

F PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE - 22 July 2024

Agenda Item 3

STATEMENT from Kerry Andrews, Level Centre - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Councillors,

My name is Kerry Andrews and I am the Executive & Artistic Director of LEVEL Centre, an award winning arts centre with national significance. I am writing to raise a matter that is being discussed at a meeting on Monday 22 July 2024 regarding traveller site proposals under agenda item 7. I am writing in response to The Old station Close / Station Road car park and land in Rowsley which is once again under consideration. Please can this email be circulated to all Councillors and the committee. I would like to register to attend and speak at the meeting.

This site proposal is very concerning for us. LEVEL specialises in programmes with Learning Disabled people, disabled creatives, young people who are autistic and neurodivergent, SEN schools and the wider community. We want to understand if the Council has undertaken an equality analysis to understand the importance of the use of this car park by LEVEL and our visitors, the majority who have additional needs.

LEVEL opened in 2008 and when planning permission was granted by Derbyshire Dales District Council to agree the planning permission the following was outlined:

VISITORS CAN PARK IN FRONT OF THE BUILDING FOR SHORT PERIODS OR IN THE ADJACENT HIGHER CAR PARK WEST OF THE SITE THE HIGHWAYS AND PARKING STRATEGIES HAVE BEEN REVIEWED AND AGREED IN PRINCIPLE WITH DERBYSHIRE DALES DISTRICT COUNCIL

When the planning permission was granted for the building it outlined that we would use this car park as car parking is limited 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, external contractors, facilitators, artists, parents, carers, volunteers, visitors as Old Station Close car park is used as an overflow. This proposal could have a significant impact on our charity and business model and people wanting to attend and visit LEVEL.

We would like all Councillors to be aware of the following too:

- This car park is our Fire Assembly meeting point
- We are an Arts Council Funded National Portfolio organisation. We are one of 985 organisations nationally awarded funds. Our work has an impact nationally on the development of disabled creatives

We are a growing organisation and post pandemic visitors are increasing year on year. Recent funding awarded that will increase the number of car park users in addition to our current programme includes:

- Funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to create a bio-diverse sensory art garden behind our artblock for the community - to be completed by Feb 25
- Awarded 3 year funding from the National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund which will involve a significant community workshop and volunteer programme starting in July 2024
- Awarded funds to deliver a creative programme for home schooled young people - starting in September 2024
- Granted a Capital grant for building improvements over the coming year. Increased tradespeople needing places to park. Once complete more up to date facilities, increasing our overall footfall.

We would like the Councillors to fully understand how this proposal will impact on parking for our users, audiences and our place in the visitor economy and would welcome a conversation with the committee and council on this agenda item.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Kerry

STATEMENT from Sue Warren, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

As a resident of Ashbourne and living with my disabled husband at shawcroft flats I am very unhappy about the thought of travellers moving onto the overspill car park. In the past we had them staying on the overspill we couldn't have windows open for the noise of the dog they had barking day & night, the autistic boy sitting in a white van pipping the horn, music blaring out at 6:00 and 6:30 in a morning. Now Ashbourne is losing a lot of parking spaces this car park will be needed for tourists and residents. This is not an ideal place to put travellers especially with older residents living nearby and parents walking their children to school hearing abuse being shouted, I work in retail and last time they were here we had thefts not only in the shop I work but other outlets here, We do not want them here!

STATEMENT from Jessica Ashley, Level Centre - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Councillors,

I am a board member of LEVEL Centre, a charity in Rowsley that works with learning disabled people, disabled creatives and the wider community.

It has come to my attention that Derbyshire Dales District Council is considering approval for the car park on Old Station Close to be used by the travelling community.

The Old Station Close car park is currently a vital resource for LEVEL, and it is used broadly by staff, participants, external contractors, facilitators, artists, parents, carers, volunteers, and visitors to ensure access to the centre.

This proposal could have a significant impact on LEVEL and people wanting to attend and visit the centre.

The loss of being able to have access to Old Station Close car park is particularly concerning, especially as this is the fire safety evacuation point for LEVEL; not having access to this is of major concern.

This car park is vital for LEVEL's charitable work and LEVEL's funding has grown significantly over the past few years and we are seeing a steady increase in visitors.

This proposal will have a significant impact on LEVEL Centre and its business model and could significantly impact our place in the visitor economy in the area.

I hope that this can be resolved and I look forward to your reply

Yours Faithfully,

Jessica

STATEMENT from Claire Housley, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Councillors,

I am a parent/carer of a participant who attends LEVEL Centre. I am concerned that the Old Station Close car park is being considered for a traveller site. This is where we park when we attend a weekly group for my two autistic children and not having access to this is of major concern. LEVEL Centre is a big part of our lives and not being able to park nearby will be a big problem for all parents, carers and visitors. This car park is vital for Level to deliver brilliant projects for the community.

Please can this email be shared with all councillors.

Kind regards,

Claire Housley

STATEMENT from Helen Roberts, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Councillors,

I am a parent of a participant who attends LEVEL Centre. I am concerned that the Old Station Close car park is being considered for a traveller site. This is where we park when we attend and not having access to this is of major concern. The LEVEL Centre is a huge part of our lives and not being able to park nearby will be a big problem for all parents, carers and visitors. This car park is vital for Level to deliver brilliant projects for the community, projects that we have benefitted from hugely and look forward to being able to continue to attend.

Please can this email be shared with all councillors.

Kind regards,

Helen Roberts

STATEMENT from Stuart Allen, Level Centre - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Councillors,

I am Chair of LEVEL Centre, a charity in Rowsley that works with learning disabled people, disabled creatives and the wider community. I am concerned that the Old Station Close car park is being considered for a traveller site, especially as this is our fire safety evacuation point.

Not having access to this is of major concern.

This car park is vital for Levels charitable work. LEVEL's funding has grown significantly over the past few years and we are seeing a steady increase in visitors.

This proposal will have a significant impact on LEVEL Centre and its business model.

This proposal will impact parking for our users, audiences, and our place in the visitor economy in the area.

I look forward to your reply.

Stuart

Stuart Allen

Chair of LEVEL Centre

STATEMENT from Susan Salisbury, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Councillors,

I am a parent of a participant who attends the Level Centre as he has done for many years I am very concerned that the Old Station Close Car Park is being considered for a traveller site. This is where we park when he attends the centre and not having access to this car is a big concern as the level centre is the only place he attends it is a very important part of our lives. The car park is nearly always very full so is very much needed by the Level Centre and all the other business on the site.

Please share this email with all councillors.

Kind Regards

Susan, Roger and Dave Salisbury

STATEMENT from Graeme Payne, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Councillors

We write as the parents and guardians of our daughter, who attends the LEVEL Centre at Rowsley.

We are concerned that the Old Station Close car park, may be being considered for a change in use, and this may ultimately leave us without parking in close proximity to The Level.

Our daughter has Down's Syndrome and the time she spends at The Level has played a big part in her recuperating from a severe mental health condition, and this has also impaired her walking ability, so it does represent a big concern for us.

I imagine this might be a considerable concern for all parents, carers and visitors who attend The Level on a regular basis and hope your eventual decision will not impact us all adversely.

Kind regards, Graeme and Diane Payne

STATEMENT from Abbie Canning, Level Centre - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Councillors,

I am a freelance artist who regularly facilitates sessions at LEVEL Centre and supports their programme of engagement to enable equitable access to the arts for disabled, marginalised and vulnerable groups.

I am writing due to acute concerns that the Old Station Close car park is being considered for a traveller site, due to the detrimental impact this will have on audiences access to LEVEL and its programme of activity.

Given the limited parking on site at LEVEL, not only do I frequently use this car park when I attend (I rely on its close proximity as I am often carrying equipment and materials) most pertinently, the reduction in parking facilities within easy reach of LEVEL will prove a barrier for disabled participants and audiences to attend the valuable activity that LEVEL carry out.

Parking further from the centre could potentially put off audiences who might be attending and put visitors at risk.

As a parent carer to a disabled child who has a propensity to go into 'fight or flight' and abscond - I have to be mindful that I require ease of access when undertaking outings. Parking further away from a venue puts my child at acute risk, should they be triggered or have an adverse reaction. I need - as I imagine other participants and audiences accessing LEVEL - safe and close ease of access.

Not having access to the Old Station car park would be of major concern not only to myself as an artist facilitator, but also to the impact it will have on LEVELs audiences and activity.

As a member of freelance staff at LEVEL I am very aware of the hard work involved in building audiences and the important work that LEVEL does to support disabled artists and audiences access to the arts.

The vital work undertaken by LEVEL could be detrimentally impacted if the proposed repurposing or reduction in capacity to The Old Station car park were to be approved.

Please can you kindly share this email with all Councillors considering the current proposal to the Old Station car park.

Warmest Wishes,

Abbie

STATEMENT from Helen Jackson, Level Centre - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Councillors,

I am a freelance facilitator leading sessions at LEVEL Centre. I am concerned that the Old Station Close car park is being considered for a traveller site. This is where I regularly park when I attend and rely on this site to park in. The car park is usually busy and off road parking in the area isn't great. Parents, carers and visitors to LEVEL use this car park, not having access to this is of major concern.

Please can this email be shared with all Councillors.

Kind regards,
Helen Jackson

STATEMENT from Omar Khan, Level Centre - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Councillors,

My name is Omar, I am a board member of LEVEL Centre. We are a charity in Rowsley that works with learning disabled people, disabled creatives and the wider community.

I am writing to express concerned that the Old Station Close/Station Road car park is being considered for a traveller site, especially as this is our fire safety evacuation point. Not having access to this is of major concern. This car park is vital for Levels charitable work, in particular supporting these with physical access needs.

LEVEL's funding has grown over the past few years and we are seeing a steady increase in visitors. The data we collect suggests we have a significant positive impact on the lives of our participants and their families

This proposal will have a significant impact on LEVEL Centre and its business model. This proposal will impact parking for our users, audiences, and our place in the visitor economy in the area.

I look forward to your reply,

Omar Khan

STATEMENT from Mr John Whall, Level Centre - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Councillors,

It has come to my attention that the above site is being considered as a temporary location for use by Gypsy and Traveller's. While I am understanding that these communities are in need of land to locate themselves, I am concerned about what this means for access to local services, such as LEVEL Centre.

I am a freelance facilitator and artists leading sessions at LEVEL Centre and rely on this site to park in when delivering sessions. As someone with permanent paralysis in my left leg and mobility related disability, not having access to this car park is of major concern.

Please can this email be shared with all Councillors.

Kind regards,

John Whall

STATEMENT from Ms Frances Burton, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Councillors,

I am a parent of a participant who attends LEVEL Centre. I am concerned that the Old Station Close car park is being considered for a traveller site. This is where we park when we attend and not having access to this is of major concern. LEVEL Centre is a big part of our lives and not being able to park nearby will be a big problem for all parents, carers and visitors. This car park is vital for Level to deliver brilliant projects for the community. There is literally nowhere else to park - the roadside is already often full of parked cars and there is nowhere else near by. The carpark itself is already extremely well used by businesses based along Old Station Road and I can not imagine how they would be able to function without parking available.

Please can this email be shared with all councillors.

Kind regards,

Frances Burton

STATEMENT from Lucie De Lacy, Level Centre - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Councillors,

I am a member of staff at the LEVEL Centre in Rowsley, and I'm writing to you today to raise an objection to Old Station Close car park being considered as a Traveller site.

Given our rural location, our huge increase in visitor numbers (including participants travelling from across Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire), and attention nationally being placed on our site, changing the use of car park is of a huge concern.

As a staff member, I use this car park every day due to the limited disabled spaces directly outside of our centre, and I live rurally myself away from direct public transport links so this isn't an option for myself.

We've worked extremely hard since the COVID pandemic to build our audience figures, and also our projects and programming that are the beating heart of our work at LEVEL. We've received funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Children in Need, the Victoria Wood Foundation, Derbyshire Dale CVS and many more (currently embargoed), which has been in a direct response to this growth – and we see every day visitors using Old Station Close car park to attend LEVEL. Having this resource during a cost of living crisis has been hugely important to the people we support, and knowing they can come by car rather than using public transport which might not be suitable for their needs has been vital.

To take away this resource at a time when LEVEL (a centre which shows that Derbyshire can be truly accessible to those who need support across the county), is growing – and will continue to grow – will have a detrimental affect on our work. As both a staff member, a supporter of our groups and a local resident, I'm deeply concerned that this is being considered and would ask all councillors to listen to many voices that this will affect.

Please can this email be shared with all Councillors.

Kind regards,

Lucie

Engagement and Projects Coordinator at LEVEL Centre

Local resident

STATEMENT from Jack, Level Centre - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Councillors,

I am writing to you to voice my concerns about the current proposal to turn the Old Station Close car park into a traveller site. I am currently employed as a freelance facilitator working with the Level Centre Rowsley.

The Old Station close car park is an important facility for myself and other facilitators, families and visitors/collaborators.

The limited car parking facilities at the Level Centre make this car park an invaluable resource, especially for those who may have mobility issues, and may find the extra distance needed to travel without this car park too daunting to risk a visit.

The extra space allows the Centre to accommodate larger number during their open days and events, the loss of this space would severely restrict the ability of the centre to reach people in need.

I fear the loss of this resource would have dire concerns for the Level Centre and its visitors.

Please can this email be shared with all Councillors. And do not hesitate to contact me with further queries.

Kind regards,

Jack

STATEMENT from Jim Styles, Peak Tractors - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Please can this email be circulated to all committee members for consideration before the Council meeting

Been a local business owner on the Rowsley Old station site I was sent the committee`s report on all the sites to be considered to move the travellers to and I find that the scoring system you have assigned to this report does not take into account the below

1 - The effect on the close by business and any losses they may have with the site been so close to them my company Peak Tractors saw a down turn in our turnover by over 20 percent and this can be evidenced by our accounts the last time the traveller were moved to the Rowsley site several of our customers would not leave their equipment at Peak tractors over night to be repaired due to the cost proximity of the site.

2 - More importantly It`s interesting that there`s no mention in the report of the environmental impact to the river Derwent by having the travellers at the Rowsley site adjacent to the river and its well documented the

Contamination and cost that were incurred after they left the Rowsley site last time, I witnessed over seven trucks were needed to clear the site over several days after it was occupied the car park site with the car park and river bank used as an illegal waste transfer site with the steep river bank still contaminated with this waste to this day and many tons of tree and hedge cutting were washed down the river when we have the big floods these would have contributed to the blockages down river in Darley dale

There was evidence and witnesses of a large amount of human waste contamination to the river Derwent last time the travellers occupied the site and the council should take this into account along with the need to protect the river Derwent and its ecosystem before considering the Rowsley site there is no such consideration of this in the council`s report finding only the need to protect the travellers.

The Rowsley site has the biggest potential for environmental damage and harm to the local wildlife and it ecosystem with the river bank less than 2 meters from the site.

The council have a duty of care to look after these travellers but more importantly the council have a duty of care to look after and protect the close by river Derwent and its ecosystem.

If a full environmental impact report is not carried out in full to protect the river Derwent the council should remove the Rowsley site off the list sites for consideration.

**STATEMENT from Clare Ashbrook, Ashbrook Roofing Supplies - Item 7;
report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group**

Dear Committee,

Please would you pass a copy of this email onto all the Councillors involved in the meeting.

I would like to outline to the committee why this site isn't suitable for Permitted Temporary Travellers Site.

Note : When we had travellers in the car park previously, they turned people trying to parking away telling them that it couldn't be used for parking. Also, people are less likely to want to leave a vehicle where there is a traveller's site and this will move traffic onto the road.

Station Yard (Old Station Close) is a very busy business site located below the car park in question. In the yard there is TC Harrison Unit, Peak Tractors Ltd, Natural Stone Sales Ltd, Ashbrook Roofing Services Ltd, TW Auto Engineers garage, TW Auto Engineers MOT Unit, Tyre Specialists, Stanton Furniture Makers and last but not least the very well-used Level Centre who employ a large number of people. Ashbrook Roofing employ 14 No staff at this site.

All of these businesses have struggled since covid and also the economic climate and to add a traveller site to a yard that is at maximum capacity will affect all the businesses involved.

Please remember that Station Yard businesses all contribute to the local economy and employ local people and the council have a duty to help and protect them.

If the car park is used for the traveller site, the already very busy car park which used by business for staff parking and many tourists visiting the area and local walking groups would mean all this traffic would be moved onto the road which is already over capacity.

The main road into the site is at maximum capacity already with parking daily on the left-hand side that is the full length of the road. This is already a concern as people regularly have to back up in both directions for oncoming traffic. We also have cyclists and walkers regularly leaving the trail and using the road to continue to the main road, which is highly dangerous given the traffic and parking.

All the main business has large lorries, skip lorries etc arriving daily for collection and deliveries and Peak Tractors have huge equipment on double low loaders delivered to their site for repair, there are also cars to all sites at the yard.

The car park is very important to the whole of Station Yard and without the extra parking it would stop the site from functioning safely and properly, and sadly before long I could foresee an accident happening (we have had a few near accidents on the site).

Also, the whole of the Sidings including the car park area is part of the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust Reserve, with special fauna and invertebrates and siting a traveller's site in the car park would be a danger to this reserve and its special characteristics.

The following information relating to Rowsley Sidings was included from Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's website

Rowsley Sidings - An old railway siding that is now a haven for wildlife with a small mosaic of wet grassland, fen meadow and wet alder woodland

Location - South of Rowsley off the A6 between Matlock and Bakewell

Know before you go

Size - 1 hectare

Parking information - Park on Harrison Way then take the footpath to the right hand side of the recycling centre; the reserve is on the right.

Access - Up to three quarters of the reserve is frequently under flood water, which has caused several trees to fall over. The best and safest way to visit the reserve is to view it from the new multi-user trail that runs parallel to the reserve at its edge rather than walking into the reserve itself.

Dogs - On a lead

When to visit

Opening times - Open at all times

Best time to visit - Spring and summer for wild flowers and invertebrates

About the reserve

Once a railway siding, this small mosaic of wet grassland and wet alder woodland has developed naturally on the old sidings where springs have created wet and boggy conditions.

Access is limited due to the very wet conditions but the site can be viewed from the footpath that runs along the embankment.

Depending on water levels visitors are able to view the northern end of the reserve where small grassland glades remain attracting various butterfly species - please keep outside the fence.

The wetter open areas contain flowering plants, including meadowsweet, water forget-me-not, lesser spearwort and marsh thistle - this is a favourite with hoverflies, which breed in the marsh.

The reserve is rich in invertebrates, including many beetles, moths and around 50 species of crane fly, and in the wet areas you may see *Tipula maxima*, the largest species found in Britain.

Species

- Common Banded Hoverfly
- Meadowsweet

- Speckled Wood

Habitat

- Wet Woodland
- Grassland
- Woodland

Your help to preserve the businesses of Station Yard and the Wildlife Reserve would be greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,

Clare Ashbrook

STATEMENT from Will Watkins, TW Auto Engineers Ltd - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

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

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 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. It has been noticeable that the Level Centre has started to thrive since Covid, and, following a change in management. This has led to a further increase in the use of the car park. Additionally, there are plans for a garden at the Centre which aims to enhance the mental health and wellbeing of current clients and others local residents who would benefit from this facility. This will lead to an even greater reliance on the car park. The change of use of the car park would be a devastating blow to the Centre who have put in so much effort and hard work to improve the lives of local residents who are already at a disadvantage. Inevitably, it would also lead to a decline in the support available to local residents, who need this service, as accessibility would be severely restricted.

Loss of Business and Local Employment

Our business was set up after one of the co-owners had lost an eye in an industrial accident. He had been unable to obtain employment for more than 7 years as no-one was prepared to employ him with this disability. The only option, for him, was self-employment which led to setting up TW Auto Engineers.

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 were then hit by the impact of Covid, which almost closed us down, and we 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 plus an offer of an apprenticeship.

One of our new members of staff is on the autistic spectrum and he had also found it impossible to find a position as a mechanic. The similar experiences of one of the co-owners meant that we were able to see through his disability and offer him empathy and encouragement as an employer.

We have offered an apprenticeship to a young female who has been trying for 2 years to get a position as an apprentice motor mechanic. The offer of an apprenticeship means that she will be able to start her 3rd year at college on day release. Unfortunately, if the plans go ahead to use the car park as a traveller site, we will have no choice but to withdraw the offer of an apprenticeship due to the downturn in work as experience previously. Without the apprenticeship she will no longer meet the criteria to commence the 3rd year of the Motor Mechanics course.

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 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
- Loss of apprenticeship opportunities
- 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 Dianne Wass, Level Centre - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Councillors,

I am the freelance manager of LEVEL Centre, a charity in Rowsley that works with learning disabled people, disabled creatives and the wider community. I am concerned that the Old Station Close car park is being considered for a traveller site, especially as this is our fire safety evacuation point. Not having access to this is of major concern. This car park is vital for Levels charitable work. LEVEL's funding has grown significantly over the past few years and we are seeing a steady increase in visitors.

This proposal will have a significant impact on LEVEL Centre and its business model. This proposal will impact parking for our users, audiences, and our place in the visitor economy in the area.

I look forward to your reply

Dianne Wass

STATEMENT from Annemarie Jenkins, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

I understand there is to be a meeting of the Community and Environment Committee to consider the recommendations of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group and I would like to make known to all my views on the unsuitability of the Old Station Car Park in Rowsley.

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 and indeed it has been declared to be so by the Council on numerous previous occasions.

The car park is the only public one in Rowsley and is heavily used by the businesses on the industrial estate, which make a significant contribution to the local economy and whom we would be devastated to lose; and by the award winning Level Centre contemporary arts centre which does considerable work with disabled people. It is also used by cyclists and walkers using the White Peak Loop (indeed the access in Rowsley to the loop is in the carpark) 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 is always busy. On previous occasions once the traveller vans were in there was 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 near the car park, it is beside a steep and dangerous slope and is totally unsuitable for the travellers who have said this themselves!

I know that the talk is of making it a temporary site but as the council have been unsuccessfully searching for a site for fifteen years what does temporary mean?

Best Regards,

Annemarie Fell

STATEMENT from Vanessa Brooks, Level Centre - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Councillors,

I'm a board member of LEVEL Centre, a charity in Rowsley that works with learning disabled people, disabled creatives and the wider community.

I'm also in the privileged position of running a company which has brought 20+ professional creatives to Matlock and the locale, due to partnership with LEVEL centre. I'm very concerned at plans being considered for a traveller site on the Old Station Close car park, the impact it will have on LEVEL and by extension the impact it will have nationally on learning disability arts.

