersley Parish Council Clerk

“Dear Sirs,

Following on from this evening's Parish Council meeting, Northwood and Tinkersley Parish Council would like to raise concerns about why the current working group is ignoring the work completed by the previous cross party working group which led to the removing of a number of unsuitable sites as potential temporary traveller sites. It seems the new administration and the officers are reinventing work previously done but without any consultation with the local parishes, businesses and communities. There has been no new research or consultation. Nothing has changed in the use or infrastructure of these sites in the last 10 months. The Parish Council appreciates you are trying to keep all options open, but this proposal appears to completely ignore the balanced and information based decisions made back in November. Please can you reassure the Parish Council that the previous work will be looked at properly?

Certain elements of the report have now been postponed. The Parish Council would like to know when a new report will be going to Full Council? The Parish Council would like to be informed when a new report will be coming forward and the working group keep the affected Parishes informed of progress..

Best wishes,

Sarah”

STATEMENT from Mr Ian Else, Director BAHS, Agricultural Business Centre

“For the attention of Councillors of Derbyshire Dales District Council for the meeting to be held at Matlock on 27th September 2023.

Bakewell Agricultural and Horticultural Society (BAHS) is a charity based at the Agricultural Business Centre, Bakewell (ABC) and is owner of land close to the ABC including land currently let to Derbyshire Dales District Council (DDDC) as a car park (car park) and is also lessee of other land at Bakewell Showground.

The objectives of BAHS are to promote the interests of agriculture, horticulture and forestry. BAHS achieves this by organising events on Bakewell Showground to reflect these objectives, and by giving bursaries to persons of any age living within 25 miles of Bakewell to enable them to prosper in these fields. BAHS also from time to time allows (within the terms of any planning and other restriction) the hire of parts of Bakewell Showground. This additional income supports the maintenance of the showground and management and administration of BAHS.

BAHS wishes to express a strong objection to any use of the car park as either a temporary or permanent traveller site within the Derbyshire Dales.

The car park is owned by BAHS and leased to DDDC. The Lease prohibits the occupation of the land for caravans and also as overnight parking. BAHS were, a few years ago, forced to erect fencing at the car park to assist DDDC to fulfil their Lease obligations. The terms of the Lease to DDDC also reflects planning restrictions imposed by the Peak District National Park Authority as the planning authority covering the Bakewell area.

In the past the presence of travellers at the car park has resulted in hirers contacting BAHS to cancel hires on the showground. This not only results in loss of use to BAHS but more importantly a loss of income which might be used by BAHS in its charitable aims. BAHS has also had to use Court Bailiffs to remove travellers so as to allow BAHS events on the showground to go ahead.

BAHS has suffered vandalism to the tune of several thousand pounds following occupation by travellers of the car park and other land in the care of BAHS. Quite

recently the fence protecting the car park was vandalised with the effect that within a short time travellers entered the car park. In this instance we understand that Police are pursuing a case against individuals for criminal damage at the car park.

Visits to the car park by travellers have in the past resulted in the abandonment of much rubbish and detritus which is not acceptable in the main car park of one of the Peak District's main tourist centres and the presence of travellers also has a significant adverse effect on tourism which is a key economic thrust in and around Bakewell.

Finally I must make the point that traveller occupation of the car park has usually resulted in BAHS, as owners of the car park, receiving complaints. Some of these complaints have been quite pointed!

BAHS request therefore that the car park at Agriculture Way, Bakewell be removed from the list of potential traveller sites in the Derbyshire Dales.

Yours faithfully,

Ian Else Director BAHS

Agricultural Business Centre, Bakewell”

STATEMENT from Ms Poppy Keats, Local Resident

“Hi there,

Wanted to email in regarding the applications to build on the car park by the wood yard in Rowsley.

I do not think it is suitable considering how it is used so often for parking for local businesses and often floods through winter / strong rain fall.

It is not an appropriate site for housing.

*Kind regards,
Poppy Keats”*

STATEMENT from Ms Amanda Heading, Local Resident

“Hi Susan,

I'm just writing regarding the proposal to have a travellers site at Rowsley.

The site proposed is in a very well-used public area, where businesses have been established for a number of years, the footpath installed to link Rowsley and Matlock

along the disused railway line for walkers/runners and cyclists to use, and the parking area is always busy for local inhabitants of the area, as well as visitors to the Peak District. I walk my dogs along the footpath and river several times a week and am careful to ensure dog mess as well as litter, is picked up.

