

Planning Committee – 26 April 2018 – TABLED PAPER

Deferred Item – 17/502338/FULL – Brotherhood Wood, Gate Hill, Dunkirk

I have been asked by Mr Robb to comment on some of the objections raised against his proposals by Councillors and others.

As far as the size of the proposed site is concerned, there are, in fact, many much larger sites which do not cause any undue effects. You cannot compare an unauthorised and unregulated development, such as Dale Farm at Crays Hill in Essex, with properly managed sites such as Brotherhood Woodyard. There is an area on the edge of Cambridge at Chesterton Fen Road, Milton where there are multiple traveller sites containing a total of well over 100 traveller pitches, including a site known as Sandy Park containing 22 pitches. Sandy Park is located between two other gypsy sites, one of which is of similar size, and all of the sites along Chesterton Fen Road are served off a single access road (Chesterton Fen Road is a cul-de-sac) which then runs through a residential suburb of Cambridge. There have never, as far as I am aware, been any problems associated with this area and, South Cambridgeshire District Council has encouraged its further development. I note that the sites quoted in Mrs Heine's letter are all public gypsy sites and, therefore, subject to very different challenges for site management.

The proposed size of Brotherhood Woodyard is neither unique or, more importantly, unmanageable. The size of the pitches to be provided are of adequate size to accommodate a mobile and tourer and, are at least as big as any available on public sites in Kent. Contrary to what Mrs Heine says, it is very unusual for public sites to accommodate any more than a single unit mobile home and tourer and, some sites in Kent do not accommodate tourers.

As far as gypsy status is concerned: another Agent has suggested that eastern European migrants do not fall within the definition of "gypsy" as set out in PPTS. This is misconceived because the definition does not refer to ethnicity and, I have recent experience of eastern Europeans being accepted on appeal as being gypsies for planning purposes.

I trust that this information will be of interest to your members, and helps to dispel some of the myths being put forward by objectors.

Kind regards,

Philip Brown