Funded by Arts Council England, we came to Level last year from all over the UK with leading actors with learning disabilities, most with Downs Syndrome, and all with physical challenges. People with moderate learning disabilities have difficulty with spatial awareness and walking distances to work is not an option. Our Stage Manager needed to park our minibus in the Old Station Close car park and our many carers and support workers brought actors in to work and also parked in the Old Station Close car park. We were then able to escort people safely to the building. These are people who are highly vulnerable. The accessibility of LEVEL is one of the main reasons we plan to bring over 20 people again to rehearse and stay in Matlock and surrounding villages, bringing money into the local economy and raising the profile of LEVEL as a national level arts destination. The risk to our company members will be much increased if we cannot park in the Old Station Close car park and could imperil our plans.

As a trustee I'd like to emphasise the extraordinary status LEVEL holds beyond the region. A prestigious Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation, LEVEL attracts high levels of funding due to the excellent work done for, and with, disabled people. We all need to cherish and support the organisation, it's a real jewel, shining brightly in Matlock and the region. I urge the Council to consider the detrimental effect of the proposed traveller site and to find an alternative solution that's less detrimental to learning disabled people, and to an outstanding and nationally recognised arts organisation.

Ness Brooks (She/Her)

Artistic Director & Chief Executive

STATEMENT from Lucy Barnes, Level Centre - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Councillors,

I am a member of staff at LEVEL Centre in Rowsley. I am concerned that the Old Station Close car park is being considered for a traveller site. This is where I park my car everyday for work and rely on it as we do not have enough on site parking. Not having access to this is a major concern

Please could this email be shared with all Councillors.

Kind regards

Lucy Barnes

STATEMENT from Loretta Clayton, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

I cannot believe that you would consider the fishpond carpark as a travellers site, to start with it's unsuitable with the the flats at the side which house elderly people not to mention its right in the middle of town and a very busy place where people go to feed the wildlife. Also we need extra bloody parking in town which it was originally going to be but has hardly been used. Get the priorities right more parking for visitors and no travellers who are rude, intimidating and always leave a mess.

STATEMENT from Denise Brown, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Sir/Chair

Although I am aware that proposed sites in Ashbourne will not be considered at this time as temporary tolerated traveller sites, I wish to register my comments should Ashbourne be reconsidered in the future.

Should Ashbourne car parks be considered in the future, I respectfully request that the committee visit Ashbourne prior to any discussion on the car parks. They need to see firsthand the unsuitability of the sites, which are in busy areas or very close to residential areas. These sites would cause distress to both residents and travellers. Last time the travellers were sited on the Clifton Road car park, residents who worked nights were unable to sleep during the day due to the noise from the site. People were unable to park to visit the hospital, Gp surgeries and chemists. This negatively impacted on the elderly and people with mobility issues as they had to park further away. The noise of generators during the night also proved to be a nuisance to residents living close by. Residents of Ashbourne should not be asked to tolerate the life they had forced on them due to the District Council making a bad decision. I know that one of the travellers exposed himself to an 11 year old girl and residents should not be put at risk in this manner for a second

time. Ashbourne does not have suitable sites to house travellers and the District Council should endeavour to find somewhere more appropriate.

Regards

Denise Brown

STATEMENT from David Slater, Tyre Specialist- Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

i,david slater have a business at the opposed traveller site called tyre specialist and have been here for 24yrs this year

i would like to voice my concern at the proposed car parking site becoming a permanent traveller site

i have a lot of customers park there cars in the carpark mentioned and i wouldnt let alone my customers feel safe parking in there after last time they was here

not to mention the mess they caused last time,loo rolls all over the pavement,down the bankment,tree cuttings dumped all over the carpark have the council totally lost there minds ???

not to mention the cost to the council last time in cleaning it back up,it took over a week to clean up at the tax payers cost

the carpark doesnt only effect my business but will effect other local businesses aswell.people come from all over to go walking and park there cars there,what do you think will happen if this goes ahead ???

the pub over the road will suffer,people wont spend money in the local area

the whole idea is ridiculous

STATEMENT from Matt Gordon-Smith, Level Centre - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Councillors,

I am currently supporting LEVEL Centre, a charity in Rowsley that works with learning disabled people, disabled creatives and the wider community in a voluntary capacity. I am concerned that the Old Station Close car park is being considered for a traveller site, as this car park is vital for LEVEL's charitable work. LEVEL's funding has grown significantly over the past few years and they are seeing a steady increase in visitors for whom the Old Station Close car park is the only viable parking location.

I have reviewed ARK's assessment of the car park and the basis on which the different options have been scored. There are elements of this scoring which I feel have not appropriately taken into consideration the impact to LEVEL (as well as other businesses located nearby). Specifically:

- The detrimental impact on neighbouring residential amenity or other land usage, only considers two residences, 100m away and on the other side of the A6, but gives no consideration to the other land usage within Old Station Close, which includes the LEVEL Centre
- The safe and satisfactory vehicular and pedestrian access to the nearby highway is currently rated as green in the assessment. However, this is only safe and satisfactory for the existing organisations in Old School Close due to the availability of the car park. If this car park were removed, then the safety of pedestrian access for LEVEL would be greatly reduced.
- The access for emergency vehicles is rated as green at present. However, the introduction of the traveller site and loss of the car park for existing users would encourage a significant increase in cars parked along Old School Close, which could in turn inhibit access for emergency vehicles. The car park is currently used as the fire safety evacuation point for LEVEL and there are no clear alternatives.

Given that this site is set between the A6 and the River Derwent, with no other options for parking, expansion of facilities or alternative access, a decision to place the traveller site in this location will have a significant impact on LEVEL Centre and its business model. This proposal will impact parking for its users, audiences, and their place in the visitor economy.

Kind regards

Matt Gordon-Smith

STATEMENT from Lucy Green, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear DDDC

I wish to represent my views regarding the travellers site shortlist.

May I say that this cannot have been an easy task and I understand that you have been working hard for many years to identify suitable sites whereby the travellers can live and work in harmony with the permanent community.

I am pleased to see that you now agree that Ashbourne is NOT a suitable location and feel that the locations you have selected may make excellent homes for these people.

I would like to express my view that Ashbourne is not a suitable location for many reasons and that any of the locations in your list now will make long term sustainable homes for them.

Thanks,

Lucy Green

STATEMENT from Lydia Parker, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Councillors,

I am a parent of a participant who attends LEVEL Centre. I am concerned that the Old Station Close car park is being considered for a traveller site. This is where we park when we attend and not having access to this is of major concern. My daughter has learning difficulties and is severely sight impaired. We currently park in the Old Station Road car park and walk from there a little way along the cycle trail to keep off the road, the road being full of cars and vans parked half on the pavement and not safe to walk on. LEVEL Centre is a big part of our lives and not being able to park nearby will be a big problem for all parents, carers and visitors. This car park is vital for Level to deliver brilliant projects for the community.

Please can this email be shared with all councillors.

Kind regards,

Lydia Parker

STATEMENT from Mark Knight, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Councillors,

I am the father of an autistic participant who attends LEVEL Centre. I am concerned that the Old Station Close car park is being considered for a traveller site. This is where we park when we attend and not having access to this is of major concern. LEVEL Centre has been integral to the well being and social development of our child. Not having access to suitable and close by parking would impact greatly on our ability to attend. I urge you to reconsider this proposal and ensure the retention of this site for parking.

Kind regards,

Mark Knight

STATEMENT from Bethany and John Stunt, Local Residents - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Councillor,

Subject: Opposition to Proposed Temporary Traveller Site in Rowsley

I am writing to you as a concerned resident of Rowsley regarding the proposal to designate a site in our village as a temporary site for travellers. While we fully understand and sympathize with the need for travellers to have suitable sites for temporary or permanent residence, we believe that Rowsley is not an appropriate location for such a site. Our objections are based on several significant reasons that we feel will adversely impact the character and tranquility of our village.

Rowsley is a small, picturesque village known for its peaceful environment. The proposed traveller site is located at the very centre of our village, which would effectively divide the community. This central location is inappropriate for a traveller site as it disrupts the cohesion and harmony of our tight-knit community.

Furthermore, the proposed site is situated on a car park that is currently used by tourists and visitors. This car park is essential for accommodating the influx of visitors to our village, especially those who come to enjoy the natural beauty and recreational activities in the Peak District. Blocking access to this car park will deter tourists, impacting local businesses that rely on this seasonal footfall.

The site also blocks access to a popular trail used by walkers, runners, cyclists, and visitors. This trail is a crucial part of our village's recreational infrastructure and attracts many people to our area. Its obstruction would not only reduce the recreational opportunities for residents and visitors but also negatively affect the health and well-being of those who use it regularly.

Additionally, the proximity of the proposed site to permanent residential houses, a popular caravan park, an established pub/guest house, and a historic hotel is a matter of concern. These establishments contribute significantly to the village's charm and economy. The presence of a traveller site in such close proximity is likely to deter visitors from staying, thereby affecting local businesses and the overall economy of Rowsley.

While we respect and support the need to find suitable locations for traveller sites, we strongly believe that the proposed site in Rowsley is not suitable due to its detrimental impact on our village. We kindly urge you to reconsider the selection of this site and explore alternative locations that would not disrupt the character and tranquility of Rowsley.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your understanding and support in preserving the integrity and serenity of our beloved village.

Yours sincerely,

Bethany & Jonathan Stunt

STATEMENT from Richard Cuttall, Level Centre - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Councillors,

I am currently supporting LEVEL Centre, a charity in Rowsley that works with learning disabled people, disabled creatives and the wider community in a voluntary capacity. I am concerned that the Old Station Close car park is being considered for a traveller site, as this car park is vital for LEVEL's charitable work. LEVEL's funding has grown significantly over the past few years, and they are seeing a steady increase in visitors for whom the Old Station Close car park is the only viable parking location.

I have reviewed ARK's assessment of the car park and the basis on which the different options have been scored. There are elements of this scoring which I feel have not appropriately taken into consideration the impact to LEVEL (as well as other businesses located nearby). Specifically:

- The detrimental impact on neighbouring residential amenity or other land usage, only considers two residences, 100m away and on the other side of the A6, but gives no consideration to the other land usage within Old Station Close, which includes the LEVEL Centre
- The safe and satisfactory vehicular and pedestrian access to the nearby highway is currently rated as green in the assessment. However, this is only safe and satisfactory for the existing organisations in Old School Close due to the availability of the car park. If this car park were removed, then the safety of pedestrian access for LEVEL would be greatly reduced.
- The access for emergency vehicles is rated as green at present. However, the introduction of the traveller site and loss of the car park for existing users would encourage a significant increase in cars parked along Old School Close, which could in turn inhibit access for emergency vehicles. The car park is currently used as the fire safety evacuation point for LEVEL and there are no clear alternatives.

Given that this site is set between the A6 and the River Derwent, with no other options for parking, expansion of facilities or alternative access, a decision to place the traveller site in this location will have a significant impact on LEVEL Centre and its business model. This proposal will impact parking for its users, audiences, and their place in the visitor economy.

Kind regards

Richard Cuttall

**STATEMENT from William Fell, Treasurer Rowsley Village Hall - Item 7;
report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group**

***** The following input is for the Committee and to be shared with all
Councillors and the Chief Executive (Paul Wilson) *****

In light of the meeting of the Community and Environment Committee to be held on Monday 22nd July to consider the recommendations of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group, I am writing again to the Committee in my role as Treasurer of Rowsley Village Hall to re-confirm 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 again 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, we are getting closer all the time to breaking even which is planned for our next financial year starting October 1st 2024 and ending September 30th 2025.

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 Community 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 (Community Hub) initiative has been kindly supported by grant monies from Derbyshire Dales District Council, Derbyshire County Council and Foundation Derbyshire.

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 and therefore very important to users of the Village Hall as our Hall is situated in School Lane which is a busy road 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 our Village Hall 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
Treasurer
Rowsley Village Hall

STATEMENT from Robert Roots, Level Centre- Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Councillors,

Pilotlight works across the UK to strengthen the resilience and sustainability of charities and we are currently supporting the LEVEL Centre, a charity in Rowsley that works with learning disabled people, disabled creatives and the wider community in a voluntary capacity.

We are supporting the LEVEL as it reviews its strategy and sustainability, and we are concerned that the Old Station Close car park is being considered for a traveller site, as this car park is vital for LEVEL's charitable work.

The LEVEL is a growing organisation fulfilling an important social role and it has seen its funding and reputation grow significantly over the past few years. As a result, it is seeing a steady increase in visitors for whom the Old Station Close car park is the only viable parking location.

Our project team, drawn from across the business and charity sectors, recently conducted a site visit and have reviewed ARK's assessment of the car park proposal and the basis on which the different options have been scored. There are elements of this scoring which we feel have not appropriately taken into consideration the impact to LEVEL (as well as other businesses located nearby). Specifically:

- The detrimental impact on neighbouring residential amenity or other land usage, only considers two residences, 100m away and on the other side of the A6, but gives no consideration to the other land usage within Old Station Close, which includes the LEVEL Centre
- The safe and satisfactory vehicular and pedestrian access to the nearby highway is currently rated as green in the assessment. However, this is only safe and satisfactory for the existing organisations in Old School Close due to the availability of the car park. If this car park were removed, then the safety of pedestrian access for LEVEL would be greatly reduced.
- The access for emergency vehicles is rated as green at present. However, the introduction of the traveller site and loss of the car park for existing users would encourage a significant increase in cars parked along Old School Close, which could in turn inhibit access for emergency vehicles. The car park is currently used as the fire safety evacuation point for LEVEL and there are no clear alternatives.

Given that this site is set between the A6 and the River Derwent, with no other options for parking, expansion of facilities or alternative access, a decision to place the traveller site in this location will have a significant impact on LEVEL Centre and

its business model. This proposal will impact parking for its users, audiences, and their place in the visitor economy.

STATEMENT from Heather McLaren-Hall, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Councillors,

I am a parent/carer of a participant who attends LEVEL Centre. I am concerned that the Old Station Close car park is being considered for a traveller site. This is where we park when we attend and not having access to this is of major concern. LEVEL Centre is a big part of our lives and not being able to park nearby will be a big problem for all parents, carers and visitors. This car park is vital for Level to deliver brilliant projects for the community.

Please can this email be shared with all councillors.

Kind regards,

Heather McLaren-Hall

STATEMENT from Rachel Barron, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Councillors,

I am writing to raise my concerns over the potential loss of parking at Old Station Close car park if it is considered as a traveller site.

My son regularly attends the LEVEL Centre and we use Old Station Close car park each week as there is minimal parking at the centre itself. The LEVEL centre has been a key part of my son's life for nearly two years now. It has enabled him to meet and make new friends with similar life-experiences to himself and I know that all of the young people who attend the group he attends have benefited massively from it.

Given that the LEVEL centre works predominantly with people with a range of disabilities, the loss of nearby parking would be a significant problem for many users, including ourselves, given that any alternative parking options would require a walk either alongside or crossing the busy A6.

This car park is vital for Level to continue to deliver brilliant projects for the community.

Please can this email be shared with all councillors.

Kind regards,

Rachel Barron

Letter from Sian Bacon, Rowsley Parish Council - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Committee,

Rowsley Parish Council wish to express their concerns regarding the current proposal that is once again up for discussion at the District Council for the two Traveller families that have declared themselves homeless within the Derbyshire Dales

Although we recognise the need for a site, we do not think that the car park on Old Station Close in Rowsley is a suitable place for them. Rowsley is a small village and the impact of forcing a Traveller site on its residents and businesses is therefore disproportionate. Also, the car park is absolutely essential to our local businesses on the Industrial Estate as well as to tourists using the Derwent Valley Heritage Way, White Peak Cycle Trail and the numerous walks through the National Park to Chatsworth, Bakewell, Stanton Moor and Haddon Hall that are taken from 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 as it has no car parking of its own.

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 Close 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.

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 included 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 and cycle trail, both of which exit onto the car park. The constant barking of the dogs chained up outside 24/7 and shouting in the early morning disturbed local residents as well as guests staying at the Grouse & Claret pub which is located opposite the site. After the Travellers finally abandoned the Old Station Close car park they left enormous quantities of rubbish behind. This was eventually cleared by local volunteers several months afterwards, NOT by the District Council team.

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.

Finally, we expect that if Rowsley is included in the proposed consultation process, in spite of the high level of opposition from local residents, then every member of this committee as well as all members of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group have the decency to attend a public meeting in Rowsley to explain why the numerous and legitimate concerns of the businesses and residents are not being taken seriously enough to prevent the disproportionate impact of a temporary traveller site being placed upon them once again, as it has been multiple times over the years.

Ultimately these families are homeless due to the failure of the District Council over the last twenty years to provide them with a proper permanent managed site. Forcing them to live in an unsuitable car park in a small village is no solution to this problem.

Statement from Cllr Ann Smith, Ashbourne Town Council- Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

I wish to register my dismay that the traveller situation has rumbled on for too many years. Parishes and residents have lived almost in fear that the travellers just ‘turn up’ anywhere they like and basically wreak havoc. Indeed, in Ashbourne, we are constantly in fear of them turning up. They park up anywhere, thief from shops, have meals in restaurants and leave without paying. They constantly abuse anyone walking past their caravans. They openly use open spaces to defalcate in front of everyone.

They have no consideration for anyone. A lot of residents are frightened to go anywhere near them. When they were on the car park, by our hospital, I’ve escorted elderly residents to the doctors and hospital because they are too frightened to walk past them on their own, due to the amount of abuse. The District put mobile toilets and bins for them to use but they don’t seem to use them. This is paid for by residents. The mess they leave behind, when they are evicted, again must be paid for by residents. This situation can’t continue.

Although Ashbourne has been taken off the list, this will not stop these travellers if they choose to turn up in Ashbourne. The District MUST find a solution to this problem. Nobody in the whole of Derbyshire Dales wants them because of the problems they bring with they bring.

I pray this situation can be resolved amicably and put an end to this continual backwards and forwards between parishes.

Regards,

Ann Smith

Statement from Richard Hall, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Councillors,

I am a parent of a participant who attends the Level Arts Centre at Old Station Close. The Level Centre is a vital part of my sons mental and physical health management as he currently does not have an appropriate school placement due to his SEN status and the limited provision in the immediate area. The arts venue provides an amazing asset in a rural area that provides brilliant projects not just for my son and children like him but for the wider community. In addition, the venue draws in urban experiences that are sometimes lacking locally. My son would not attend the venue if he perceived issues that could raise his anxiety, this would be devastating for us.

Such art facilities are few and far between, this is not a large town or city setting, that has an abundance of art venues.

In addition, I like many locals, utilise many of the long-standing business that are in Old Station Close, for example car maintenance, woodworking, tyre fitters and building materials/roofing supplies. All these businesses rely on the ability to both park easily and a perception that parking is relatively secure at Old Station Close Car Park.

Cyclists and walkers also utilise the car park to connect onto the local networks, these are both local residents and tourists to the area.

To comprise the functionality, available space and perceived safety of the car parking at Old Station Close will demonstrably impact on the Arts Venue's success, businesses operations, community facilities, educational function, jobs, tourism, economic vibrancy and leisure opportunities.

Old Station Car Park is not an empty underutilised site.

While bus routes run nearby the facility patrons generally have to arrive by car due to the rural environment.

I am also concerned from what I have reviewed initially in the supporting papers to committee agenda item 7, the assessment process so far has not been appropriately thorough or robustness enough for decisions on a temporary site at Old Station Close, let alone the future required allocations in the review local plan.

The Ark Consultancy Report, while attempting to provide a logical assessment has excluded expected considerations in its criteria for example the Arts Venue and the whole employment area at Old Station Close has not been considered as a neighbour or as utilising the car park, let alone the tourism and recreational requirements. Without much digging around it has excluded on the face of it major landowners such as the Chatsworth Estate, Haddon Estate, NHS Estates and has not fully scrutinised Derbyshire County Council land holdings in identifying sites. I am making this comment on the basis of extensive experience of site allocation, local plan, neighbourhood plan and development processes, local plan Inquiry and Public Inquiry attendance/expert witness.

The challenges Local Authorities face for the provision of appropriate Gypsy and Traveller sites is complex and being a highly experienced Planning Consultant with over 30 years' experience across the country I am fully aware of the legal and technical process that have to be followed to justify allocations. Over the years my team has acted for LPA's in appeals and also Gypsy and Traveller Groups in site delivery, particularly in the South of England.

I am objecting to Old Station Close becoming a temporary and potentially permanent facilities as it will impact on established businesses, the Arts Venue, tourism and leisure facilities. In addition, this is not a sustainable location. I will continue to review the process, evidence and documents further and as appropriate will be submitting additional evidence as required through the process on behalf of my family and the Level Arts Centre.

Please can this email be shared with all councillors

Kind regards,

Richard

Statement from Drew Fletcher, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear All

I would like to voice my **strong objection** to the proposal to make OLD STATION CLOSE CAR PARK a traveller site.

The car park is ESSENTIAL for the village to remain an amenity car park for our use, This car park serves for many dog walkers and visitors of the area to use the adjoining trail.

The village already struggles for car parking which is most obvious daily on Chatsworth Rd at the A6 end. Taking away another car park would leave nothing available for the village and therefore creating a real parking issue and potential hazard/high risk for many children and families in the area.

I think the council really needs to look at taking the last remaining car park away from the village to turn into a 'traveller site' as a catastrophic decision to local morale and support.

This would take away the start of a lovely trail for families and visitors to use, no car parking for the village, an eye sore in a particular beautiful and protected area of the Peak District.

As an owner of a grade 2 listed property in the village I am constantly reminded of my responsibility to adhere to the rules and regulations and keep my property in keeping for national interest which I strongly uphold and believe in. If the council decide then to change and allow a traveller site within the village and remove our own car park available to put an eye sore in place that ruins the look then I expect they also are happy to remove and support grade 2 listed status and allow similar

'upgrades/developments' to our properties to match the caravans that will then be present in the area?

Regards

Mr Drew Fletcher

Statement from Sophie Parks, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Hi, I would just like to inform you that I object to the Old Station Close car park in Rowsley becoming a traveller site. I am a resident of Rowsley, we already have very limited parking in the village as it is, especially during events at Chatsworth House. I am lucky enough to have my own parking space behind my house but many people like to park in the car park for access to the trail and other parts of the village. Please don't get rid of our only free car park.