When the travellers were last there using this area, I personally stopped walking my dogs and running along the river, to avoid starting/ending up near the travellers site. It was messy, noisy and intimidating.

I understand that a site needs to be found but I'd suggest this is in too public a place and too well used by the local community. It would therefore impact on the community's use of the public areas, as well as the cleanliness of the surrounding area. If the mess and destruction left last time is anything to go by, I don't think it's a good advertisement to encourage tourism to the Peak District either.

Your sincerely,

Amanda Heading”

STATEMENT from Patricia Rose, David Brown, Anne Bebbington and David Bebbington, Local Residents

“Regarding the above proposals for making some carparks in Ashbourne into a Traveller site.

All the car parks are not suitable for use as a Traveller site, these are all in residential areas. Travellers in the town would discourage visitors to the area and the use of these car parks for the travelers would cause and significant unrest in the area.

These sights have been classed as unsuitable previously and should not be put forward again, Ashbourne and its surrounding areas are struggling to recover from Covid and anything that impacts on the town starting to thrive again must be discouraged.

On Behalf of

*Patricia Rose
David Brown
Anne Bebbington
Darwin Bebbington”*

QUESTION from Ms Victoria Friend, Rowsley Local Resident.

“Why, when the previous working group was 10-12 people, is the current working group only 4 people, two of whom are new councillors with no knowledge of the enormous background to the Traveller issue”

RESPONSE

At the District Council elections held on 4 May 2023 the size of the Council was reduced to 34 Council and political control of the Council changed. At the Council's Annual Meeting in May the Council agreed that, bearing in mind it is not a decision-making body, places on the Working Group would be allocated so that each political group would have one representative on the Group rather than places being allocated according to political proportionality as previously.

Each political Groups was free to appoint one member of their choice to the Working Group but as only half previous members of the Working Group were re-elected some changes in membership were likely. As the report of the Working Group indicates new members visited the sites listed and were briefed on previous Working Group discussions.

STATEMENT from Mrs Ellena Scott and Mr David Scott, Local Residents.

"I wish to object to Derbyshire Dales car parks in Ashbourne being considered for use as a temporary travel sites. In particular the Fish Pond overspill car park.

I appreciate that this site will not be discussed on the 28th September, I still wish to record my objection to all of the car parks in the centre of town being considered as suitable traveller sites, even on a temporary basis.

To allow these car parks to be used for traveller accommodation will have a negative impact on trade, tourism and on residents living nearby.

The sites being considered for Ashbourne were viewed and deemed as not suitable back in November 2022. That decision should still remain and just because another party now have a majority vote does not mean those sites are any more suitable than they were last year.

Ashbourne will be seriously affected if the travellers are placed on any of the suggested sites and the decision to reconsider should not be permitted.

Yours sincerely,

Ellena and David Scott, Ashbourne Residents."

STATEMENT from Mr Jonny Stunt, Local Resident.

"Hello,

I'm Jonny, a resident of Rowsley, and I'm writing to you to strongly object to the proposed establishment of a permanent (or temporary) traveller site in the village in the old station car park.

It's unbelievable that a site that wouldn't even be considered suitable for housing is being considered as a possible home for travellers. The site is at the very centre of our beautiful village and would spoil the natural beauty of the place for visitors and

residents. It is also wholly unsuitable for the travellers themselves due to the uneven ground, lack of green space, lack of light, electricity, water, extreme risk of flooding etc etc.

The only free car park in the village is currently on the site and is used by:

- People visiting the National Park (which is a stones throw away, on the other side of the river)
- Visitors accessing the numerous country walks that start in Rowsley - including the old railway route through to Darley Dale
- People visiting the numerous businesses adjacent to the site
- Local people use the car park when out on leisure activities like running, biking and walking on the trail

I understand that the proposed Rowsley site has recently been postponed from consideration, but postponement is not good enough. The site should be completely removed from any list of potential sites immediately due to it being completely unsuitable.

Thank you,

Best Wishes

Jonny Stunt”

STATEMENT from Mrs Louise Kalling-Smith, Local Resident.

“As a resident of Ashbourne for 26 years and working in the town for 9 years I cannot oppose the various schemes for the travellers to settle in Ashbourne.