Regards,
Sophie Parks

Statement from The Riverside Kiosk, Matlock Bath - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

I write concerning the use of the coach park in the station car park as a temporary tolerated traveller site. This has resulted in, for nearly 2 years, coaches not been able to stop in the village. My business is open every day from 8am and relies on all year round customers. During the week and especially in the winter months and on wet days, much of my custom was from coach party passengers. I have now lost this source of custom and the subsequent loss of income. I find it unacceptable that businesses such as mine in a tourist destination like Matlock Bath should be penalised by actions of negligence and incompetence by the district council and call on the council to restore the car and coach park to its proper use to help the businesses like mine become a more viable proposition.

Statement from Helen Keay, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Hi

In addition to the representation that was submitted to the previous meeting I would like to raise the following:

Why are there only 6 sites on the list for proposed tolerated sites? - I find it staggering that the authority is unable to identify any locations in Bakewell or Ashbourne. Having temporary tolerated sites in small communities has a disproportionate impact on the community and the challenges that these sites bring would be better absorbed by larger communities.

Matlock bath businesses are solely reliant on visitors and tourism. Evidence has been provided to the authority to demonstrate the impact that the site has had on the number of coaches visiting the village. I am sure that no other location would be impacted in this way as no other area is solely reliant on the income that tourists bring.

Matlock bath station car park is an inappropriate site for anyone to be living, let alone a vulnerable family with significant needs. There is no privacy and no access to amenities. They are vulnerable to abuse from hostile visitors and the nearest shops and doctors surgery is over a mile away.

My understanding is that this car park yields one of the biggest revenues in the dales and having a significant proportion of the car park out of action for such a long period of time makes no financial sense for an authority facing financial challenges.

I appeal to the committee to consider fairness in this process, both in relation to the needs of the family and the needs of the businesses and residents in Matlock bath. Matlock bath has hosted this family for the last 3 years and it is time for other communities to take their turn. Residents feel that their tolerance and compassion towards a clearly vulnerable family has been exploited by the local authority who have failed over a number of years to move closer to finding any sort of long term solution.

I appreciate you will blame the previous administration, however in the last 12 months nothing has changed.

It feels like Matlock bath is the poor relative of the Derbyshire dales... the potential impact on political voting is minimal as the number of residents is less than in other areas.

In the 10 years that I have lived here I have never seen our parks (lovers walk and derwent gardens) look such a mess. I appreciate the authority is facing resource challenges but the parks in Matlock, Bakewell and Ashbourne are still well cared for.

Matlock bath brings a steady stream of income from car parks (currently reduced by the loss of the coach park) and the illuminations but it feels like this money is taken out of Matlock bath and spent elsewhere.

I really hope you re consider why there are no identified sites in Ashbourne and Bakewell and that you take into account the impact that the tolerated site has had on businesses and residents over the last 3 years and make the fair decision that it is time for

other communities across the county to share the burden and challenges that these sites bring.

Kind Regards

Helen Keay

Matlock bath resident

Statement from Shalena Haughton-Peters, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Councillors,

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen and a community leader with extensive experience working with children, families, and individuals with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). My involvement with the LEVEL Centre, a charitable organisation based in Rowsley that offers invaluable support to learning-disabled individuals, disabled creatives, and the broader community, has given me a deep understanding of such facilities' crucial role in enriching lives and fostering inclusion.

The proposed development of the Old Station Close car park poses a significant threat to the essential services provided by the LEVEL Centre. This car park is not merely an area for vehicle storage; it acts as an indispensable fire safety evacuation point and is integral to the centre's operations. The LEVEL Centre has seen remarkable growth in funding and visitor numbers over recent years, evidencing the vital need for its services within our community. The development threatens to disrupt parking for its patrons and visitors severely, which could detrimentally impact its operations, business model, and its esteemed position within the visitor economy. The car park is not just a space, but a lifeline for the Centre.

My experience has shown that the success of organisations like the LEVEL Centre hinges on internal capabilities and the external support and infrastructure that enable safe, accessible, and efficient operations. The loss of the Old Station Close car park would endanger those directly involved with the centre and set a precedent that undermines the well-being and safety of individuals with SEND within the community.

Considering these factors, I would like you to thoroughly evaluate the broader implications of the proposed development on the LEVEL Centre and our community at large. The potential negative impact on the community is significant. We must safeguard the interests and safety of our most vulnerable community members and the organisations that dedicate themselves to supporting these individuals.

Kind regards,

Shalena

Statement from Julie Baranek, Clerk to Matlock Bath Parish Council - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Following the publication of the agenda and accompanying papers for the next C&E meeting to be held on 22nd July 2024, Matlock Bath Parish Council would like to make the following observations regarding the use of the Station Coach Car Park in Matlock Bath as a tolerated temporary travellers site.

As DDDC has already acknowledged, the site is not fit for purpose. However, they have allowed the current family – who have been occupying the site continually for the last 21 months – to remain. They were placed on this site as a temporary measure until 31st January 2023.

Both the Parish Council and residents have consistently reported issues to DDDC since their arrival in the autumn of 2022. These reports included issues with noise (shouting, strimmers/blowers early morning and late at night, dogs barking, generator noise etc) as well as anti-social behaviour, continual fly tipping and defecating on our Grade II listed park. We have also reported the travellers putting barriers across the car park entrance to prevent visitors from parking and then at other times charging them to park. There have been reports of obscenities – vocally and visually towards visitors.

Unlike any other town or village in the Derbyshire Dales, Matlock Bath businesses rely entirely on tourism. Visitors in general need parking. The coach park and adjacent areas have been used by travellers during this time affecting the number of visitors to the village and, as a result, loss of income. There has been nowhere for coaches to park and on wet days, these are often the main source of visitors to the village.

On 1st July 2024, the Parish Council along with our District Councillor, hosted community meetings which were well attended by both residents and businesses. Those who could not attend sent in their comments.

We were led to believe that the Traveller Working Group would be considering all possible sites in the Derbyshire Dales – around 31 which would be reduced to 10-12. We would be grateful to know why there is just a shortlist of six; this is five if the Matlock Derwent Way site is already occupied. What prevented the remaining 25 to not be put on the list? Why were they not suitable? We also find it quite disturbing that there are no sites listed for Bakewell or Ashbourne – why?

Regarding the site assessment criteria, these seem to be generally weighted to the needs of the travellers and NOT the effect on the village/town. There is mention of residential properties but no consideration given to the effect on businesses. Our businesses rely entirely on tourism/visitors. This criteria disadvantages Matlock Bath by this serious omission.

We question the assessment of the Matlock Bath site using the given criteria on the following grounds.

- (a) This should be red. The site is within 100m of residential properties; the topography of the village means noise from the site affects many of the residential properties in the village who have had first hand experience of this over the last 22 months. The noise also permeates up to Starkholmes. This in itself is detrimental to residential properties. It also mentions the land to the south; according to the map, this land is marked in yellow and therefore the land cannot be considered.
- (c) This should be red. There are no local amenities within 800m of the site – the nearest being Matlock, which is 1.5 miles away or Cromford. The school is also more than 800m from the site.
- (d) This should be red. The site has no mains water or electricity.

(g) This should be red. This is the main car park for the village. As visitors approach, the traveller site is clearly visible. It is adjacent to Lovers' Walk, a Grade II listed site in the custodianship of DDDC. Its historical and environmental importance is well documented on the DDDC website.

(h) This should be red. The assessment appears to be based on the overflow car park. This is the land to the south and as mentioned above this land according to the map cannot be used. The coach park area or any other areas of the car park have no privacy at all.

Finally, the Code of Conduct, does not look like it is worth the paper it is written on. Firstly, because the traveller family probably won't sign it and secondly, how will it be enforced. Basically, it won't be. The CoC already falls at the first hurdle as all the issues relate to the problems we have had with the travellers over the years. Why would they sign a document which could affect their homeless status if it is breached. The point regarding to using the toilets provided, we would prefer to see the words "on the site" to be removed. It is a well known fact, and complaint, that the travellers defecate on Lovers Walks and other adjacent areas. If these 3 words are left in, it will give the travellers carte blanche" to continue defecating in our village.

Because of the inequality of the criteria and the inaccuracy of the assessment, we consider that Matlock Bath should not be on the shortlist for consideration. Our village has spoken and "enough is enough", "we have done our bit", "had our turn", it is time for the rest of Derbyshire Dales to take the burden now.

Whilst we have outlined the issues which our businesses and residents have had to endure, we do have some sympathy with the family who, through no fault of their own, are homeless.

Julie
Julie Baranek
Clerk to Matlock Bath Parish Council

Statement from Liz Youngman, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Councillors,

Station Coach and Car Park Matlock Bath

I write concerning the coach park section of the station car park being used as a tolerated traveller site for nearly 2 years and numerous shorter periods prior to this. Firstly, I feel that this site is totally unsuitable for such a use for those who have been housed here. Secondly, and more importantly for us as residents, it has adversely affected our quality of life over such a prolonged period. It is also embarrassing when welcoming visitors to the village and advising them about local walks as we have to avoid that area.

Personally, I have had to endure the noise of barking dogs often 24 hours a day, shouting and screaming often from very early in the morning until very late at night. The topography of the village means that the sound is amplified and travels across the valley to the residential properties, including ours. I have found it difficult to access Lover's Walk when walking my dog and when I have, encountered much human excrement and tissue. I have felt unsafe crossing the car park to access the station due to presence of the travellers and their dogs on the site.

As a council tax payer, I am also concerned at the loss of income to DDDC from the lack of use as a coach park and the cost of to the council for providing the facilities to this site. I cannot imagine another tourist hotspot village in England, such as Bourton on the Water or Robin Hood's Bay, being deemed suitable to have a traveller site at its heart. It is shocking treatment of both our historic and beautiful destination that attracts thousands of visitors annually, as well as the traveller family concerned.

I therefore call on Derbyshire Dales District Council to urgently restore all Matlock Bath's Coach and Car Parking facilities in the station car park and take all possible precautions to ensure that the station car and coach park's future users will only be tourists, residents and rail passengers. I also ask that Lovers' Walk and any other surrounding areas are cleared of the human excrement and all dumped rubbish and waste. I further ask that Matlock Bath be removed from the list of acceptable temporary sites as the village has endured more than its fair share of use over the last few years.

We are fed up of this stalemate and urge Derbyshire Dales District to find a permanent solution to this situation.

Yours sincerely

Liz Youngman

Statement from Nathan Davies, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Councillors

I have just read the code of conduct for Gypsies, Travellers and caravan occupiers set out in Appendix 2 for the meeting agenda on 22nd July.

Assuming this code is accepted by all parties the occupiers will immediately find themselves in breach of many points in this code, if current behaviour is to go by. Residents of Matlock Bath have had to endure many breaches of this code for a minimum of the last 2 years and this must be taken into account when this is discussed in your meeting:

Please see my comments in red below with regard to the list as to what is expected from the travellers:

What we expect from you

- work with council officers who visit the site.
- provide the correct information to help us support your stay.
- keep the site clean and tidy - *the temporary site in Matlock Bath is a constant tip with domestic and commercial waste constantly being present despite the issue of a commercial bin and the efforts of the clean up team!*
- put all rubbish in rubbish bags or bins - we will organise regular collections - *see above.*
- use the toilets provided or any toilets within their own caravans and must not urinate or defecate anywhere else on the site - *this site and more importantly Lovers Walk has constantly been blighted with human excrement and toilet paper. This has been brought to the attention of the council's Environment and Housing departments on numerous occasion by village residents - including myself without any perceived change in behaviour or jeopardy!*
- keep noise to a minimum, especially after 10pm and before 7am - *there is a constant din of dogs barking, generators running, leaf blowers blowing, radios blaring outside these hours and again reported on many occasions without affect.*
- keep all animals under control and clear up any of their mess - *I never fell completely safe when walking through the encampment due to the variety of unsupervised dogs and other animals in the encampment.*
- respect the community where you are staying - *see comments above regarding noise. In addition to this there is often verbal abuse from the occupants to both residents and visitors/tourists alike. This is often so bad visitors turn around get back in their cars and leave the village! The demise of coach traffic is also due to a lack of respect and comes at a huge cost to the business community.*
- do not allow any other caravans onto your site - *the number of court eviction orders the council has had to make over the years will show this is beyond even consideration.*
- do not take part in anti-social behaviour or criminal activity - *blocking the carpark with homemade barriers, dumping of commercial waste are immediate examples. We are also aware that the levels of shop lifting/pilferage in the local shops has increased since this temporary site has been in existence.*
- do not damage any facilities provided, or the local environment including trees and shrubs - *see points above regarding the respect that's been given to Lovers Walk and the trash and rubbish that lies around the site despite the efforts of the council clean up team! Also check the bank behind the carpark bordering the river - again trashed with little respect or consequence .*
- do not leave children unsupervised on site - *children belonging to the travelling community have been known to be sent into local shops (by adults) to pilfer, as they know they are beyond reach of prosecution. When approached about this shop keepers receive much verbal abuse from these adults.*

It seems pointless wasting time writing documents like this when there is little chance of enforcing these points, despite their worth!

I must also comment on the temporary sites short list put forward.

- Old Station Close, Rowsley
- Land to South East of Hopton Works, Middleton Road, Wirksworth
- Arc Leisure Car Parks, Morledge, Darley Dale
- Station Yard Car Park, Dale Road, Matlock Bath
- Car Park, Derwent Way, Matlock
- Land to North West of Cemetery, New Road, Middleton

It seems odd that the sites in Ashbourne and Bakewell are not on this short list! Are these towns too **POSH** to be considered?

The various councils in the Matlock area alone (Town, District, County) have many buildings with carparks lying empty and underused, especially since the Covid outbreak. They all belong to the public sector so wouldn't it make sense to use these as temporary sites instead of tying up space in the busiest highest earning carpark in the Derbyshire Dales i.e. Matlock Bath Station Carpark?

Can I suggest you stop wasting time and money considering temporary sites when this has already been decided, regardless of how democratic you make it look. Spend the time and money to find a solution to this problem and stop pontificating!

I hope the above is considered and taken into account regarding how unsuitable the Matlock Bath Station carpark is (i.e. no running water, sanitation, waste disposal, hook ups...) for the travelling community and a vulnerable homeless family?

Yours sincerely

Nathan Davies

Statement from Paula and Shaun Dyson, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Councillor & Community & Environment officer

Station Coach and Car Park Matlock Bath

I write concerning the use of the coach park section of the station car park as a tolerated traveller site for more than 2 years and numerous shorter periods prior to this. Firstly due to it being in the most visited location in the Derbyshire Dales in a carpark for coaches and cars. We need this parking to cope with the demands of the visitors and without it we feel as a village we are being discriminated against as no other location has had the Travellers in their carparks for this length of time.

Loosing the Coach / Carparking is bad enough with a massive impact on Local

businesses but then to have visitors drive away due to the anti social behaviour and Human excrement makes us feel ashamed to own a business and live in Matlock Bath.

We keep being told that the Family of Travellers in Matlock Bath have various different needs? If we understand the needs correctly the DDDC should be ashamed of themselves if they feel they as a council are providing the best site for the Travellers in Matlock Bath. The site itself is on the busiest Car Park in the Derbyshire Dales, next to a river, on a trainline, no local shop for provisions and no medical centre? not where I would place someone with Learning Disabilities and older adults with various different needs. The displays of behaviour from the man with learning disabilities clearly indicates he isn't happy

Matlock Bath is considered an accessible place for a lot of the local Schools and Residential homes for people with different needs and we have also noticed a downturn in them visiting, I wonder if this is also due to lack of car parking? A Blue badge holder has no restrictions on the Parades in Matlock Bath which is great but completely useless if all the on street parking is taken up by other visitors who can't park in the car park due to the Travellers.

In their summer newsletter, the Parish Council provided us with the following information: In 2019, 806 coaches visited Matlock Bath (DDDC figures from parking fees paid). If each of these coaches was only half-full (25 visitors) and each spent just £5, that is worth £100,000 to the local economy. A recent STEAM tourism report found that day trippers to the Peak District spend, on average, £38.90. Using this figure, the 806, ½ full buses are worth just short of £790,000 to the village. If the buses were ¾ full, they would bring in £1.5 million to the village. Coach trips unlike day trippers who drive in their own cars are always prearranged so even if the weather changes they will still come. The negative impact this has had is dreadful.

As a Tax payer we are surprised the DDDC thinks the loss of revenue from the carpark is acceptable. All we are hearing on the news is how local councils are really struggling financially but here we are giving spaces away for free losing Thousands upon Thousands of pounds due to the DDDC not finding a suitable permanent site and doing dodgy deals to keep them in Matlock Bath.

We have noticed a downturn in business while the coach park, and some of the car park, has been unavailable for tourists. Many of our customers comment negatively on the issues caused by having the traveller encampment in the coach/car park. We feel that having the coach and car park out of action will also have a longer term effect on the numbers of visitors to the village and as a result, our livelihood.

In or Matlock Bath Business/ Resident meeting on the 1st July Nick Whitehead said it had been suggested that the council would like to thank Matlock Bath for putting up with this ridiculous situation in a way to benefit the village and asked for suggestions.....Rather than planning a celebration we would ask Derbyshire Dales District Council to urgently restore all Matlock Bath's Coach and Car Parking facilities in the station car park and take all possible precautions to ensure that the station car and coach park's future users will only be tourists, residents and rail passengers. We also ask that Derbyshire Dale District Council take positive action to ensure that the

many coach companies that have stopped bringing visitors to the village are enticed to return knowing that they will have somewhere to park their coaches and bring us a much needed boost to our business and to stop creating processes on top of processes to delay Matlock Bath returning to the vibrant village it was before the DDDC took it upon themselves to completely and utterly let all communities down

Yours sincerely

Paula & Shaun Dyson

Statement from Amy Kirkland, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Councillors,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the ongoing use of the local train station car park as a traveller site. We have now had traveller sites in the village on and off for a number of years, to the detriment of local businesses, the local residents, and the environment. As a family we used to walk regularly along Lover's Walk, accessed through the station car park. This has been impassable for many, many months now due to the travellers blocking the entrance and the human excrement, tissue and waste which lines the footpaths through the woods. Prior to this, we had a traveller encampment literally adjacent to the local primary school, with children being exposed to naked men bathing in the pond, adult men defaecating in full view of the playground, dogs straining on leashes as kids walk through the site to access school, and the young girls walking to school being shouted at by the teenage boys on site.

The station car park is entirely unsuitable for a traveller site, being prime parking for the tourists visiting the village – many coaches have arrived and left immediately as they are unable to leave their coaches safely – after the challenges of lockdowns, surely the job of the council is to support local businesses, not to make the recovery harder?

The noise pollution is constant and unrelenting, from generators, garden machinery, shouting, dogs barking – and this continues day and night. I note with interest in the recent CE report that you note certain expectations from the travellers on site – I would be very interested as to how the following are monitored and what action has been taken, as these are consistently not met:

“What we expect from you

- work with council officers who visit the site.
- provide the correct information to help us support your stay.
- **keep the site clean and tidy – does not happen**
- **put all rubbish in rubbish bags or bins - we will organise regular collections – site is filthy**

- **use the toilets provided or any toilets within their own caravans and must not urinate or defecate anywhere else on the site – go and see the local woods!!**
- **keep noise to a minimum, especially after 10pm and before 7am – noise 24/7**
- **keep all animals under control and clear up any of their mess – does not happen**
- **respect the community where you are staying – there is zero respect for the local community**
- **do not allow any other caravans onto your site – this happens ALL THE TIME**
- **do not take part in anti-social behaviour or criminal activity – teenage girls working in the local cafes report harassment – boys from the traveller site asking what time they finish work, and when they refuse any details, being accused of being ‘anti-traveller’**
- **do not damage any facilities provided, or the local environment including trees and shrubs – lots of environmental damage**
- do not leave children unsupervised on site.
- do not use the site to undertake commercial or business works.
- **do not set open fires on the site – happens regularly**
- **do not fly tip or dump any trade waste on the site” – have you seen the site???**

I therefore call on Derbyshire Dales District Council to urgently restore all Matlock Bath’s Coach and Car Parking facilities in the station car park and take all possible precautions to ensure that the station car and coach park’s future users will only be tourists, residents and rail passengers. I also ask that Lovers’ Walk and any other surrounding areas are cleared of the human excrement and all dumped rubbish and waste.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Amy

Amy Kirkland

Statement from Jo Everitt, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Councillor

Station Coach and Car Park Matlock Bath

I write concerning the coach park section of the station car park being used as a tolerated traveller site for nearly 2 years and numerous shorter periods prior to

this. Firstly, I feel that this site is totally unsuitable for such a use for those who have been housed here. Secondly, and more importantly for us as residents, it has greatly affected our quality of life.

I have had to endure the noise of generators and various garden machinery not only during the day but very early in the morning and late at night, the noise of barking dogs often 24 hours a day, shouting and screaming often from very early in the morning until very late at night. I have had to regularly listen to extremely violent arguments and the banging of the side of a caravan when one or more of the travellers becomes vexed at others using the carpark. The topography of the village means that the sound is amplified and travels across the valley to the residential properties, I can not only hear it in my garden but in my house with the windows closed. I have found it difficult to access Lover's Walk and when I have, encountered much human excrement and tissue. I have felt unsafe crossing the car park to access the station and am not comfortable or feel safe in my own village which is unfair.

As a council tax payer, I am also concerned at the loss of income to DDDC from the lack of use as a coach park and the cost of to the council for providing the facilities to this site. If indeed there are any positives to the travellers being present it is that we are not getting regular groups of boy racers screeching around the car park, revving cars, racing and playing loud music, some sort of solution really needs to be found to make this car park work for visitors, residents, DDDC and local businesses.

I therefore call on Derbyshire Dales District Council to urgently restore all Matlock Bath's Coach and Car Parking facilities in the station car park and take all possible precautions to ensure that the station car and coach park's future users will only be tourists, residents and rail passengers and that a solution to deter anti-social behaviour is implemented to eliminate such issues as traveller occupation and car meet ups occurring in the car park. I also ask that Lovers' Walk and any other surrounding areas are cleared of the human excrement and all dumped rubbish and waste.

Yours sincerely

Jo Everitt

**Statement from Catherine and Clive Swindells, Local Resident - Item 7;
report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group**

Dear Councillor

Station Coach and Car Park Matlock Bath

I write concerning the use of the coach park section of the station car park as a tolerated traveller site for nearly 2 years and numerous shorter periods prior to this. Firstly, I feel that this site is totally unsuitable for such a use for those who have been

housed here. Secondly, and more importantly for us as business owners, it has resulted in a loss of much needed income.

In their summer newsletter, the Parish Council provided us with the following information: In 2019, 806 coaches visited Matlock Bath (DDDC figures from parking fees paid). If each of these coaches was only half-full (25 visitors) and each spent just £5, that is worth £100,000 to the local economy. A recent STEAM tourism report found that day trippers to the Peak District spend, on average, £38.90. Using this figure, the 806, ½ full buses are worth just short of £790,000 to the village. If the buses were ¾ full, they would bring in £1.5 million to the village.

Much of this business is mid-week, supplementing an otherwise quieter time. These coaches bring visitors come rain or shine. We have noticed a downturn in business while the coach park, and some of the car park, has been unavailable for tourists. Many of our customers comment negatively on the issues caused by having the traveller encampment in the coach/car park. We feel that having the coach and car park out of action will also have a longer-term effect on the numbers of visitors to the village and as a result, our livelihood.

In our seven years of business ownership in Matlock Bath we have seen a drastic downturn in our turnover mostly due to the loss of business from the coaches, we have also seen a couple of business moving away from the Parade as they have been unable to sustain their business' during the winter season due to the lack of trade from the coaches.

I would also like to add that our staff have commented about the fact that they do not feel safe walking from the car park to work, particularly in the dark winter months. Parking outside the shop on North Parade is one hour only, our staff deserve the right to feel safe when parking their car and walking to work. As you can image we as employers we would like to think our staff can park their vehicles safely and not worry about walking back to their cars at the end of their working day.

We therefore call on Derbyshire Dales District Council to urgently restore all Matlock Bath's Coach and Car Parking facilities in the station car park and take all possible precautions to ensure that the station car and coach park's future users will only be tourists, residents and rail passengers. We also ask that Derbyshire Dale District Council to take positive action to ensure that the many coach companies that have stopped bringing visitors to the village are enticed to return knowing that they will have somewhere to park their coaches and bring us a much-needed boost to our business.

Yours sincerely

Catherine & Clive Swindells

Statement from James Stevens, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Councillors

Station Coach and Car Park Matlock Bath

I write concerning the coach park section of the station car park being used as a tolerated traveller site for nearly 2 years and numerous shorter periods prior to this. Firstly, I feel that this site is totally unsuitable for such a use for those who have been housed here. Secondly, and more importantly for us as residents, it has affected our quality of life.

I have had to endure the noise of generators and various garden machinery not only during the day but very early in the morning and late at night, the noise of barking dogs often 24 hours a day, shouting and screaming often from very early in the morning until very late at night. The topography of the village means that the sound is amplified and travels across the valley to the residential properties. I have found it difficult to access Lover's Walk and when I have, encountered much human excrement and tissue. I have felt unsafe crossing the car park to access the station and encountered abuse from the travellers on the site.

As a council tax payer, I am also concerned at the loss of income to DDDC from the lack of use as a coach park and the cost of to the council for providing the facilities to this site.

I therefore call on Derbyshire Dales District Council to urgently restore all Matlock Bath's Coach and Car Parking facilities in the station car park and take all possible precautions to ensure that the station car and coach park's future users will only be tourists, residents and rail passengers. I also ask that Lovers' Walk and any other surrounding areas are cleared of the human excrement and all dumped rubbish and waste.

Yours sincerely

James Stevens

Statement from Richard Wells, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Councillors,

Travellers on Station Coach and Car Park Matlock Bath

I write to you as one of the residents of Matlock Bath, a village that has shown immense patience concerning the coach park section of the station car park being used continuously as a tolerated traveller site for nearly 2 years and numerous periods prior to this. Firstly, I feel that this site is totally unsuitable for such a use for those who have been housed here. Secondly, and more importantly for us as residents, it has significantly affected our quality of life. We as residents of Matlock Bath are now at our wits end due to your chronic mismanagement and indifference.

I and my family (not to mention guests staying in our guest house) have had to endure the noise of generators and various garden machinery not only during the day but very early in the morning and late at night, the noise of barking dogs often 24 hours a day, shouting and screaming often from very early in the morning until very late at night. The topography of the village means that the sound is amplified and travels across the valley to the residential properties. I have found it difficult to access Lover's Walk (a supposed beauty spot!) and when I have, encountered much human excrement and tissue which is obviously a major health hazard. I personally witnessed the Travellers blatantly fly tipping on the car park (reported) and can still see remnants of old deck chairs and rubbish down the riverside bank opposite the Midland Hotel (reported) which will eventually make it into the river. I have felt unsafe crossing the car park to access the station and encountered abuse including spitting from the travellers on the site.

As a council tax payer, I am also concerned at the loss of income to DDDC from the lack of use as a coach park and the cost of to the council for providing the facilities to this site.

I therefore call on Derbyshire Dales District Council to urgently restore all Matlock Bath's Coach and Car Parking facilities in the station car park and take all possible precautions to ensure that the station car and coach park's future users will only be tourists, residents and rail passengers. I also ask that Lovers' Walk and any other surrounding areas are cleared of the human excrement and all dumped rubbish and waste.

Yours sincerely

Richard Wells

Statement from John and Anne Gill, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Councillor

My wife and I have been greatly concerned about the presence of this particular traveller community in Matlock Bath for quite a few years now. When they were situated in the Temple Road car park we were, frankly disgusted, and disappointed, by the behaviour of some of it's members.

We had intimidating and sometimes threatening behaviour by younger members of the community and horrible reports of adult male travellers defecating in the upper car park in full view of young children and their parents/carers entering the school from the car park gate. We have witnessed this intimidating behaviour ourselves, as grandparents of pupils there. There were also reports of naked travellers, again adult male, washing in the 'grotto' well water and the well-known fouling of the whole surroundings of their 'camps' with rubbish and, despite being provided with portaloos, human and dog faeces.

This latter problem, as you will be aware, is also a major problem in the area surrounding the Matlock Bath station site. There is also the constant noise of generators, chainsaws and barking dogs. Because of the nature of the landscape, Matlock Bath being situated in a gorge, this noise pollution is much worse than it might be in a flatter landscape. Where we are situated, on Holme Road, we are literally looking down onto the current site, **a mere 270 metres away** across the valley.

We fully understand that the District Council, over the years, has failed in its statutory duty to provide permanent sites for the travelling community and hope that this issue is addressed with some urgency.

We understand about the specific needs of the family officially allocated the station car park site but it is obvious that the occupation of this site by other traveller families and groups cannot be managed or restricted.

Future sites should be situated in more isolated/insulated surroundings where the impact of the travellers' way of life does not impact massively on the local community, as it absolutely does for the residents and business of Matlock Bath village, situated in the confined surroundings as it is.

Many thanks for your attention to our concerns . John & Anne Gill

Statement from William Jones, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Councillor

I write concerning the coach park section of the station car park being used as a tolerated traveller site for nearly 2 years and numerous shorter periods prior to this. Firstly, I feel that this site is totally unsuitable for such a use for those who have been housed here. Secondly, and more importantly for us as residents, it has affected our quality of life.

I have had to endure the noise of generators and various garden machinery not only during the day but very early in the morning and late at night, the noise of barking dogs often 24 hours a day, shouting and screaming often from very early in the morning until very late at night. The topography of the village means that the sound is amplified and travels across the valley to the residential properties. I have found it difficult to access Lover's Walk and when I have, encountered much human excrement and tissue. I have felt unsafe crossing the car park to access the station and encountered abuse from the travellers on the site.

As a council tax payer, I am also concerned at the loss of income to DDDC from the lack of use as a coach park and the cost of to the council for providing the facilities to this site.

I therefore call on Derbyshire Dales District Council to urgently restore all Matlock Bath's Coach and Car Parking facilities in the station car park and take all possible precautions to ensure that the station car and coach park's future users will only be tourists, residents and rail passengers. I also ask that Lovers' Walk and any other surrounding areas are cleared of rn excrement and all dumped rubbish and waste.

Yours sincerely

W. Jones

Statement from Peter Cresswell, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Station Coach and Car Park Matlock Bath

Having read the Derbyshire Dales District Councils list of "what we expect from you" (travellers) out of a list of 15 I can say, definitely 11 of them have been broken and that's being generous. The state that the pond and surrounding area was left in at the temple walk car park was nothing less than a disgrace, and the amount of time required to clean the area, by the council must have cost a small fortune, no doubt adding to my tax, i'm sure the Station car park will be similar looking at the site today (First one on the list, "keep the site tidy").

Arc recommendations in there red amber and green table say that the Matlock bath site has a safe and satisfactory vehicular and pedestrian access without the result of generating more traffic, of course it will/has generated more traffic, It's a bad junction at the best of times coupled with the pedestrian crossing means in summer this part of the A6 is jammed, any traffic added to this means less tourist wanting to come to our village, more time for emergency services to get too or through our village, and even longer for locals to get home. The Arc recommendation also seems to suggest that Ashbourne is the best location under its red, amber and green table yet they don't even make the list, how come.

The coach park is just that, a coach park not a place for travellers, we need it to generate business, bring in tourists, we are losing revenue, have been losing revenue for years. We provide them with loos, at eye watering costs and we lose our toilets at the other end of the village deterring tourists again.

I have had to endure the noise of generators and various garden machinery not only during the day but very early in the morning and late at night, the noise of barking dogs often 24 hours a day, shouting and screaming often from very early in the morning until very late at night. The topography of the village means that the sound is amplified and travels across the valley to the residential properties, this was proven one time when i was doing a job cleaning gutters on one of the 4 story victorian properties by means of rope access, the traveller was shouting every

minute or so, a member of the public thought it was coming from my direction, called the Fire brigade which ended with a fire engine stuck up Holmes Road

What is also annoying is the time and effort my wife puts in volunteering to keep the barrels at the station watered and tendered so they look great for tourists getting off at Matlock bath, yet she feels intimidated by the travellers and thinks the task pointless when the next thing the tourists see is the travellers scruffy, littered, compound.

As a council tax payer, I am also concerned at the loss of income to DDDC from the lack of use as a coach park and the cost of to the council for providing the facilities to this site.

I therefore call on Derbyshire Dales District Council to urgently restore all Matlock Bath's Coach and Car Parking facilities in the station car park and take all possible precautions to ensure that the station car and coach park's future users will only be tourists, residents and rail passengers. I also ask that Lovers' Walk and any other surrounding areas are cleared of the human excrement and all dumped rubbish and waste.

Yours sincerely

Peter Cresswell

Statement from Peter Brimson, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Committee,

As you are representing the Ashbourne community and a community, I am now a resident of, I wish to express my rejection of the proposed traveler camp in Ashbourne and the immediate vicinity.

- ****Due Diligence and Transparency****:

- Where can residents find public records of the due diligence conducted regarding the proposed camp?

- What business and emergency plans are in place if issues arise, safety for current residents?

- What contributions are expected from tax-paying residents towards a group that operates outside societal norms and does not pay taxes?

- ****Community Consultation****:

- Has interest been canvassed from the voting community, similar to previous times council/MPs wanted votes to be elected, or is this not important enough?

- I only became aware of the camp proposal through a random social media post, by not advertising the emotive topic, I anticipate Counsellors will claim plausible deniability by saying "as a resident you should have made yourself aware of this and had a chance to object but you didn't so your stuck with it" .

- **Camp Size and Expansion**:

- Based on experience, the initial size of the camp is often irrelevant.

- Small camps tend to expand significantly once established, as due diligence and risk assessments should highlight.

- **Security Concerns**:

- These camps are sometimes used for unlawful activities by some individuals within the traveler community.

- What is the policing plan to address this, in my experience these are no go zones for the police.

- How will the council ensure the camp is not exploited by individuals involved in county lines drug running or other illegal activities?

- **Subsidized Housing**:

- Travelers, typically leading a nomadic lifestyle, are not in need of permanent housing.

- Those in subsidized housing pay various rents and taxes. What costs will the traveler community incur?

- Who will cover these costs for the traveler community, considering they do not pay taxes?

- **Community Impact**:

- If this proposal goes ahead, the impact on our safe and beautiful community will be significant.

- Those who vote in favour will be held accountable for any negative outcomes, such as theft and fly-tipping, not a legacy id want after achieving so much good for the community.

Regards,

Peter Brimson

Statement from Claire Gregory, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear local councillor & DDDC,

Please receive this email as an objection of the proposed temporary traveller site at Old Station Car Park.

We are Rowsley residents and I believe this space is not large enough nor private enough to be used as a suitable site.

Kind regards
Claire Gregory

Letter from Cllr Carolyn Renwick, Derbyshire County Council - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my objection regarding the inclusion of the Car Park at Old Station Close, Rowsley in the list of potential temporary Traveller sites proposed for consultation.

Discussions with Derbyshire Dales District Council (as a key stakeholder and landowner) have been taking place since 2014 regarding plans to use this site as a crucial link in completing the White Peak Loop (WPL) project. This project is in an advanced stage of development, with a business case currently being prepared to secure funding and to ensure continued progress on this project.

Completing the White Peak Loop is a key priority for the County Council Derbyshire's and is the priority route within the Key Cycle Network. The Loop has potential to significantly aid economic growth by boosting tourism, promoting greener travel, and enhancing the health and wellbeing of residents. The area occupied by the Old Station Close car park is integral to achieving these outcomes, serving as a key access point for the WPL.

Furthermore, development of the WPL also supports DDDC's Local Plan Policy commitment EC11: Protecting and Extending our Cycle Network: *The Council will encourage proposals that develop and extend our cycle network. Policy EC11 specifically references protecting the WPL stating - Development will not be permitted where it significantly harms an existing cycle route or prejudices the future implementation of new routes including a) White Peak Cycle Loop.*

I am particularly disappointed that the Council was not consulted before this site was included in the committee report; although the Ark report advises that key stakeholders and organisations were contacted, this appears not to be the case for the County Council.

Given the importance of the WPL, the discussions that have already taken place with the Derbyshire Dales officers and the advanced stage of planning and preparation

for the route, I am writing firstly to object to the inclusion of Old Station Close on the list of potential sites for consideration and secondly, to request that it be removed from the list, for the reasons outlined above.

I fully appreciate DDDC's responsibilities in providing traveller sites, and that the report is recommending consultation on the list of six sites for temporary use as such. However, there is no clear indication in the report as to what time period constitutes 'temporary', nor the implications for public car parking and potential disruption to the development of the WPL – all of which are significant concerns and have not been addressed.

I hope the Committee is able to consider the above representation and remove the Old Station Close, Rowsley site from the consultation process.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Regards



Councillor Carolyn Renwick

Letter from Hannah Lister, Level Centre - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Councillors,

I am a member of staff at LEVEL Centre in Rowsley. We work with disabled and learning disabled people, and the wider Derbyshire community. I'm very concerned that the Old Station Close car park is being considered for a traveller site.

I am the newest member of staff at LEVEL Centre and I can't express to you enough what a wonderful organisation this is. Since joining the staff team last December, I have been astonished at what is achieved here, and the value that LEVEL offers to its participants, visitors and community. We are a growing organisation and have many exciting plans for the future, including new groups, workshops, and opportunities. We're particularly excited about our Bio-diverse sensory garden, a space for the whole community to come together, grow social connections and increase wellbeing.

Parking at our building is already very limited, with only two disabled spaces and one other. Consequently, parking for our site overflows into the Old Station Close car park, and we rely on this. Demand will only increase. As a staff member, I park my

car there to make sure that our limited spaces stay free for those that need them. This is also common to the rest of the businesses on our small estate.

I fail to see how, when the Old Station Close car park is measured at 0.37HA (the whole car park), and the minimum space required for a proposed pitch is 0.25HA (as detailed in appendix 4 - Site Assessment GTWG Recommendations), it is in any way practical to propose Old Station Close car park as a traveller site. This busy car park not only facilitates parking for our visitors, but also for other businesses on the estate, plus general visitors to Rowsley, walkers using the White Peak Loop etc. Every day the car park is full, as well as Old Station Close itself, which is lined with vehicles.

Given that many of our visitors are learning disabled, have mobility related disabilities, or may be vulnerable in other ways, not being able to safely use Old Station Close car park is a major risk. There is no other suitable parking nearby, and the A6 is an extremely busy road to navigate if parking elsewhere. I feel that the ARK DDDC Report (appendix 3) and the Site Assessment GTWG Recommendations (appendix 4), has completely failed to recognise this, and therefore does not give the full picture of how Old Station Close car park is used. Do they even know that disabled and vulnerable people use this facility?

I would appeal to the committee to consider the effect on LEVEL Centre, on staff, and on the vulnerable people that access LEVEL Centre if Old Station Close car park was to be lost, or significantly reduced in size.

Please circulate this email to all Councillors.

Kind regards

Hannah Lister.

Letter from Rachel Varricchio, Level Centre - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

To whom it may concern,

I am emailing on behalf of Northwood and Tinkersley Parish Council to express concern over the inclusion of Station Close car park in Rowsley in your consultation for a potential traveller site. This site was looked at by the previous administration and deemed unsuitable following discussions with local businesses, residents and the parish council. Why is it being looked at again? Nothing has changed so we don't understand why it is being re-examined. Will other sites deemed as being unsuitable be re-considered?

Please will you ensure the Parish Council's concerns are raised at the meeting?

Best wishes,

Rachel

Letter from Claire Plant (nineteen47), on behalf of T.C.Harrison Group Limited - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Cllr Burfoot,

Re: Representations to the Community and Environment Committee 22.07.2024 – Recommendations of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group nineteen47 are instructed by T.C. Harrison Group Limited to submit representations for your consideration in relation to the above referenced matter, to be considered at the next meeting of the Council's Community and Environment Committee on 22nd July 2024. These representations will also be presented verbally by a representative of T.C. Harrison Group during that meeting, as follows:

The recommendations before the Committee, as made by the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group, relate to matters including the identification of temporary gypsy and traveller sites to accommodate the needs of two families within Derbyshire Dales. This requirement is due to the failure of the Council to identify suitable permanent sites within the District to fulfil their duties under the Equality Act 2010, to provide suitable accommodation for these families.

T.C. Harrison Group have engaged in previous consultation regarding the search for both temporary and permanent Gypsy and Traveller sites in the District over a period in excess of 12 years, during which time no suitable long term solutions have been secured. Continued discussions regarding the provision of temporary sites will only serve to delay the protracted process of securing a permanent site, to the further detriment of these families. Further prolonged discussions will also divert precious and limited resources away from securing a suitable permanent solution.

Contrary to the assertion in the papers before you, we do not consider that it is necessary to await the progression of the Local Plan process, to secure a permanent site solution. The delivery of a satisfactory, permanent site (or sites) can be secured through the submission of a planning application (following the identification of a site), to formalise the agreed location, as has been the process for the provision of temporary sites in the past. The permitted site could then be formally recognised and designated as a long term site for Gypsy and Traveller occupation, at such time as a future Local Plan is progressed, without preventing the delivery of the permitted site in the interim period.

The report before you provides the recommendations of the Working Group, at points 1, 2 and 3, regarding terms of reference, a code of conduct and practical arrangements in relation to the affected families. These recommendations are considered to be sufficient, if adopted, to address short term matters relating to discharging the Council's requirements under the Equality Act 2010. The recommendation at point 4 notes continued progress in identifying a permanent site for the families, which we encourage the Council to expediate as far as possible.

Within this context, we implore you to reject the recommendations at points 5 and 6 of your papers. These recommendations suggest a six-week consultation period

regarding temporary gypsy and traveller sites, and exploration of the potential for regular movement of families between different sites. Both recommendations will only take up valuable time and resources, which could be focused on a permanent solution, as set out above.

Notwithstanding the above, we have specific concerns relating to the consideration of the car park at Old Station close, Rowsley. T.C. Harrison Group have been located in business premises at Old Station Lane, Rowsley for in excess of 20 years. The public car parking facilities forming part of the area provide an important facility for visitors to the numerous business premises on the estate. They also serve the large number of tourists that travel to the area. The use of the car park is anticipated to further increase following the upgrading of the White Peak Loop, along the current Derwent Valley Way, which will be accessed directly from this car park.

T.C. Harrison have previously made detailed representations to the Council setting out why the location is not considered to be suitable for this use. The reasons can be summarised as follows:

- Highways impact – The site is of a limited size and it is unclear whether suitable turning facilities could be provided to facilitate safe access to the site for the family, whilst retaining use of the wider car park for vital public parking provision. The loss of car parking in this area could also result in increased instances of on-street parking along Old Station Close, to the detriment of highway safety and disruption to the local businesses in respect of large vehicle deliveries and visitor parking.
- Environmental impact – In response to an earlier application for temporary use of the site for temporary gypsy and traveller facility, T.C. Harrison commissioned our own specialist ground stability reports to confirm the feasibility of works to provide this facility. The resulting report confirmed concerns relating to potential impact on the adjacent river and the adequacy of drainage attenuation within this area. The cost of undertaking required works to provide a safe facility were estimated to be in the region of £70,000, excluding toilet facilities, which is an excessive outlay for a temporary site. The potential for ecological impact as a result of any works must also be considered, particularly given the recent introduction of mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain requirements. No formal survey work has as yet been commissioned to our knowledge but the area is heavily tree'd and it is anticipated works would result in ecological disturbance, contrary to ecological policy objectives.
- Local Services – Whilst the site is close to existing businesses, it is remote from high frequency public transport routes with very limited shops and services in Rowsley. The site is therefore considered to be fundamentally unsustainable and unlikely to meet the specific needs of the families concerned, as listed in the Committee report.

Having taken account of the above matters, the Council previously resolved in a meeting on 24th November 2022, that sites including the Old Station Close site, should not be considered as suitable for temporary designation. It is unclear what has changed since that decision to result in reconsideration of the site for such use. For the reasons set out above, it continues to be the case that the Old Station Close site is not a suitable temporary gypsy and traveller site, and should consultation on the temporary sites be progressed, this site should be removed from consideration.

In summary, we implore members of the committee not to progress with the recommended consultation on the temporary sites set out within the report, but to move towards a permanent solution to this long term requirement, taking account of the pending recommendations of the Ark Report. The progression of temporary solutions will only further delay and divert valuable resources away from finding a permanent solution.

Furthermore, for the reasons set out above, a temporary site on the Old Station Lane, Rowsley site would not be appropriate, and we implore members of the committee to dismiss this site from further consideration, should the suggested consultation progress.

Yours faithfully

Clare Plant MRTPI
Director

Statement from Gill and Ian Woodhouse, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Sue

I understand that there is a council meeting on Monday 22 July to discuss the proposed traveller site at Rowsley. We wish to object to this proposal on the following grounds:

Car parking - would the council not consider that this proposal would take up valuable parking space for walkers & also visitors to the the Level Centre and other industries in this area? Also, this proposal could force additional traffic to the recreational ground and around the school where parking is already at a premium and the narrow roads are dangerous enough at peak times.

This is not a NIMBY objection, parking is a serious issue in this area at the best of times.