We as a town are doing everything we can to elevate the feel and look of Ashbourne. Trying our hardest to attract visitors to the town. Increase employment and revenue to the town.

To have travellers in town who previously has caused a significant amount of upset, theft and unsettling is just not acceptable.

It will be extremely short sighted of the council to suggest any of these sites and surely not suitable for the travellers themselves.

Surely you can find a better solution!”

STATEMENT from Ms Joanne Watson, Local Resident.

“I am writing in to express my concern for a traveller site in Ashbourne. Ashbourne is not the right place for a traveller site when they were temporarily here before they caused a lot of stress to residents and businesses. Parents were reluctant to let their children walk to school, tourists are put off for stopping and visiting the town, shops have to employ extra security because they have been known to cause issues.

Ashbourne is still struggling from lockdown and covid. You can't give us so much money to do up the town to take it away from us by siting travellers.

I really hope you listen to the residents this time.

Thanks Joanne Watson”

STATEMENT from Mr Jim Styles, Managing Director, Peak Tractors Ltd.

“Dear Derbyshire Dales Committee members.

As Managing Director of Peak tractors, I was shocked and very annoyed on how the council are now going back and reinvestigating the car park at Rowsley for use of a temporary travellers site.

The Clandestine way that this has been handled is exceptionally unprofessional and raises questions on the languidly of your actions.

It seems that some committee members are trying to rush this through council and maybe these members have other motives.

At Peak tractors we have a three year plan to triple our work force should the travellers move to Rowsley this plan will not go ahead and we pride ourselves on been a local employer.

Please do not jeopardise local business growth for the sake of rushing through this ridiculous idea of moving travellers to Rowsley.”

STATEMENT from Mrs Marlene Wager, Local Resident.

“To whom it may concern, I oppose any plan, for a site for the gypsy's , when they were in Ashbourne, previously, a cage was erected to keep in a violent person, women myself being one, walking past, endured vile disgusting obscenity.

One man, actually took down his trousers, and did a crap and laughed. Ashbourne was once a beautiful market town, I am fully aware, we have to move forward, but a gypsy site, is not the way, I no longer have love for Ashbourne, and I was born and bred here, it's so sad at 74 I find it difficult enough, to walk the streets of Ashbourne anymore, and if this gypsy site goes ahead, I fear even more, they call themselves travellers, and the clue is right there just to reiterate no to the gypsy.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Marlene Wager”

STATEMENT from Ms Ann Barlow, Local Resident.

“My 83 years old mum lives over the road from this proposed site and last time the gypsy's were there, the noise was awful for her, dogs barking, the travellers shouting,

load music etc, totally unsuitable site for everyone including the travellers themselves”

STATEMENT from Mrs Felicity Bridges, Local Resident.

“I am an Ashbourne resident and I have lived here all my life.

I am writing to explain why i do not think it is suitable to have the Travelers in the apposed spaces in Ashbourne. My main two concerns are Shaw croft and the waterside coach car park.

When the travellers were at the coach park last time it coursed no end of problems. One being no where to park for the chemist or the doctors.

When you are really poorly the last thing you need is walk from the leisure centre car park. You need to be able to park close by and this was just impossible.

I have sever Asthma and to walk over to get my new prescription for my inhalers was just to much.

The other thing was that the day I did walk over I was shouted at and insulted by an aggressive man with no top on with in the traveler site. I felt extremely intimidated and I actually cried in the chemist.

A nurse from Clifton road surgery washing my blood test and the same man was shouting that loud she was struggling to concentrate telling me she had had this behaviour all day.

Other factors to considered about this site is coaches. Where are they supposed to park when the travellers are here? Ashbourne struggles now with heavy vehicles and parking as its is.

Residents that live within close proximity have to put up with the shouting and uncleanness too.

On another occasion One traveler even decided to desecrate by urinating in full view of the public including a friends little girl who was 9 years of age.

Again Fish pond meadow and shaw croft you have the same problems.

I ask what is the problem with housing them in the council yard by the recycling centre or looking for land out of the town.

I am a hard working citizen that has had to work hard for what I have got and where I live.

This Town is no place for the travellers as it effects so many businesses and residents. Children walking to and from school and the town on a whole.

I put it to you that the intended places are NOT suitable and needs to be re addressd with new sites in mind.

Regards Mrs F Bridges.”