Best wishes

Gill & Ian Woodhouse

Statement from Sandra Jenkins, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Good afternoon,

Once again I see I am having to raise my objections to the proposed traveller site at Rowsley Old Station Yard. This has already been deemed unsuitable in a previous investigation and nothing has changed as far as I am aware except the leadership of the council.

An area at the bottom end of the car park was made suitable for one family a few years ago at great expense. I believe they stayed a short time but didn't like it and left. When unauthorised travellers arrived since then, they left a terrible mess, committed criminal damage to the site and were abusive when I simply walked past on the trail.

The car park in question is at the start of the trail to Matlock and is well used by walkers and cyclists. Where are they to park if this is not available?

The people working at the Level Centre and the industrial units on this site need to park there whilst at work.

The car repairs garage needs to park cars on the slip road and car park for collection when the work is completed in order to make room for the next ones.

The impact on the businesses in these units if travellers are parked there will be catastrophic. I would say that the majority of their customers will not be prepared to drive down and leave their cars in that area.

The parking in Rowsley is a major concern as can be seen along Chatsworth Road when parked cars make it very difficult for free flowing traffic to Chatsworth.

The large car park for Peak Village is locked by a barrier when the shops aren't open and is therefore not available outside these hours. It is also intended for customers at the shops and has security patrols as it is a privately owned car park.

Please put forward my objections at the next council meeting along with many others who realise that the impact of a traveller site in a small village like Rowsley would be disastrous.

Sandra Jenkins,
Rowsley resident.

Statement from Roy and Alison Baker, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing to object to the proposal to use the public car park in Station Close as a travellers' site.

The proposal is ill considered and inappropriate for a number of reasons.

Rowsley is a very busy village already with numerous visitors and even more traffic passing through to Chatsworth & Bakewell and the site will further reduce residents rights to peaceful enjoyment of their amenities.

There is already limited parking; the other options being Peak Village with limited times or on Chatsworth Rd or Hinckley Court and when the travellers were in the car

park no one else used it and there was significant additional nuisance car parking on Chatsworth Rd & Hinckley Court.

The car park is used by walkers and cyclists for the trail and by people that use the bus to go into Bakewell as an easier and greener option than trying to park there.

The siting of the traveller site would also preclude any future connection of the much needed extension to the Monsal Trail to Bakewell cutting off a green route into the heart of the Peak District

The previous travellers visits caused much disruption with loud swearing, constant burning of rubbish and significant amounts of litter (a lot thrown down the bank toward the A6), dog and human faeces.

There were complaints from local businesses in Station Close about threatening behaviour and foul language.

The fact that this is even being considered is a demonstration of how out of touch the local authority is with its residents (this should be evident by the numbers who signed the petition about this) and how little due diligence has been carried out for this location to even be under consideration

If this went ahead it would be another nail in the coffin for an already neglected community...

Regards,

Roy & Alison Baker

STATEMENT from Nora Luing, local resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Susan Hobson and DDD council

Please note my fervent objection to the above car park becoming an official traveller /gypsy site.

Not only is the car park very close to a quiet residential area, but also the shops at Rowsley rely on customers being able to park so businesses will be adversely affected.

Traveller site users, judging from my research, are not known for their interest in working on good relationships with neighbours nor are they known for maintaining their areas litter free. The consequences for the health of both non travellers/gypsies and for the nearby wildlife nature reserve could be anything from very upsetting to downright catastrophic.

Please do not sanction this..the well being of minority groups is not the only consideration in this matter.

Sincerely

Nora Luing .Local resident

STATEMENT from John Youatt, local resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

A tale of 8 traveller pitches in the Derbyshire Dales

History.

In 2013 the council's corporate cttee carried out a search for sites for (at that time) 6 pitches. It identified 13 possibles and selected the Woodyard. It then carried out due diligence at cost. This exercise identified costs of £120k. The council resolved to adopt the Woodyard and make a planning application for 6 permanent pitches.

The owners were not told, they found out by accident. They were vilified at a public meeting, until they told the meeting that the officers had lied. This was the origin of a long running animosity between the then head of planning and the owners, that continues to this day

That resolution was promptly subverted. Permission was granted for 3 temporary pitches only. This established a planning basis for valuation well below the potential for 6 (now 8) permanent pitches. It was self-evidently unacceptable to the owners. It was seen by them as a deliberate attempt to get the land cheaply and/or avoid permanent permission.

This was the point at which I was recruited as their agent.

The fiasco dragged on for years. Several attempts were made by the EHO officer (strangely then head of planning) to develop grossly inappropriate sites. Some councillors will recall sites around Ashbourne and one at Tansley.

All current councillors are aware of the outrageous site at Hasker Farm, now the subject of another attempt to complain. I'm told that deal at that site included an offer to pay the criminal owner the going rate of £16k for 4 pitches - £40k per pitch. I assume the budgets were available.

I was invited to meet the residents and nearby councillor at Hasker Farm buildings. The ward councillor had not been told. I told them that the officers had completely ignored the Woodyard.

This prompted the officers eventually to agree that the original permission was valid. A new application was submitted by Roger Yarwood's RTPI practice, for 8 permanent pitches. At the site visit, most Cllrs said it was an ideal site. As we left the site head of housing said, please let me get on with a quality development.

(He also said that the valuation would be as an exceptions site, which isn't true -the going rate is £40k per permanent pitch.)

Committee granted conditional permission for the 8 pitches. The conditions were not negotiated. They are punitive and some are not enforceable. They may be the reason that the owners have been unable to sell and lost faith in the council.

To my distress the council has now decided not to develop the site on grounds of costs – that exceed those agreed in 2013 by far more than inflation.

I'm now short of facts, because neither my former clients nor the council have agreed to meet me in person. I was under the impression that the owners had full services when they lived there for 4 years in a cabin – water electric and composting toilets. If anyone is in contact, please ask.

Proposal

There is a conundrum. For several years the site was run as a business called Conservation Crafts. Latterly the business failed, and the owners tried to sell the site with B1/B8 established use rights or as a traveller site.

During that period, they lived on site in a cabin for 4 years. I was in frequent conversation with them by email and phone. I'm told they had a water supply.. I'm unable to explain why the costs of servicing have risen so dramatically, since the 2013 assessment set them at c £120k

It is ironic at least that the previous administration resisted the use of the site for travellers, then the current administration approved it then decided not to develop it.

I urge the Council to check the services costs then set them against the costs of delay and uncertainty. The rules require permanent provision to justify the costs of the high quality that the director of housing was determined to achieve.

The need is I gather for 9 pitches and rising. So 6 pitches at the Woodyard would be a good start.

Sincerely, John Youatt.

STATEMENT from Natalia Grove, local resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Susan Hobson,

The idea to have travellers at Rowsley is absolutely outrageous. Such a beautiful area must be kept that way, not turned into a massive litter site. I urge everyone in the council to understand that people do not want this, and urge that the plan is abolished. Please listen to the people who live here!

Yours sincerely

Natalia Grove

STATEMENT from Ines Hankinson, Forged Solutions - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Prior Questions posed to the council:

1. Will the proposed code of conduct for those residing on temporary sites as well as an overview of how the council envisages to enforce compliance to such code be made available for review and comment considering the existing budget constraints?
2. How does the gypsy and traveller working group envisage the format of the referenced public consultation? No member of the gypsy and traveller working group has been in touch with key local businesses to understand the challenges faced as well as poor historic experience with such groups in the vicinity. This has not changed since the last meeting.
3. Will surrounding interested parties be directly consulted and included during the generation of local impact assessments for any proposed site, be it temporary or permanent before any revised recommendations are published?

I have also been made aware that potentially water taps may have pre-emptively already been installed and I would like to know if this is true, when this was done, how this was approved and paid for before the meeting please.

Receiving an answer prior would be helpful then the request to speak can solely concentrate on representing impact from a business perspective and potential child perspective considering the Level centre primary focus is involving work with vulnerable young people.

Please note my child will be visiting the current traveller site in preparation for the meeting.

Would it be possible to get the Traveller Working Group Added to the Derbyshire dales website so it is easy to search for agenda and minutes in relation to this group? It is not easy at present to track down key info.

Please accept this as authorisation to share the response.

STATEMENT from Phil Cushway , Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Councillors

Station Coach and Car Park Matlock Bath

I write concerning the coach park section of the station car park being used as a tolerated traveller site for nearly 2 years and numerous shorter periods prior to this. Firstly, I feel that this site is totally unsuitable for such a use for those who have been housed here. Secondly, and more importantly for us as residents, it has affected our quality of life.

I have had to endure the noise of generators and various garden machinery not only during the day but very early in the morning and late at night, the noise of barking dogs often 24 hours a day, shouting and screaming often from very early in the morning until very late at night. The topography of the village means that the sound is amplified and travels across the valley to the residential properties. I have found it difficult to access Lover's Walk and when I have, encountered much human excrement and tissue. I have felt unsafe crossing the car park to access the station and encountered abuse from the travellers on the site.

As a council tax payer, I am also concerned at the loss of income to DDDC from the lack of use as a coach park and the cost of to the council for providing the facilities to this site.

Furthermore, looking at the rest of the list of requirements on the traveller-council contract – things like rubbish disposal, scrap, businesses being conducted, dog mess being cleared, open fires not being lit, damage to property etc etc – having walked past the Matlock Bath site every day for a number of months I would suggest that many of the clauses in that contract are being broken on a daily basis. I am not complaining about the contraventions. My point is that there is a huge gulf between what the district councillors council think is happening, and the reality. Unfortunately as a community we are dealing with the reality.

I therefore call on Derbyshire Dales District Council to urgently restore all Matlock Bath's Coach and Car Parking facilities in the station car park and take all possible precautions to ensure that the station car and coach park's future users will only be tourists, residents and rail passengers. I also ask that Lovers' Walk and any other surrounding areas are cleared of the human excrement and all dumped rubbish and waste.

Yours sincerely

Phil Cushway

STATEMENT from a Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Susan,

I am writing to object to the proposed traveller site on Old Station Site Car Park. I frequently park here to take my 4 year old granddaughter along the path for walks and also to visit The Space when events are on.

There is limited parking in Rowsley as Peak Village gets very busy in the summer and at Christmas time.

Please take my objection into account

Best wishes,

STATEMENT from Susie Dunham, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Good evening,

I came across the poster regarding the potential for old station car park in Rowsley to become a traveller site.

Firstly, I think this should be sent out to local residents who this may affect. I stumbled across this poster by chance on a dog walk. I don't think locals have been given a fair opportunity to have their say.

I'd like to put forward my objection. Peak Rail is a lovely destination for families and tourists. I feel it will be less appealing due to the influx of caravans, washing lines, and gypsies. This could in turn result in the loss of the peak rail.

I am unable to attend the meeting but please pass on my objection.

Kind regards

Susie

STATEMENT from Nicola Abbott, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Good day,

I am writing with reference to the meeting taking place on Monday 22nd July regarding the Old Station Close Car Park and the potential for this space to be used for a traveller/gypsy site.

As a resident of Darley Dale and a frequent user of this car park, I would like to object to this space being used for such a site. This area is not only one of practical use, but is adjacent to an area which is used by many cyclists, walkers and the likes, and is not a big enough area to house travellers and be utilised by those such as myself who use the space.

Please take my objection to the meeting so that we may keep this area for its intended use only.

Regards

Nicola Abbott

STATEMENT from Liam Abbott, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Good Evening,

I object to the gypsy/traveler site at Old Station Close Car Park as shown in the image attached.

The car park is used by all locals and tourists/visitors. They may be taking their dogs for walks, cycling, getting exercise. Taking the children out. For all of our mental health and well beings.

It would be a tragic loss to the local area and could put many people at risk of mental health issues as they can no longer explore and get back to nature with the car park being taken away.

I would find it very difficult myself as I walk my dog here most days using this car park as a base to explore.

Please don't take it away from us. We are only a small community so it could devastate us.

Many Thanks
Liam Abbott

STATEMENT from Northwood Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Good morning Susan,

I hope you are well.

I understand that there is a meeting on the 22nd July 2024 regarding the use of the Old Station Car Park at Rowsley.

I would like to strongly oppose the use of the car park for gypsy/traveller use as I feel it is not fit for purpose.

The car park should remain in use for the public as and when.

I have lived in the Northwood area since 2006 and have seen many changes to the area over the years.

We are at risk of overcrowding as it is within Derbyshire Dales with ever decreasing use of public services going forwards.

We have seen new estates being built throughout and the installation of the recycling centre in my immediate area also, this causes traffic congestion in itself.

Our public car parks are our local area treasures for not only residents but for our visitors too.

I strongly feel that these should not be taken away from us.

If the council has to provide a site for 2 families only, why are we being asked to consult on a large scale site or land within the Dales?

The station site in Matlock is currently housing many caravans which we can only assume more families keep arriving.

To conclude I strongly oppose a change of use to the Old Station Car Park in Rowsley, it should be maintained for public use of residents and visitors to the area.

I hope you will consider my views, I will be listening to the meeting on the 22nd July.

Many thanks
Kind regards

STATEMENT from Martin Good, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

I object to the free car park at rowsley to becoming a gypsy site what a beautiful spot this is why give it to them absolutely free???

Martin good
M•G Engineering

STATEMENT from Jess Gill, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Hello,

I am writing to express my objection to the car park in Rowsley becoming a permanent traveller site.

Me and my partner frequently use this car park when we wish to ride our bikes - and if this were to become a permanent site for travellers it would make us feel unsafe to do so.

We already avoid using the car parks at Sainsbury's and Matlock Bath - so unfortunately this would be yet another car park we would have to avoid in our local area which seems unfair when we both pay one of the highest council tax rates for Matlock.

Kind regards,

Jess Gill

STATEMENT from Natasha Berresford, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Susan,

I object to any parking sites for the traveling community in Matlock and surrounding areas.

Kind regards
Natasha Berresford

STATEMENT from Kay Platt, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Good morning I'm writing to show my concerns as a Business owner in Ashbourne about the possible gypsy plans you may have in mind for the over spill car park (fishpond) in Ashbourne. Last time they were in Ashbourne they caused a lot of upset for both residents and visitors. I'm not sure if any of you have walked around Ashbourne lately and seen the lack of footfall in our town? I've had a business for 30 years and it's gone down dramatically due to on line shopping, covid and high rents and car parking charges. It's really hard to try and keep a business open and peoples jobs to.

The noise they were making in the early hours near residents was very distressing including dogs barking all times of day and night. Also the look of it and smell. I was under the impression they were not allowed to be near residents.

The town will be going through a lot of up evil with the reborn scheme taking place which will see the towns market place being pedestrianised so there will be no parking on there so we will be needing the overspill carpark for both residents and visitors. I believe if they come you will have to make it suitable for there caravans so why can this not be done for the use of parking for our town.

Please consider our dying town when you decide where they will be going there is far far more suitable sites.

Many thanks
Kay platt
Kay & co
Ashbourne

STATEMENT from Brian Ward, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

An absolute NO from me.

Keep as local parking.

Regards

Brian Ward

STATEMENT from Gemma Hopkins, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear committee,

I would like to put toward my opinion on the proposed traveller site in Matlock at the Arc. I would like to raise concerns regarding this site on the following basis:

1) Parking - regularly there is limited space for customers to use the allocated parking facility especially when Arc hold events. Over spill parking does onto the

neighbouring Morledge estate. By reducing the parking facility this will happen more regularly during evenings impacting on local residents more. By repurposing the parking for a traveller site surely goes against the original planning permission for the Arc and Premier inn parking, which was independently calculated for the facility there.

2) Anti social behaviour - I have witnessed and seen evidence of human excrement, indecent exposure and foul language at other site in the area. This facility is used by children and vulnerable adults, therefore safeguarding needs to be significantly considered which doesn't appear to have been on the proposal matrix.

3) Loss of revenue - members pay to use the Arc as well as visitors into the area. Restricted access and presence of a traveller site will have reduction on income into the Arc adding additional strain to the finances of the facility which the council will have to subsidise.

4) Traffic - access in and out of the Arc is restricted due to inappropriate parking opposite the junction. The council have failed to act in this matter with the addition of traveller traffic adding to this problem. There will be a significant accident, serious injury/ fatality with some of the driving that has been witnessed and this will compound the problem.

Any proposal that goes through should have a robust mechanism for support for residents and local people to report antisocial behaviour and any concerns. This should then be robustly logged and acted on! Issues raised to the police but parish councils claim they have no record of anti social behaviour on other sites, this is not good enough. It is recognised a facility is needed but this needs to be fully thought through and not just from a desktop analysis.

Kind regards,

Gemma Hopkins

Matlock resident.

STATEMENT from Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Hi

I would like to express and explain my concerns at the fact the Arc car park is being considered as a potential site for the Travellers to take up residence.

We have two just teenage children (13 year old twins) who walk to/from school near to the Arc and we are concerned about their safety, due to several reasons.

Firstly, traffic issues are bad anyway around the car park/Arc/Premier Inn entrance so having yet another use for that slip road (meaning access for the Traveller site) would create further danger for pedestrians and vehicles. Secondly we would worry for their personal safety, having watched the Channel 4 documentary which featured

the Travellers sited in the train station car park I would worry about children having to go past or very near to a Traveller site twice a day just to get to/from school.

Thirdly and I am fully aware we sound like NIMBY's but the walkway which connects the field adjacent to the car park and the Morledge estate means a direct thoroughfare which will be more heavily used and our estate is currently quite peaceful.

I'd also worry about the negativity drawn to the Arc/Premier Inn/Morledge estate if the Travellers were sited in the car park. I think once people became aware of that they'd stop using the Arc/Premier Inn which would be bad for the local area and local economy.

Please don't put human beings on a car park. The Travellers also deserve to be treated with respect and not placed somewhere that will attract hostility towards them. They bring with them certain worries, as listed above, but they also need accommodating somewhere that doesn't cause aggravation and upset to the already in place local community.

I hope my points will be taken into consideration with respect and not dismissed as NIMBYISM. I appreciate it's a tricky task to locate them but a leisure centre car park is not suitable or appropriate.

Regards

If it's ok to add to my original email by saying that we unfortunately live next door but one to a convicted drug dealer, we worry that a Traveller site right by Morledge would only make the already smelly (cannabis) activity from his house even worse.

STATEMENT from Andrea Clough, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear sir/madam,

Just to say we object to the Arc car park being used by travellers/gypsies, because of the impact they will have and the state in which they leave things plus devaluing houses in the area. Why can't they be left at the Matlock car park

Myles objections to using the top car park of the Arc

1- de value houses

2 - not nice for tourists staying in the area

3 - we do an exercise class up there and will no longer feel like we can use it if travellers are there

4- freedom taken away from kids/teenagers who like to go to Dimple etc

5- I'd be concerned at the mess they will make as in excrement for the health safety of dogs and children and they could become ill if mess is left not only in the car park but on the fields paths Bushes etc

6 - why can't they remain in their current location part of the railway car park

7) how about a small section of the council car park if desperate

Many thanks

Andrea Clough

STATEMENT from Roger Lewis, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear sir/madam

Please accept this email as my strong objection for the proposal of a new site for this static community of so called travellers to the Arc leisure car park.

Although I agree, that it provides an ideal standing area, it could not be in a more harmful area for the loyal local hardworking community that strive to earn a decent living.

Why the council is obligated to action is beyond my understanding and I feel it makes a mockery of my long honest career and upmost integrity on law and order.

Do not pass this motion and scrap the thought of housing people that the local people want moved and not encouraged.

Regards and thank you for reading

Roger Lewis

STATEMENT from Elizabeth Lewis, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear DDDC

I am writing with regard to the meeting being held on 22nd July 2024 for a decision on an area for the "Travellers" site.

I strongly oppose the idea of using the Arc Leisure car park as a potential option. All the surrounding areas ie, The Arc, The premier Inn, and the housing estates on both sides of the Arc will be affected. The Arc car park is in constant use by the paid members that use the facility . Having so called " Travellers" (that never travel) could affect house prices and put a large number of the community ill at ease having them living so close by.

I have worked all my life and paid my taxes and feel this is an affront that certain people will get the benefit of amities for free.

I would like again to strongly object to the Arc car park as a potential site.

Regards

Elizabeth Lewis

STATEMENT from David Neath, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

I am writing to express my objection to the car park being taken over for caravan parking. Without the car park walkers and dog walkers would not be able to park their cars to take advantage of the trail. We would see parking on the roads causing issues.

Regards

David Neath

STATEMENT from James Beeston, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Hello all,

I note that there is a council meeting on Monday to discuss the 6 traveller sites that have been it forward, and that the Arc car park is proposed as one option. As our local councillors wanted to share my concerns. In representing our ward I am sure you are already of a similar view, but I thought my comments might assist you in sharing local resident concerns with the meeting.

Reviewing the table of considerations I feel this doesn't take into account the wider impact on the community, as for example a planning application would do. I acknowledge that the schedule does note that DCC highways input has not yet been sought, but the main issue I see with the Arc car park is that it will push the facilities users to park on the already congested local highways network and the surrounding housing estates, including the A6, Morledge, and Megdale. All car parks at the Arc are regularly used by the facilities users, and by users of the simple playing fields. This is a great example of a community asset in use and the benefit it brings to the communities health, wellness, and fitness.

I presume the site visits were not made during an evening or a weekend to understand how much the car parks are already used. I am sat at the Arc now whilst my son has a swimming lesson on a Saturday morning and confirm all car parks are in use, as they are in the evenings when we are here for our children's other sporting activities. This is not to mention the impact that is already experienced by the local community when frequent large events (eg. swimming galas) are held at the Arc, which regularly results in excessive and antisocial parking in the local area, followed by complaints to the Arc and local councillors.

Whilst there are other car park options on the schedule of prospective sites, I believe those have additional parking facilities nearby that can accommodate overspill without impacting on the community (eg. the Matlock Station and Matlock Bath car parks have wider availability in the vicinity, and at Rowsley the Peak Shopping Village used to invite walkers to use its car park).

Whilst there are no doubt revenue considerations for the council with some of the other options, I would also question the financial impact of using the Arc car park on Freedom Leisure, and presume this would be a change to the basis of their long

term contract with DDDC to run the facility. As they have previously made the point about running on a tight budget, I can only anticipate that this will result in a financial claim against DDDC from Freedom Leisure as it will limit/restrict their operations, and should be a material consideration for the council in their decision making process.

I would like to note that this isn't a case of NIMBYism. I recognise that this isn't a short term issue, and for the travelling community and the local community it is right that the correct site for all is selected for the longer term until a permanent site is found. I don't believe the current schedule/report is fully reflective of all material considerations for a robust decision to be made.

I trust my comments are useful, and would be happy to provide further comments/feedback if it would help.

Kind regards,

James Beeston

STATEMENT from Teresa Haymes, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Please accept this as my formal objection to making this car park a permanent residence for gypsy and travellers.

I come from a gypsy family in my mother's side. However made the decision that if I wanted to live near family I would need to buy a house and integrate into the community in Matlock, which is what I've done. I pay my bills and more importantly pay band D council tax to live here.

It is not fair to those paying the extortionate council tax rates that live locally to see free accommodation being given to others, regardless of their ethnicity. Also rest assured (as I know) they have more money than most living in this area as their way of life means the men work for cash in hand.

This aside, both me and my husband are disabled and car parking is a nightmare in Matlock, especially at weekends and during holidays when there is an increase in visitors to Matlock. We need as many available parking spaces as possible to manage the volume. Surely there are alternatives than can both support this community but stop annoyance for those tax paying residents.

Teresa Haymes

STATEMENT from Jason Taylor, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Good morning,

I would like to voice an objection to the car park on Old Station Close becoming a Gypsy / Traveller site as I feel that this would not benefit the community of Rowsley or Derbyshire Dales and I think it should remain accessible to the public.

Thanks
Jason Taylor

STATEMENT from Matthew Slater, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Hi I would like to register my objection to the proposed use of Old station close Carpark as a traveller site. This is a very much used carpark and an important local amenity providing convenient access for walkers and cyclists to the trail. The last time travellers were on the site I witnessed on two occasions them urinating and pooing in the river while walking by there was a real problem with litter and piles of tree cuttings which they set fire to to dispose of. The site just hasn't the facilities to support a traveler site and remain a safe and convenient way to access one of Derbyshires most famous trails.

Kind regards
Matthew Slater.

STATEMENT from Ellen Sinclair, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Hi

I wanted to raise my concerns regarding the proposed traveller site at the Arc Leisure Centre Car Parks. I have been a resident of Morledge for 18 years, and there is not enough car parking spaces at the arc at the moment, on the frequent gala days trying to get on and off the estate is ridiculous and dangerous, due to the amount of cars parking on the estate, due to lack of parking on the actual car parks. The site would be between 2 housing estates, where people have worked hard and bought properties only for them to plummet in value, should the travellers be sited there. They are already nuisance calling around the estate, offering to clear gutters etc- men with kids who should be in school. I for one walk down through the field/carpark most mornings to use the swimming pool, which I certainly would not do if I had to walk past the travellers - they are very intimidating.

They need to be sited where they don't have an impact on the majority of hard working COUNCIL TAX PAYING people - how about putting them in the county offices car park, which is rarely used?

I'm sure I speak for the majority on here, who just want to live in peace without the stress and anxiety that having a traveler community on our doorstep would bring. It should not be considered, it is not a suitable option, and it would have a detrimental effect on our community.

Kind regards

Ellen Sinclair

STATEMENT from Gill Woodhouse, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Sue, in addition to my comments on the parking issues, we have friends in Rowsley who are encouraged (kinder way of saying forced!) to use the car park when Chatsworth have their country shows and they are prohibited from parking outside their own house. Please could you pass on this additional concern to the committee team?

Thank you

Gill

STATEMENT from Deb Willaims, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Good afternoon

I write to voice my concerns after reading the Derbyshire Times, plans to accommodate Travellers on the Arc car park in Matlock.

I need to highlight the horrendous car parking situation around the area of Morledge due to the fact that there is not sufficient parking available for visitors to the Arc especially on gala days.

As residents on the Morledge estate we have been inundated with cars parked up and down the Morledge road on Gala days which sometimes makes it difficult for emergency service vehicles to even get past. We also have cars parked up on the grass verges, on both estates and also vehicles parked over the slabs that help blind people cross the road and someone thinks this is a good idea to put forward the car park on an already horrendous over crowded situation regarding cars.

I honestly cannot understand who would think this is a good idea, I can only think they live no where near this area and do not understand the ongoing problems we already have on our doorstep.

Although these sites never get put forward, I feel the county office's car park on Bank Road in Matlock or the town hall car park would be a more suitable placement as there always seems to be plenty of available parking most days.

Regards

Deb Williams

STATEMENT from Jill Blyth, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Good afternoon

I disagree strongly with the use of the public carpark in Matlock as a permanent site for travellers. I can see the need for them to have an area of their own but a public car park is not the right environment for them or the people who visit Matlock to shop etc.

Your sincerely
Jill Blyth

STATEMENT from Paul Smith, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

The carpark at Rowsley should remain in total a car park and not a travellers site

STATEMENT from Diane Richens, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Good Evening

I am writing as a resident of Morledge and have read in the Derbyshire Times that the Arc Car Park maybe considered a traveller site.

I would just like to stress on gala days and other events that take place the parking is a horrendous on our estate due to the lack of parking areas, putting the travellers on there will make it even worse and even more cars will end up parking up the hill which is a danger to all.

Also, I have seen the mess some (not all) have created in the car park on Derwent Way. Dimple fields will just end up getting soiled and full of rubbish and possible fly tipping.

I am unsure why anyone would think this is a suitable place for them to live.

I await your response

Kind regards

Diane Richens

STATEMENT from Lynne Turner, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

I would like this to stay as a public community car park please.

Many thanks

Lynne Turner

STATEMENT from Yvonne Oldfield, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

I object strongly to this proposal. How dare the council even think about this idea. The council should consider local peoples feelings as WE support the council re council tax. ARE THEY ROMA GYPSIES?..MONEY INVOLVED,,??

STATEMENT from Rebecca Cox, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Hi Susan

I am emailing to voice my objection to the proposal of a traveller site at Old Station Close.

This area is used frequently as an amenity to local people who use the space to park not only for leisure, but also to park when collecting children from the school, as well as parking during events such as the Chatsworth show. It is also used by small businesses in the area for staff and customers alike.

The area of Rowsley is also an area of outstanding natural beauty which would no doubt be spoiled by such a site. You only have to drive by the travellers at the Matlock train station car park to see the mess that is made.

I feel this proposal would be extremely detrimental to all of the above and I strongly object to it.

Regards

Rebecca

STATEMENT from Beth Isle, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Hello,

I am writing to state my objection to the proposal that old station close, Rowsley become a traveller/gypsy site. I want this car park to remain a public amenity car park for our use.

Kind regards,

Beth Isle

STATEMENT from Mark Pepper, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Good evening,

I am writing to state my objection to the car park at old station road in Rowsley being used as a traveller site.

I want it to remain a public amenity car park for public use.

I feel it benefits Rowsley's community and businesses as people park here to walk in the countryside and visit the retail units so getting rid of the car park would impact the community and local businesses.

Thank you

Mark Pepper

STATEMENT from Christine Middleton, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Just read where Rowsley car park is considered for Travellers. It will be an absolute eyesore to all the visitors that come to Derbyshire plus us locals who have been here for 60 years +. Derbyshire villages cannot cope with these people. I will not feel safe in my own property. C Middleton.

STATEMENT from Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Hello,

I just wanted to share my concerns about the possibility of the Arc Leisure Centre car park being a home for the travelling community.

There are many concerns to be honest. It is a public car park for those that use the Arc. I am a regular user of the arc albeit that I park down in the disabled bays by the turning circle, I feel it would put users off parking at the arc due to them being there.

There has been controversy with the travelling community as we shown on TV a while ago. We live on the Morledge estate and it feels too close to home to have the same issues possibly on our doorstep.

Another issue is when the Arc is used for Gala days. Parking is already quite difficult on the estate on Gala days where the car parks are full a people then park on the estate making it more difficult for residents to get around and on and off the estate.

We have 13 year old children who walk down the estate to the bus stop to go to school and I am concerned that this might be an issue if they cause difficulties for people getting on and off the estate.

We also live close to a known drug user and dealer who has been prosecuted for drug use and this would be a bigger audience for them to sell drugs to.

I really hope you will actually take on board what people are saying when the meeting takes place, rather than just over ruling peoples thoughts and going with what you feel is the best option!

Many thanks,

STATEMENT from Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

hi there, me and my husband both live in darley dale - we have seen the caravans on the site and we cant use the car park like we would do as we fear for property ad safety.

having those on site will bring so many bad things to darley dale and this is a nice village and we dont want it ruining we saw what they did at the train station its disgraceful we objection 100%

STATEMENT from Paul Booker, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

To whom it may concern....

I strongly object to the old station close car park Matlock being used as a gypsy traveller site....I would like this to be kept as a public amenity car park..

As now there isn't enough parking when there is an event at the arc leisure centre.

And if this car park is lost parking will be even worse causing potential accidents .

Kind Regards

Paul Booker

STATEMENT from Rebecca Spray, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear committee

I am writing for the first time to a ask that this proposal to uses the arc car park as a temporary travelers site be declined.

For the following reasons

The car park at the arc are well used by people attending the arc leisure centre. With all the car parking space being used after school when swimming lessons are on. We as a society should be promoting sport, health and wellbeing being. By reducing the carparking space to a place that provides that, can only put obstacles to achieving this objectives.

Also when swimming events are being held at the arc (most weekends during the season) there is not enough car parking for the events, causing people to park (double car) up into the morledge estate. This means a fire engine if needed would be unable to get through. By taking away some of the car parking will compound the problem, and endanger life. As a frequent visitor to the arc and morledge resident I would argue that the arc leisure centre needs more car parking not less.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Rebecca spray

STATEMENT from Will Jackson, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Hi,

I strongly object to old station close car park being converted into a gypsy/traveller site. I see no issue with why the railway station cannot be converted, it is where the site currently is, and for the benefit of the travellers; its closer to amenities, its closer to local businesses for employment opportunities, its easier for the travellers to integrate into the community, and it is easier to monitor and manage from a public service point of view.

Hiding the site outside of town is reflective of an 'out of site, out of mind' approach and does not endorse an inclusive strategy to the minority group.

Having discussed this with the travellers at the railway station, their preference would be for a site to be nearer the town, preferably within it.

Please consider this email as a strong objection to the plan.

Will Jackson

STATEMENT from Lynne Turner, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

I would like this to stay as a public community car park please.

I actually work for dcc. Not sure that makes a difference but I know the struggles the councils have.

I know how difficult it is to please everyone but I feel we will be losing a part of Matlock. We have lost enough already.

We need to keep Matlock/ Matlock Bath the centre of the community.

Many thanks

Lynne Turner

STATEMENT from Terry Geraghty, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Hello,

I am contacting you in response to the proposed Temporary Traveller site at Arc Leisure, due to be discussed at 18.00hrs on Monday 22 July, 2024.

I appreciate this is one of a number of proposed sites and also, that the council are obliged to find a suitable permanent site for the travelling community, a long standing issue that remains unresolved.

I cannot comment on the other sites proposed but whoever decided Arc Leisure car park should be one of the options is at best naive, at worst provocative.

I have lived on the Morledge Estate, Matlock for over 12 years. In this time, problems with parking on the estate when swimming galas are held have been well reported to councillors, the car parks quickly reaching capacity and attendees instead taking to parking on the roads around the estate, often with no consideration, making normal movement around the roads difficult. Parking often extends to the grass verges. There have also been approaches to adopt the road and put in place yellow lines to prevent parking near the mouth of the junction and central island.

During busy periods such as holiday and football season, all available car parking at Arc Leisure is frequently taken up. Removing some of the available parking for a Travellers site is only going to exacerbate the already unsatisfactory situation.

Business for Arc Leisure and potentially the Premier Inn will also suffer should this be approved. I am aware of people who regularly use Arc who are seriously considering going elsewhere. Anecdotally I am informed that Arc previously had a problem with members of the Travelling community using the shower and toilet facilities, even some dyeing their hair whilst allowing unruly children to run amok. There would be an inevitable repeat with the near proximity of the site. Some residents have also expressed concern at walking from the estate to Arc past a Travellers site, they feeling uncomfortable doing so due to Travellers being intimidating or threatening, whether in truth or by reputation.

It seems that the most obvious temporary location, the bottom car park to the Council Offices that is usually all but empty has purposely been excluded, yet would

cause little problem for residents and would be easily supervised. Is this because it may put off prospective buyers to the site, or I may be cynical?

I would like to express my objection to Arc leisure car park being used as a Temporary Travellers Site and ask that you take this email as my reasoning for doing so.

Kind regards

Terry Geraghty

STATEMENT from Sue Bliss, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Regarding the proposed sites to accommodate the Gypsy and Traveller communities:

Car park Old Station Road Rowsley is a free car park (rare in this era) that is well used by people exploring the multiuser trail and surrounding areas. I would object to this site being used for anything other than people trying to access green spaces.

The Arc leisure centre car parks are in constant use by leisure centre users. The top car park is often used when the centre has swimming galas. This already causes issues such as illegal parking, verge damage, pavement parking, destruction of flora and littering.

The upper and lower car parks are already not big enough to cater for the swimming galas. The sheer volume of vehicles creates issues on Morledge, leading to verge damage and obstructions for Morledge residents entering and exiting the estate. Ark consultancy doesn't seem to have taken these issues into account when assessing this site/option. The proposal of these car parks as a site for Travellers is completely untenable.

Sue Bliss

STATEMENT from Ben & Sophie Hurford, Local Residents - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Hello,

I understand there is a meeting on Monday next night regarding proposed travellers site in the Derbyshire Dales.

As a long standing resident on the Morledge Estate I want to express my real concerns at Arc Leisure being a proposed site. The access onto Morledge is already dangerous due to lack of double yellow lines. There has been numerous accidents on the junction into Arc and onto the A6. There is also already inadequate parking at Arc on gala days and this bleeds the onto our Estate. As much as I

appreciate travellers needs a permanent site, Arc Leisure seems completely inappropriate. The current parking issues and being located so close to two large housing estates and a park need to be seriously considered in this decision.

Kind regards

Ben & Sophie Hurford

STATEMENT from Lindsay Patterson, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Ms Hobson

Having seen the poster that is attached below, I feel I must write and express my concerns.

I am currently in the process of moving into a property on Chatsworth Road in Rowsley and was about to sign contracts until I saw this.

Now, the exchange of contracts is in jeopardy as how would I ever be able to move away from Rowsley?? Who would want to move here with a travellers site 0.4 mins from my door?

The clue is in the name - Travellers!!! They are supposed to do just that, travel.

Having had the unfortunate experience of being homeless for 2 years after domestic abuse and the council not exactly coming to my aid (2 years in a Travel lodge room), I find it appalling that the council are prepared to cater for the TRAVELLERS in such a small village as Rowsley.

Can you please explain where will all the residents park their cars when the Chatsworth shows are on and the road towards Chatsworth has to stay clear???

Usually they park in the said car park.

The person whose house I am supposed to be moving into is absolutely distraught as I have said we now need to defer as I am not moving so close to a traveller site. They are renowned for disobeying all laws, stealing and making a mess.

How is this good for the nearby residents and business and also the heritage of the Peak Rail and Caudwell mill?? Rowsley would be known for that place where the gypsies live.

HOW is this a good idea and why would you all even consider it??

Please let me know how soon we will know the outcome as I am obviously all packed and ready to move and now need to know whether to unpack and start my search again for a property that isn't on the doorstep of the travellers who are beyond the rules of the law.

Lindsay Patterson (Ms)

STATEMENT from Sarah Burt, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

I write as a concerned resident regarding the above proposal and the use of the Arc car park. I am aware that the site would provide “out of sight out of mind” convenience but the effect on usage of the Arc will be severely impacted for parking and gala days would make access to Morledge even more dangerous with antisocial parking which I am sure will not be monitored by yourselves, as it does not appear to be now.

However of course it may be that this is part of a wider plan to close the Arc and reduce costs to DDDC in which case should this be the outcome the community should be warned of this being taken into account with any decision made. Ignorance of the knock on effect would not be an excuse.

I am unable to attend the meeting due to being covid positive.

Yours faithfully
Sarah Burt

STATEMENT from Matthew Slater, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Hi

I would like to register my objection to the proposed use of Old station close Carpark as a traveller site. This is a very much used carpark and an important local amenity providing convenient access for walkers and cyclists to the trail. The last time travellers were on the site I witnessed on two occasions them urinating and pooing in the river while walking by there was a real problem with litter and piles of tree cuttings which they set fire to to dispose of. The site just hasn't the facilities to support a traveler site and remain a safe and convenient way to access one of Derbyshires most famous trails.

Kind regards
Matthew Slater.

STATEMENT from Scott Summerfield, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

I have just seen a sign informing me of a meeting about a proposed temporary travellers site on the Arc Leisure Centre top car park, after I was approached by several neighbours . I am a resident on Morledge, I live just over the boundary fence to the proposed site, I strongly object to this site being put here for the following reasons:

- 1) it is being proposed as a temporary site, they have been on the carpark in the centre of Matlock for almost 4 years, this was temporary??? So I question your intentions as far as the temporary suggestion is concerned.
- 2) We have constant problems with congestion on Morledge with parking from the leisure centre, this is especially bad during events, removing the largest amount of parking available at this site will make this situation much worse.
- 3) Having a site like this so close to the boundary of my house will make it unsaleable, and have a massive impact on the value of properties on Morledge, why should I have to be put through this as a long time tax payer in the area, not one of these travellers contributes in the form of any council tax but seems to get better services than I do security fencing, large waste collection etc etc.
- 4) I have had many correspondences with Sarah Dines over this in the past, one suggestion I made was why not house the travellers on the car park at county offices, most staff are now working from home so the carpark is largely unused, and any council officials that do still work from county hall will be able to monitor the travellers first hand.

I reiterate that I am strongly in objection to this proposal, my reasons are due to the unsuitability of the site due to the disruption this would cause with illegal parking and blocking of access to residents properties, which is already a problem before this large amount of parking is removed.

I know all the residents on Morledge feel the same as I have been approached by many of them.

Unfortunately I will not be able to attend the meeting as I am currently trying to deal with a family emergency with my elderly mother (who also lives on Morledge), she is in hospital after two serious falls and a heart attack, I hope you will put my representation forward on my behalf.

Scott Summerfield

STATEMENT from Darrell Yates, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Madam

I wish to register my objection allowing the use of Rowsley Old Station car park to become a Gypsy/Traveller site.

This car park is an excellent amenity for local people and visitors especially for the use of the cycle and footpath linking this station and Matlock. In addition I understand that temporary use of The Arc car park for such travellers is being considered.

Again I object most strongly to this suggestion, the Arc is an excellent public facility and should be retained and such for the community to use.

The nearby estate of Morledge would also be adversely affected

I do hope common sense prevails and the local communities objections be seriously taken into account

Yours faithfully

Darrell Yates

STATEMENT from Rob and Angela Hayward, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Hi I live in Matlock and would like to voice concerns regarding the proposed traveller site at the arc leisure centre.

This car park is often full and over flowing out on to the A6 and up into the morledge estate, so unsure as to where the capacity is for the travelling society without creating further significant issues with parking at the arc, added traffic on the already busy A6 and displaced parking from the arc, clogging the roads even more around the Morledge estate?

Yours , Rob & Angela Hayward

STATEMENT from Robert Roddy, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Hi

I have been made aware the public car park at Rowsley is being considered as a permanent site for travellers.

As a local resident I strongly protest at this site being used.

This location has no amenities, no services, hidden and impacts local residents and tourists visiting the area. There is also very valuable wildlife in this location of national significance.

I do not want my tax payers money being used to provide a minority group use of this site.

As a council you have failed to provide a site when one is available being the council office car park in Matlock. Lots of space amenities close by and services available from the council offices. It is a perfect site.

Robert Roddy

STATEMENT from Nick and Josie Taylor, Local Residents - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

My wife and were horrified to read that Derbyshire Dales were even considering the use of Arc Leisure centre parking for a temporary traveller site.

This is so wrong for many reasons. The public parking provision at the Arc is required by users and on days where galas are held is already totally inadequate resulting in much inconvenience to Morledge residents. This car park is central to a number of housing estates and a local recreation ground. A gypsy site with all the attendant problems of litter and anti social behaviour is the last thing we need and would result in potential falls in the value of local property.

With particular regard to Old Station Car Park this area should return to use as a public amenity in its entirety. It certainly cannot be described as a temporary facility. It is more than time that our local council takes permanent steps to solve this problem by providing a site that does not encroach on their ratepayers quality of life.

Yours sincerely

Nick and Josie Taylor
Morledge residents

STATEMENT from D A and K A Burgoyne, Local Residents - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Regarding the proposed travellers site on the railway car park. I strongly object to this proposal and wish this to remain as a much needed public car park.

With regard to the travellers being housed on the Railway car park I strongly object to this proposal. I wish it to remain a much needed public car park.

D A and K A Burgoyne

STATEMENT from R Luck, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

To Susan Hobson and the committee members.

I am sharing with you my objection to the proposed use of the **Old Station Close carpark in Rowsley** as a temporary and/or a permanent travellers site.

I am a local resident and in my view it would not be a suitable to set up a travellers site anywhere in Rowsley due to the small size of the village, with the very limited local amenities, for example there are no supermarkets, no healthcare (surgeries or dentists).

The practicalities of the potential loss of the car park on Old Station Close, would have a significant impact on all of the business in the local area, as there is limited road parking in Rowsley.

It would also lead to residents, the general public and visitors parking in already very busy areas for traffic management, for example on Chatsworth Rd, School Lane.

The amount of traffic that comes through Rowsley is significant as it is a key route through to Bakewell, Matlock, Chesterfield along with the visitors attractions of Chatsworth and Haddon Hall to name a few, so losing a free car park would have a negative impact on the frequency of traffic jams through the village.

It would be appreciated if you would kindly take my clear objection in mind when assessing the 6 potential sites at you next meeting on the 22nd July 2024.

Thank you,

Mrs R Luck

STATEMENT from Amanda Brook, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

I would like to voice my objection to the Old Station Close car park being used as a gypsy/traveller site.

I would like the car park to remain available as a public amenity use. I and several of my friends use the car park to access the local walks

Yours sincerely

Amanda Brook

(Lifelong Derbyshire resident)

STATEMENT from Graham Stevens, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

I am most concerned to learn that there are plans to turn Old Station Close car park at Rowsley into a site for gypsies and travellers. This is a much appreciated car park that I have made use of on a number of occasions as a place to meet with groups of friends to begin local walks.

It would be quite wrong to take this valuable amenity away from local people, just to solve a problem caused by people who are not local.

Graham Stevens

STATEMENT from Dianne MacArthur, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

To whom it may concern

Re: consideration of the proposed temporary traveller site at Old Station Close car park. Rowsley

As a new resident of Rowsley I do not have a full picture of the history of this proposal ; either implications of this site if it is selected or full knowledge of the legal

obligations of Derbyshire Dales District Council regarding finding a suitable traveller site.

However, the application/ proposal was revealed by local searches by my solicitor in early 2024 and at that stage it had been withdrawn by the then DDDC as being an unsuitable site and i believe also considered to be unsuitable by Travellers themselves. It doesn't seem possible that the wise decision made only a few months ago can be overturned/over ruled so quickly and easily!

My view and local knowledge is that the car park is an asset to this village. It is currently used by residents, visitors, tourists, walkers, cyclists, D of E groups and nearby businesses. It is the gateway to several established and thriving businesses as well as access to well used pathways. Has a study/research previously been undertaken to show the extend of the existing use of the site before deciding whether it can be sacrificed? The proposal is to take this facility away from hundreds of people that use it and hand it over to a very small group of 2 or 3 families who may not want to live there and may or may not contribute to the existing community, economy or environment. I object to the proposal because it doesn't make much sense?

Will a replacement/alternative for this facility be offered to the users of it? How and where will it materialise. The lack of this facility will be detrimental to the local and wider area, as well as to residents and businesses of Rowsley. Current users will have to park elsewhere and will choose to trade elsewhere.

Thank you for considering my objection.

Regards

Diane MacArthur

STATEMENT from Cliff York, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Committee,

Today (Sunday 21st July) I have discovered there is a proposal to consult on possible traveller sites across Derbyshire Dales, one of which I understand is the uppermost of two car parks serving the ARC leisure centre in Matlock. I am a resident on the Morledge estate adjacent to the leisure centre, with a direct view onto the upper car park which is being considered. Access to the upper car park is via a steep narrow access road off the A6 corridor, and has an awkward side road junction next to the Premier Inn car park and hotel. This side road also gives access to the leisure centre car parks. There have been a number of road collisions at this junction, mainly where drivers emerge from the ARC/Premier Inn car parks without due care, and into the path of Morledge residents driving up or down the hill and who have right of way. Permitted parking where Morledge joins the A6 restricts this side junction and access road to a single width carriageway. There have been long standing residents requests to have double yellow lines painted on the road to avoid this narrowing effect, but so far unfulfilled.

My property boundary lies within 25m of the car park access road and within 40m of the car park curtilage. My house is within 50m of the car park. There is a small copse with mixed deciduous trees and shrubs which partially screens my house, and my immediate neighbours, from the car park. A footpath from Sheriff Fields (Dimple Grounds), crosses the area, passes round football pitches and a children's play area, then joins the upper-level car park access road on the Morledge estate side of the road.

In my location, I find I am already afflicted by light pollution from the current car park flood lighting. During the winter when the tree screening is minimised after leaf fall, this is exacerbated and means I can read a book in my back garden just from the lighting overspill. I also then have a direct view of the car park, and footpath, and of course noise levels increase as a result. Late at night the location occasionally attracts hot-hatches which use the park as a 'drifting' track. This nuisance is at a very low level and no doubt would be regarded as 'tolerable'.

I am simply amazed that such a site within a primarily residential and playground area is being considered, especially as other sites, such as those at the Station Yard Car Park in Matlock Bath, and the Car Park on Derwent Way in Matlock, appear to me to offer easier, safer and level access to the A6 corridor. Furthermore, it seems no consideration has been given to the fact that the existing parking provision for the leisure centre is inadequate for the number of existing users who often travel some distance to use it. Public transport services being as they are, many centre users arrive by car. When the ARC hosts events, attracting visitors from out of the area, there is overwhelming demand for car parking which cannot be met with the space available. Many cars are then abandoned on the estate road verges, in the Premier Inn car park, or obscuring residential driveways. Removing a major portion of leisure centre parking for a traveller site would be disastrous.

I am particularly very concerned that such a proposal has been presented without any proper notice of intent on the consultation, especially due to the proximity to existing residences.

If this was ever put to a planning proposal I would therefore object on the grounds of the following:-

- 1) Inadequate site parking provision exacerbated by removal of some for the proposed site.
- 2) Poor highway access with known visibility /driver issues.
- 3) Hazardous and steep access to the site with eg trailers/caravans
- 4) Increased noise and nuisance
- 5) Poor/short notice consultation process.

Cliff York

STATEMENT from Andrew and Sarah Woolf, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

To whom it may concern,

I write to express my objection to the proposed traveller site on the Arc Leisure Car Park Site. As a user of the leisure centre I am very concerned that a facility that suffers from insufficient car parking for its use especially when events are held there. Given our current public health issues, putting any barrier to use of the local sports facilities would be very short sighted. Added to this the local area suffers from parking issues when events on, so to take up part of the Arc car park would be detrimental to the local residents.

I hope you will consider the Arc car park to be kept for the leisure centre users as it was designed for,

Kind Regards
Andrew and Sarah Woolf

STATEMENT from Amanda Heading, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Having looked through the documentation and guidelines regarding site suitability, I do not believe that Old Station Close is suitable as a temporary Travellers and Gypsy site, based on the following points:

1. The site size, measured at 0.37 ha, is the smallest of all the sites proposed. It is not big enough to house both the Travellers and Gypsy groups and allow the local community, as well as visitors to the Peak District, to continue to use it as a local amenity. The last time these groups were housed on this site, the local community were severely compromised in their use and access to it.
2. There are numerous businesses in very close proximity to the proposed Rowsley site. Visitors to these businesses would have very limited parking if the car park was unavailable for them to use. This would have a hugely detrimental effect on these businesses.
3. Old Station Close car park is conveniently situated for the White Peak loop, which, according to the Derbyshire County Council webpage, is accessible to walkers, cyclists and families as well as wheelchair users and mobility scooters. If the car-park is used for Travellers and Gypsies, the lack of parking would affect a number of these other groups and have a detrimental effect on the wider community, as well as visitor numbers to the Peak District.
4. If the Committee deem the site large enough to house the Travellers and Gypsies, as well as allow ongoing use by the local community, businesses and visitors, the Travellers and Gypsies certainly would not have adequate privacy.
5. Ground conditions include potholes and are always wet. This would not be suitable to house Travellers and Gypsy groups, and would necessitate further work and monies to make it so.

6. There are no medical facilities or supermarkets available for Traveller and Gypsy occupiers - the nearest ones are approximately 2.5 miles away.
7. The surrounding roads already become very busy on weekends and when certain events are being held in the vicinity during the week/weekends. Tailbacks from the junction of the A6 and Chatsworth Road, already cause access issues to accessing homes and parking on Chatsworth Road, Chesterfield Road and the Peak Village shopping outlet. Queuing traffic can go back towards Bakewell, blocking the access road to Old Station Close.
8. There are two residential properties within 100m of the proposed site. The woodland, river and A6 would not be adequate to screen for ongoing noise from occupiers, especially at night.
9. The Ark report states that the site 'incorporates soft landscaping measures in order to mitigate the impact on the character or appearance of the local area, the landscapes or sites/areas of nature conservation'. I'm afraid this was not the case when the site was last used to house Travellers and/or Gypsy groups. Due to the mess and destruction left along the river path and trail, which included excrement, used toilet paper, broken glass and much other debris, I stopped using the trail to cycle to/from Matlock, and stopped walking my dogs along the river path. Not only was it distressing to witness the destruction of this naturally beautiful area, it was unhygienic and posed a health risk to both me and my dogs. I note there is a 'Code of conduct for travellers and caravan occupiers', stating that the expectations of the occupiers are to 'put all rubbish in rubbish bags or bins; use the toilets provided or any toilets within their own caravans and must not urinate or defecate anywhere else on the site, respect the community where you are staying and do not damage any facilities provided, or the local environment including trees and shrubs'. Based on the last time the site was occupied, the evidence is that this code of conduct is simply not adhered to.

Given my points above, I therefore do not think this is a suitable site - for both the Travellers and Gypsies, in terms of facilities available to them, or for the local community.

Due to the proximity of the proposed site to the local community, it would also cause significant loss of amenities to the residents and businesses of Rowsley, and would be detrimental to tourism to this area of the Peak District and entrance to the Peak Park. Rowsley residents have experienced this before at this site, and more recently when illegal occupation stopped the access to the Recreation Ground car park and compromised the use of the Recreation Ground for sports activities, car boot sales, families with children to the playground and dog walkers. It seems that, based on past experience, any code of Conduct would be difficult to impose or not be adhered to, to the repeated detriment of Rowsley residents.

I would be grateful if this email could be circulated to all committee members prior to the meeting tomorrow, as well as my previous representation, sent by email on 20th May 2024.

Thank you.

Your sincerely,
Amanda Heading

STATEMENT from Haydn Beebe, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Hi Susan,

Thanks for calling by and dropping off your email address regarding the proposed Travellers location at the Arc Car Park.

I wish to send you our strong objection to the proposal at the Arc Leisure Centre car park and suggest a more suitable location needs to be selected. Firstly the car park should be for the use of local families to visit the leisure centre facilities and has therefore been designed for this intention, both in capacity and purpose, not as a residential caravan site.

Secondly, the Arc is in very close proximity to the Morledge estate and we are concerned about the increase in congestion this will cause, especially on Swimming Gala event days. In addition the potential damaged reputation of the local area which may impact house prices and desirability.

Hopefully you understand and support our objections on this matter.
Kind regards
Haydn

STATEMENT from Joshua Ainsworth, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Sirs,

Please take this email as a formal objection from local resident on the Morledge estate in Matlock to the proposal of a traveller site at the Arc leisure centre. While I understand the necessity of providing suitable sites for travellers, I have several significant concerns regarding this particular proposal.

My top concern is parking and traffic in the local area. When the Arc has an event the car park is absolutely packed, people parked all the way down the entry road and all the way up and around Morledge. This also spreads to the Megdale estate. The parking nightmare we have actually restricts emergency services and cuts us off with no entrance or exit onto Morledge.

If anything make the car park bigger as it struggles to cope with demand even when there isn't an event at the Arc. Whoever thought this was a good idea is ludicrous. Added to that we're the customer, we've paid for that car park to be built in the first place due to the needs of the town, listen to us and have some respect for your tax payers.

The current infrastructure and services in our area are not equipped to handle a sudden increase in population. Issues such as increased traffic and parking (as above) pressure on local schools, healthcare facilities, and other essential services are likely to arise, which would degrade the quality of life for existing residents. An example I use is the two nearest schools intake for September 2023 were already over subscribed, its bad enough with all the housing developments let alone a traveller site bringing potentially even more pressure.

There is a widespread concern among the residents regarding the potential for increased anti-social behavior and crime rates associated with traveller sites. Unfortunately this has already been the case in recent years with nearby temporary sites. While I do not wish to generalize or stigmatize, it is important to address these concerns to maintain community safety and cohesion. Being so close to this site would force local residents to move out of the area, damaging the local economy.

Furthermore the proximity of a traveller site to residential properties has been shown in numerous studies to negatively impact property values.

Please respond to acknowledge my email and that the views have been taken seriously and discussed.

Kind regards,

Joshua D Ainsworth

STATEMENT from Nicola & Keith Humphreys, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Councillor Hobson,

We have become aware of the council meeting taking place on 22nd July to decide whether Old Station Close Car Park should become a gypsy/traveller site.

We would like to strongly object on the following grounds.

Station Close Car Park is a multi-use car park, used by cyclists and walkers to walk and cycle the nearby trail. It is also used by visitors to The Level Centre which presently has inadequate parking. Further, it is used by several businesses located in Ashbrook Close. Not having a car park close by would seriously impact their trade.

Making life more difficult for local businesses should 'not' be council policy.

Presently, the access road into Ashbrook Close is always full of cars parked on/ along the kerb.

The question is, where would the displaced cars that normally park in this car park go? What other additional car parking provision are the Council planning to provide if Station Close Car Park becomes a gypsy/traveller site?

We understand the urgent need for a gypsy/traveller site to be located but by trying to solve one problem and using Station Close Car Park, this will only create car parking problems elsewhere.

Rowsley already has car parking issues along the busy Chatsworth Road. Any displaced cars would only serve to aggravate this problem.

We are not residents of Rowsley, and do not have a business on Ashbrook Close, but we do use Station Close Car Park.

Regards,

Nicola and Keith Humphreys

STATEMENT from Luke Travis, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Good evening

I am writing to object to the above site becoming a travellers site, for a start matlock and the surrounding areas should be doing their best to bring in tourism and parking has always been an issue in and around matlock and secondly the council could be working towards doing something useful on this site to make more jobs and bringing in money, rather leasing it out for free with no council tax charge. They can go and will find somewhere else but these traveller sites make our area less attractive as I have heard so many times from people who visit the area and they always bring up the railway car park. Start thinking and taking the tax payers into consideration please.

Regards

Luke travis

STATEMENT from Dennis Belbin, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

I wish to note my objection to using the top carpark of the Arc as a Travellers site.

As a resident on Morledge I regularly walk past the top carpark and there isn't a single day that the top carpark isn't in use.

The parking at the Arc isn't sufficient to meet the current evening demand let alone 'gala days' where parking spills out onto the surrounding residential roads. Removing the top car park from operation will increase parking on surrounding roads and potentially lead to a serious accident as children struggle for visibility to cross roads.

I believe you should be looking at ways to increase The Arcs parking capacity not reducing it significantly.

Kind Regards

Dennis Belbin

STATEMENT from Allie Howland, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Hi Susan/Derbyshire County Council,

As someone who lives in Matlock and in her 20s. I would like to voice my objection to the Old Station car park becoming a traveller site.

For many reasons as I'm sure you have been told by other locals.

But also because I'm proud to be from the Peak District, from Matlock. Proud to have all these lovely neighbouring villages too.

These traveller sites do not benefit us, they do not represent our towns or villages well at all. For somewhere that has HIGH tourism, this is important to uphold.

The fact that we have a traveller site in our train station car park is embarrassing. Makes us hard working people look and feel like fools especially the ones that have to pay & park there to travel to work on the train.

I have recently seen much discarded rubbish around this site, a horse tied to a lamp post with no grass in the middle of this car park, and also illegal fires.

I am also someone who has close friends that work in hospitality venues in Matlock and have had bad experiences with these people.

Overall doesn't seem like a good idea replicate...

Miss Howland

STATEMENT from Neil & Karen Tomlinson, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Susan

With reference to the above, we strongly oppose the plans for the old station close car park, to be used as a gypsy/ traveller site for the reasons listed below

1) The proposed site has been used before by gypsy/travellers, and there was a firearms incident amongst their community, there was a lot of other antisocial behaviour, such as loud swearing, shouting from men being aggressive towards each other, during the day and late at night. There were fires being lit throughout the day causing lots of smoke over and into neighbouring property.

2) There is a steep slope from the site directly into the river, this will need substantial fencing.

3) When they left last time, there was around 10 tonnes of waste, including hazardous waste left down the river bank and possibly causing pollution in the river

4) There was an incident involving an elderly couple whose savings were taken from their home during a distraction burglary. Sadly this made them feel so unsafe, they left their home to be in a built up community.

5) The gypsy/traveller community visited Rowsley earlier this year, they ripped the concreted posts out of the ground to gain access to the recreation ground, then proceeded to leave rubbish all over the place, including used toilet paper, which then blew into other areas. This I'm sure you'll agree is a health hazard.

Rowsley is a quiet little village, the presence of the gypsies/travellers in the area has a detrimental effect on our lives. And as law abiding tax paying citizens, we have a right to be able to walk through the village without feeling intimidated, without dodging their mess that is left strewn around, and worrying when our at work our property will be burgled.

I would like to add that the last time the gypsy/traveller community was in residence in Old Station car park, they were provided with a port a loo, which they threw down the river bank.

Kind Regards
Neil & Karen Tomlinson

STATEMENT from Hilary Croft, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

I strongly object to the travellers sight being moved to Arc car park.

STATEMENT from Robin Ainsworth, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Susan Hobson,

Re: Objection to Proposal for Permanent Traveller Site in Matlock

I am writing to formally object to the recent proposal to convert the Old Station CloseCar Park, Matlock, into a permanent site for travellers. As a resident of Matlock, I have serious concerns about the potential negative impact this development will have on our community.

Firstly, the car park in question is an essential facility for local residents and businesses. It provides vital parking spaces, which are already in high demand. The loss of this car park would create significant inconvenience for residents, visitors, and local employees, potentially harming the economic vitality of our local businesses that rely on accessible parking for their customers and staff.

Secondly, the proposed site is located in close proximity to several schools, parks, and residential areas. The transformation of this car park into a permanent traveller site raises valid concerns about the increase in traffic and potential safety risks for children and families who frequent these areas. Our community places a high value on maintaining a safe and secure environment for all residents.

Furthermore, there are legitimate concerns regarding the potential strain on local infrastructure and public services. An influx of new residents in a concentrated area may overwhelm our local healthcare, sanitation, and public safety services, which are not currently equipped to handle such an increase in demand.

I also wish to highlight that the proposed site does not align with the broader urban planning and development goals of our community. Our community has long prioritized sustainable development that enhances the quality of life for all residents. This proposal, in my view, does not contribute positively to that vision.

While I understand and respect the need to provide appropriate accommodations for travelers, I firmly believe that Old Station Close Car Park, Matlock, is not a suitable location for such a development. I urge the council to consider alternative sites that would not disrupt the daily lives and well-being of the local residents and businesses.

I trust that my concerns, along with those of many other residents, will be taken into serious consideration. I am more than willing to participate in any further discussions or consultations on this matter to ensure that a more suitable solution can be found.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Robin Ainsworth

STATEMENT from Brenda Draper, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Susan

We were dismayed on arriving at Rowsley car park this morning to see that this area may be given over to Gypsy travellers.

We find this car park is in a very good location to start a variety of walks to enjoy the Derbyshire countryside and have used it many times over the years.

The alternative to park in the area is very limited.

We would not object to a parking charge being introduced, preferably not telephone banking.

We strongly object to the site being taken over by Gypsies.

Yours faithfully,

Brenda Draper

John Booth

Cynthia Marett

Tom Morris

STATEMENT from Mark Duncan, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Hi.

My name is Mark Duncan, I live on Morledge.

I strongly object to the arc carpark being used as a travellers site and myself and others from the estate will contest this all the way, if a decision is made to offer the carpark.

I live in a row of houses on Morledge that back up to the top carpark and the carpark is visible all year round from the top windows of my house (my kids bedroom windows- 11 year old and a 19 month old child).

When the leaves fall on the trees, the back gardens become visible from the car park, as do my downstairs rooms. From my boundary line, the edge of the car park is only 10-15 metres away.

My main concerns, are that this area is not appropriate. It's between two housing estates, a public play park, public fields, a public swimming pool and is a route for many doing the school runs at the near by All Saints schools (junior and primary). This area is it not private.

I have witnessed on many occasions the two traveller sites in Matlock and Matlock bath, and it does not fill me with faith that they will respect the area. I have witnessed big piles of rubbish outside the sites, loud music, anti-social behaviour, arguments and very noisy and uncontrollable dogs on many occasions. It is unsightly and not appropriate for children to have the site visible from their windows, nor is it appropriate for the travellers to be able to see into my kids bedrooms or the rest of my property.

Rightly or wrongly, Travellers come with a negative reputation and this will no doubt affect house prices and put off people buying nearby, if there is a traveller camp in sight of their homes.

Furthermore, the top carpark is used by the leisure centre visitors throughout the year. It is rarely free. Most evenings customers are having to use the top carpark. On

Saturdays and Sundays it is completely full, and not to mention the regular gala days, when there is not enough parking on the site at all, and this spills over to our Morledge estate and causes a nuisance from people parking on verges, over driveways and too close to junctions. Having travellers taking up a portion of the car park will only exacerbate this issue.

I believe this is wrong to squander public car parks in this way. Public car parks are an amenity for local taxpaying citizens and not to provide a site for travellers. The council need to provide an adequate designated site. A disused quarry or industrial estate would be more appropriate and not in such a public place as the Arc leisure centre.

I will try to attend the meeting tomorrow evening, but may struggle due to childcare commitments.

This morning I measured the distance from my property boundary, to the car park. It is 20 metres from my boundary to the car park entrance and then a further 70 metres (90 in total) to the very far end of the car park, so there is no way that they can fit the site in the car park within 100 metres of my property, as that would mean they would have to start 10 m outside of the car park and not be in the car park at all!

I imagine their site would be at least 20-30 in circumference, so they would be within at least 50-60 metres of my property.

Thank you,
Mark and Ellie Duncan

STATEMENT from Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

We would like to submit our formal objection in relation to the proposal to reutilise the car park as a gypsy/traveller site.

The reasons for our objection from prior experience include, but not necessarily limited to:

1. Anti-social behaviour including, shouting, swearing into the early hours of the morning 7 nights a week
2. Repeated unsolicited house calls offering unwanted services
3. A reported increase in petty crime during their previous occupation
4. Waste, rubbish and human excrement being discarded in nearby woodland and river
5. Feeling of intimidation, including previous experience of aggressive behaviour
6. Reduced parking facilities for the general visiting public
7. Affects local businesses and property prices

We have previously attended a council meeting in this regard where suitable sites were being discussed. It was said that a site had been offered to the travellers but they refused to accept this. Which by it's very implication implies that the travellers have greater rights than local, tax paying and law abiding residents.

Finally in the event that the travellers are awarded residency of the car park we would confirm that we shall be seeking a reduction to the taxes we currently pay to Derbyshire Dales District Council.

We trust that the above will be treated with the seriousness with which this is intended to be received.

We look forward to hearing an update

Many thanks

STATEMENT from Megan Rodgers, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Hi there,

I hope you are well.

Ahead of the meeting taking place tomorrow about the proposed sites for travellers I would like to give my opinion as a Morledge resident if I may and I would like to preface this by saying I don't mean to cause any offence at all in this email.

I understand the need to provide appropriate accommodation for the travelling community, but I believe that the proposed site raises several concerns for local residents, including myself. These concerns include:

1. The Arc car park is already overflowing at busy time meaning that the leisure center users park there cars all over morledge making it a nightmare for residents to manoeuvre vehicles up the hill and also to park. If the travellers are taking up space at the arc then this issue will get even worse.
2. Safety and Security: The introduction of a traveller site near residential areas can sometimes lead to heightened concerns about safety and security. It is important to ensure that all community members feel safe in their homes and neighborhoods.
3. The proposed site could potentially lead to environmental issues, such as waste management challenges and pollution, which could affect the quality of life for existing residents.
4. When the travellers have been based at the train station I have witnessed them having races around the car park, playing loud music late at night and these are things that I wouldn't want to be happening around morledge.
5. Impact on Property Value: The establishment of a traveller site in close proximity to morledge is likely to have a negative impact on property values. This could result in financial losses for homeowners in the area which is a shame as morledge is a beautiful place to live.

I urge the council to consider alternative locations that do not directly impact residential areas and to conduct a thorough impact assessment before making any decisions. Ensuring that the needs of both the travelling community and existing residents are balanced is crucial for maintaining harmony within our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I would appreciate it if my concerns could be taken into account during the meeting tomorrow.

Kind regards,
Megan Rodgers
Morledge Resident

STATEMENT from Steven Rodgers, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Hi

I write this email to object to the proposed travellers site in the Arc car park Matlock.

As a member at the arc both of the car parks are regularly full making it difficult to park.

Also as a resident on Morledge when the arc has its events which is, as you are aware every few weeks, parking on the estate is difficult and also causes friction with people trying to park around the whole estate, added to this litter, animals toilet facilities etc etc I believe this makes it a poor choice for the travellers site, other sites around the dales would be better, if places are required.

Added to this the frustration of the people around the town regards the train station car park, the travellers have been on this site for a few years now causing issues with law abiding people getting park tickets and these people not paying anything to park, the litter/environmental impact affects everyone.

Another concern I have is for security around Morledge and also Megdale, children should feel safe around our estates and this will stop all of that, and also, I'm pretty sure the Arc will have raised their own security fears.

Whilst I appreciate they need somewhere surely a location can be found away from housing areas where children and animals frequent.

Kind regards
Steven Rodgers

STATEMENT from Andrew Van der walt, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Derbyshire Dales Council,

As a regular walker in the Derbyshire Dales I am deeply concerned that a car park used by walkers, dog walkers and visitors to the area is going to be lost. Its location is perfect for easy access to local footpaths and Bridleways. Where else are visitors going to park?

Please do what you can to prevent the loss of this important amenity.

Kind regards

Andrew Van der walt

STATEMENT from Matthew Howe, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Hi

My family live on the Morledge Estate, I wish to object to this proposed site.

It isn't suitable for the following reasons:

1. The leisure centre carpark is not big enough to manage the demands of the leisure centre. There are many times where cars are parked on Morledge, which creates issues of its own. Allowing travellers to take the carpark space would mean more parking problems on a more frequent basis. I'd anticipate the parking problems would spill further onto the A6. There is a real issue with fire safety as there has been several occasions where a fire engine would not be able to access the houses on the Morledge Estate.
2. The site itself isn't suitable. There's no basic amenities. It is not appropriate to allow access to the leisure centre as this is a community asset for local residents whom pay for access to those facilities.
3. The site is located between three housing estates, with pretty green spaces (again community assets). I anticipate some of the green space would become unusable to residents. Whilst travellers claim to not make a mess, this would be inevitable and the beautiful area would be blighted. There's also a risk of more antisocial behaviour / increased crime.
4. Some of the green space has been allocated as nature areas. There is a risk that the biodiversity that has been championed, would be sadly lost.
5. I am concerned that there would be a greater risk to female safety. Members of my family use this area frequently. If the travellers were to move here, my family would not feel safe walking to the ARC or using the playing fields. As a result this would directly affect the independence of my young family.
6. The proposed site would have an impact in the value of my property. This is grossly unfair that my family should incur financial loss as a result of the proposal.
7. There has been a disregard for what has been previously permitted on the station car park. My perception is that as with the station car park, the site would extend, possibly into the second carpark and onto the dimple fields. What provision will be

put in place to prevent this from happening? How would the council enforce compliance?

8. Finally, the travellers have been visitors in this town on a temporary basis for 5 years. By virtue of how they identify themselves, shouldn't they travel? May I ask as a resident, at what point do they become a resident and therefore liable to council tax like other residents?

I'd be grateful if the above concerns would be considered at the meeting of 22nd July.

Yours faithfully

Matthew Howe

STATEMENT from Rachel and Robert Morgan, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Susan

We hope you had a good weekend.

We would like to register our disapproval of using the Old Station Car Park in Rowsley as a traveller/gypsy site. Street parking is already high in the village and closing the car park would contribute further to this. We have to be honest, the use of this site by travellers in the past has put us off using the village.

Kind regards

Rachel and Robert Morgan

STATEMENT from Sarah Rodgers, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

To whom it may concern - I have been informed that a meeting is to take place to discuss an area for travellers to settle on The Arc car park. I am writing to strongly object for the following reasons:

There is already a well publicised problem with capacity at the car park.

As a resident of Morledge with two young daughters I have their welfare and safety to consider.

Having witnessed the chaos and disregard on the station car park, the close proximity to tax paying residents is unacceptable.

I would urge the committee to act sensibly and consider an alternative and more suitable site.

If you wish for me to elaborate or discuss further, please don't hesitate in contacting me.

With kind regards

Sarah Rodgers

STATEMENT from Diane Hadfield, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

To whom it may concern .

I strongly object to the potential traveller/gypsy site on the old station close car park Matlock..

We live in a lovely community and I feel this will bring alot of bad things...

I don't want my property and family compromised

Regards Diane

STATEMENT from Angie Jones, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Hi

My name is Angela Jones and I have lived on Morledge since 2006.

I have seen many changes through the years.

I am opposed to having a travellers site on the Arc car park for several reasons.

The Arc is a popular venue and when there are galas etc we as residents are plagued with people parking outside houses and on the grass verges which get ruined by inconsiderate people attending these events.

It makes it very difficult to negotiate the road as the cars block the view.

Surely car parking should be increased at the venue to accommodate all attending events.

The field just above the car park could be made into extra parking as it is mostly used by dog walkers and not as a pitch.

The general consensus on Morledge is that this is a ludicrous idea to allow travellers to set up on the car park, and whoever proposed it wants sacking.

We have enough problems at the bottom of the road with people parking several cars and vans who live in the house on the corner of the road, plus the people parking there also to use the Arc so they don't have to pay for parking, and dog walkers parking up to go over the railway track.

We have asked for the yellow lines to be reinstated but heard nothing.

If the so called travellers (who don't seem to travel much) are allowed at the Arc I think it would be a big mistake and a nightmare for the immediate local community.

Regards

Angela Jones

STATEMENT from Philip Smith, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Cllr Hobson and DDDC

I'm writing to register my objection to the above car parks being used for traveller sites. Both are well used throughout the week and their loss would leave walkers, dog walkers, local workers and cyclists, in Rowsley's case, with nowhere to park, and leisure centre users, in the case of the Arc, with restricted parking. In addition, I frequently ride my bike through both sites, often towards dusk, and I wouldn't like to disturb people living there. I see plenty of people en route making similar trips which would not be an ideal situation should people be trying to lead settled lives there.

The Matlock station car park has been a de facto traveller site for some time now. I don't see why this can't continue, leaving the other sites for their originally intended purpose. As stated, both are regular cut-throughs, making them less than ideal as living areas compared with the station car park, where the end away from the station does not have through traffic.

Yours sincerely

Philip Smith

STATEMENT from Shirley Pheasant, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Susan,

At the forthcoming Council meeting, I would be grateful if you could raise awareness of the concern of local people to the way in which the Council is not meeting it's obligations to Tax Payers.

It is totally wrong to persist in meeting Council obligations to Travellers, by punishing the general public. The use of car parks causes huge resentment.

Sites provided by the Council should be on unused land. eg. disused quarry or poor quality ground. Such land should be securely fenced and screened, (similar to school premises), to prevent encroachment onto surrounding properties, and the necessary services installed.

Please promote the needs of the public, and deal with Traveller sites responsibly, properly and fairly. The use of public car parks for anything other than car parking is WRONG.

The Council should NOT abuse Council Tax Payers by using their car parks for Traveller Sites.

Thankyou,

Shirley Pheasant

STATEMENT from Mike Donaldson, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Good morning Susan,

I'd like to voice my objection to the traveller site on this car park.

It is a valuable asset where parking is very limited in Rowsley already. The only public car park in the entire village to my knowledge.

I often park there as I did this morning, and I wouldn't object to paying a parking fee as at other car parks.

It is a considerable size area and a traveller community would swamp such a small and delightful village.

Travellers travel, don't they ? So why place them right on the A6? They could travel to a more remote location.

For your eyes only.

Regards

Mike Donaldson

STATEMENT from Shirley Pheasant, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

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Please promote the needs of the public, and deal with Traveller sites responsibly, properly and fairly. The use of public car parks for anything other than car parking is WRONG.

The Council should NOT abuse Council Tax Payers by using their car parks for Traveller Sites.

Thankyou,

Shirley Pheasant

STATEMENT from Kirsty Gascoigne, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Hi Susan

I am writing to lodge my objections to the car park Rowsley becoming a Traveller site:

- the car park is a used spaced. It's currently used by local businesses for parking during the day as well local home owners who rely on it for visitors particularly when Chatsworth is busy and there is zero road parking for local residents
- the area is already busy particularly during the tourist season
- this site is within a local proximity of new housing deployments and would add an increased burden to an area that will already increase in population
- the proposed site would increase traffic to an already busy A6 which currently already causes issues to local residents

This proposal needs to be rejected, there is other land within the councils remit that is not as widely used.

Kirsty Gascoigne

STATEMENT from Andy Tromans, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear committee members,

I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposal to establish a temporary traveller site at the Arc Leisure Car Park, Morledge, Matlock. I believe this location is entirely unsuitable for such a purpose due to the following reasons:

1. Insufficient Car Park Capacity: The Arc Leisure Car Park is already inadequate to accommodate the number of vehicles attending swimming

galas held throughout the year. This often leads to overflow parking on surrounding areas, including sloped embankments, pavements, and bus stops, which are not designed for parking and pose safety risks.

2. Impact on Local Residents: The overflow of cars from the car park forces visitors to park on the adjacent Morledge housing estate, causing significant inconvenience to local residents. Additionally, damage to grass verges and obstruction of access for larger vehicles, such as emergency services, are serious concerns.
3. Exacerbation of Parking Issues: Introducing a traveller site to an already congested car park will undoubtedly worsen the existing parking problems. This will further inconvenience local residents and businesses, as well as potentially endangering public safety.

I urge the committee to carefully consider the negative impacts of this proposal and explore alternative locations that are better suited for a temporary traveller site. It is essential to find a solution that balances the needs of the traveller community with the interests of local residents and businesses.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Mr A Tromans

STATEMENT from Victor Launert, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

The Ark report: had I taken this to a committee of either House in Parliament it would have been rejected. Similarly, my wife worked for and wrote reports for Matlock Town Council for some years and understands the need for Members to be given the full picture. This report fails in this - it is superficial, incomplete and misleading.

The brief given to Ark seems to be “what would work for the travellers and be easily achievable for us”? I do not recognise any serious attempt at an impact assessment for any of the sites; indeed, the only thing which comes close is “would it look ugly, or are there trees which might hide it?”.

Where, under Ark’s criterion (a), which is specifically supposed to measure the impact on existing amenities and land use, is mentioned the huge financial loss to

local businesses due to the almost total collapse of the coach trade which is identifiable to all apart from, it seems, the council and Ark? That alone must move that heading from amber to red, and disqualify this site.

Instead the report just lists of all the things that will be good for the travellers, including – under criterion (c) – the fact that there are nearby employment opportunities. No; had this report included even the most half-hearted impact and risk assessment, it would have discovered that siting the travellers here has already actually reduced existing employment opportunities, and would recognise that permanently placing them here will further reduce them. I know that some councillors are successful business people; what would their assessment of this proposal be with that hat on?

As I have said, no proposal to close or reduce the size of coach parks at Chatsworth, Haddon, Hardwick or Gulliver's Kingdom, or any actions which would have made them unreliably available, would have been considered for even a second, never mind imposed, so it is incomprehensible to me that this simply does not feature for the coach park upon which depend the dozens of businesses in the village, including the Heights of Abraham, and the thousands of people they directly and indirectly give employment to. The coach companies are not coming; the sole reason is the traveller encampment; and the people paying the price are the businesses of Matlock Bath.

There is no recognition in the report that Matlock Bath is the only site where the local economy is almost completely based on tourism - therefore the loss of this vital amenity will have a disproportionate impact on the village and its businesses, compared to all other sites. This is a red level impact.

The basis for action, per the council's proposed questions for consultation, seems to be to make a decision and then put the ball in the electorate's court to explain why it wouldn't work and what they would do about it instead. That is lazily putting the cart before the horse; finding out why a site simply won't work is the council's job, and it is what Ark should have been tasked with doing.

There are many, many other flaws with this report. It would not be accepted as a basis for decision making in any committee at Parliament. It should not be accepted for that here, either.

Specific noise issue

When the ancient Greeks built amphitheatres they knew what they were doing; the banked seating and the rear walls of the stage amplified and concentrated the sounds from the stage.

It would appear that neither the Council nor Ark leisure understand this concept. Matlock Bath sits in a narrow riverine valley with high land all around, including sheer cliff faces; almost all of the residential housing sits on the "seating" side of the valley. All sound is amplified and carried around; indeed, residents understand this so well that during the Covid lockdowns they arranged a series of concerts where individual residents would play music or sing in their front gardens and all others around the valley could hear it.

Not one of the other sites shares this feature or these attributes; all are, by comparison, essentially in open, flat land. The Ark report has neither noted this nor understood the implications; it is just another example of the incomplete and shallow nature of this report.

If you wanted to build a stage in the amphitheatre of Matlock Bath you couldn't site it better than in the station car park. The nominal "100 metres from private residences" rule simply doesn't apply here; the sound carries. Where previously the residents of Holme Road, Hope Terrace, Clarence Villas, Rockvale Terrace, Brunswood Road, and Devonshire Terrace only heard owls at night, now they are disturbed by shouting, barking, and machinery noise – including generators and chainsaws – from 6am to past midnight, 365 days a year. As I type this note, at 0900 on an otherwise quiet morning, I can hear shouting and screaming from the car park. As usual.

Yes, during peak hours noise from tourism and the A6 is loud, but it is a general hubbub rather than those individual, specific noises which disturb when you are trying to sleep, especially with windows open in the summer; and this little village of barely 750 souls has been forced to trade its precious quiet times for constant disturbance.

As I say, this is the **only** one of the shortlisted sites which has this attribute; noise pollution here will always be worse than at any of the other sites, and nothing the council can do in mitigation can offset the effects of millions of tons of natural rock face and valley. In terms of noise nuisance the car park at Matlock Bath is far more vulnerable than any of the other proposed sites. The local impact, which Ark assesses under heading (a) as amber, should be red for this reason.

STATEMENT from Northwood and Tinkersley Parish Council - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Regarding the meeting next week,

I have sent an email to express our concerns about Rowsley being considered as a potential site. Further to that, I am enclosing a photo that we took this morning whilst out for a run. It shows the car park at mid-morning on a weekday and is very full of cars already. I think it should be noted that the document listed the area as 0.37 measured area of the whole car park, but I am not clear how much of this they are considering as use for a site. This photo indicates that a considerable amount of the area is needed for parking and if there is not enough room left for cars to park then they will end up parking on the roads which is not what we want.

Rachel Verdicchio

Northwood&Tinkersley Parish Council

STATEMENT from Local Resident- Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

I have no wish to see the Rowsley site being made into a traveller park. They have already taken half of the station carpark in Matlock on what appears to be a

permanent basis. Frequently there are at least 3 other caravans there taking up 3/4 spaces plus their accompanying vehicles which they seem to park sideways taking up another 2/3 spaces. We as locals would not use the station carpark. The amount of rubbish that is left when some of the vans move is horrendous, broken picnic tables, chairs, random bits of metal and rags it has to be a breeding ground for vermin. Matlock council are losing a lot of revenue through this which could be put to better use i.e. mending the atrocious potholes in the roads.

STATEMENT from katy Gunter, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

To whom it may concern,

I hope this message finds you well.

I am emailing to express my strong opposition to the proposed traveller site in the car park of the Arc leisure centre.

As a resident of this community, I have several concerns about the potential negative impacts this development could have on our area:

1. **Loss of Parking Space:** The leisure centre car park is already heavily used by both residents and visitors. Repurposing this space for a traveller site will result in a significant reduction of available parking, causing inconvenience and potential parking conflicts.
2. **Increased Traffic and Safety Risks:** The area around the leisure centre is already busy, especially during peak hours and regular swimming galas. Introducing a traveller site will undoubtedly increase traffic, leading to congestion and higher risks of accidents. This is particularly concerning for families with children who frequent the area.
3. **Strain on Leisure Centre Facilities:** The leisure centre's showers, toilets, and other amenities are intended for the use of patrons. A traveller site will likely result in these facilities being overused, deterring regular users from accessing the centre due to overcrowding and hygiene concerns.
4. **Noise and Cleanliness Issues:** Traveller sites can sometimes bring increased noise and litter. This will disrupt the peace and cleanliness of our normally quiet and tidy community, negatively affecting the quality of life for residents.
5. **Impact on Local Environment:** The introduction of a traveller site could lead to environmental degradation in a space that is cherished by residents for its tranquility and natural beauty.

In summary, the proposed site is unsuitable for our community, posing multiple risks and inconveniences. I urge you to reconsider this proposal and seek alternative locations that do not adversely impact residential areas.

Thank you for considering my concerns. I look forward to your response and hope that a more appropriate location can be found.

Sincerely,

Katy Gunter (Resident on Morledge estate)

STATEMENT from Robert Goodwin, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Councillor, As we regularly use the footpath between Rowsley and Matlock we are very disappointed that you would even consider turning the car park into a travelers area. What would happen to all the vehicles which use it now, where would the access to the footpath be. Who would be responsible for the safety of the premises near there, the local wildlife and people like us who may wish to continue to use the facilities.

There are no facilities for camping in the carpark and from experience elsewhere it is totally unacceptable to turn the site into a dumping area.

There is no alternative parking as Peak Village car park is quite often full, are we supposed to use the access road to the industrial estate inconveniencing them.

Would you please take the views of people who have paid taxes all our lives into consideration when making your decision.

Thank you

Robert and Susan Goodwin

STATEMENT from Gavin Spencer, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Hi Susan,

This is an absolutely ridiculous proposal. The parking at the Arc is an absolute nightmare now when they have events. I live at the top of the Morledge estate and have had people parking in my space in front of my garage when events are on. The car park is not big enough for these events now, never mind if it's further restricted by travellers permanently parking there.

Also, the exit of the car park is a nightmare with cars parking opposite the turn in and no island onto the A6 so is a real bottleneck for people trying to get off the estate. We need double yellow lines all the way upto the T junction at the bottom of the estate and a mini roundabout so cars wanting to turn right onto the A6 can leave safely and within a timely manner!!

Kind Regards

Gavin Spencer

STATEMENT from Victoria Brooke, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Dear Cllr Hobson,

I have been made aware that the Arc Leisure Car Park is one of six possible temporary Traveller Sites that has been identified, I am emailing today to strongly to object to this. The Council already are aware of the ongoing issues when the Arc holds Swimming Gala Days, the overspill of vehicles that are unable to use of the Arc car park, park on the grass verges into Morledge as the car park is already full, which causes damages and is dangerous, hence why the Council has already agreed to double yellow lines. Secondly the Arc is important for wellbeing and keeping active, if the Travellers camp here, you will find most parents/people will go else where, Morledge is a private residential area that takes pride in there surroundings, if this is granted the playing fields at Dimple will eventually be a dumping ground and will not enjoyed by locals, the Premier Inn will lose business and tourists will go else where, all in all a sorry state of affairs.

V Brooke

Resident of Morledge

STATEMENT from Pauline Booker, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

To Whom it may Concern,

I understand that many of the residents of Morledge, Matlock were totally unaware until very recently, that the Arc Leisure Car Parks, Morledge, Matlock is included on the list of possible temporary Traveller sites to be debated on 22nd July 2024 at a special meeting.

This proposal of installing a Travellers Site at The Arc Leisure Car Parks, ie. adjacent to Morledge is grossly unfair and unjust.

Morledge is an established community of people working hard to provide homes for their families.

This proposal is unreasonable and unsettling.

PLEASE reconsider.

STATEMENT from Mr and Mrs Stodart, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Hi Susan,

In relation to the potential proposal for the car parking facilities based at ARC Leisure Centre, Matlock to be used for a traveller site.

As residents of Morledge, Matlock (Mr & Mrs Stodart) we would like to formally object to this proposal for the following reasons;

The Car Parking spaces at the Arc are limited and cannot currently cater for Gala Swimming Day events being held at the centre. On such days we experience additional parking pressure on the Morledge estate and the access road onto the estate has to be cordoned off to prevent parking.

The area surrounding the ARC Car Park is currently experiencing anti-social behaviour as documented by the local Police authorities, we believe that this behaviour could potentially increase if the proposal were to be granted.

Your sincerely,

Mr & Mrs Stodart

STATEMENT from Joanne Moffat, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

I am writing to object to the proposed traveller site at Rowsley.

As a family with young children we use the car park to access the cycle track as do many locals and tourists visiting the area.

I feel that it would be detrimental to the locality and safety of visitors to the area would be compromised.

There are no local amenities in Rowsley. There would be no benefit of moving them from their present site in Matlock.

Regards,
Joanne Moffat

STATEMENT from Ian Knights, Local Resident - Item 7; report of Cllr Marilyn Franks, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group

Good afternoon,

After finding a flyer on my car I am compelled to write my views on the proposal to turn the Old Station car park at Rowsley into a gypsy camp.

Although I do not live in Rowsley I do regularly use the Old Station car park, using it 2-4 times a week.

There are two main reasons I use the car park.

- Using it on a weekend where me and wife can take our dog for a quiet walk away from main roads. The car park is located right next to a lovely flat walk. If the car park is taken over by gypsies the walk will become a no go area, why would anyone use a lovely walk to be made to feel intimidated.
- I also use the car park through the week 2 or 3 times for commuting to Tideswell where I work. Parking in the Old station car park allows me to use my bike to ride into work without having to do the full distance from my house. I use the car park because I feel safe leaving my car knowing that there are CCTV watching the car park. Although this is a tiny saving my riding into work not only helps my mental health and my fitness I also feel I am helping the environment.

Parking in the Old Station car park feels like I am not treading on anyone's toes e.g. parking outside a house or on a street. The car park is tucked out of the way.

They are my personal views, I would hate to be a Rowsley/ Darley Dale local knowing what is about to land on their doorstep. Rowsley and its surrounding area is beautiful and attracts a lot of visitors, especially for a small village. Having gypsies encamped will have a massive negative impact on the area. I know that the car park is regularly used by a lot of people, walkers, dog walkers etc.

Best regards, Ian Knights

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