ITCHINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

33 Smugglers Way
Barns Green
Near Horsham
West Sussex

6th October 2025

Development Control Committee – Area North
Horsham District Council
Albery House
Springfield Road
Horsham
West Sussex
RH12 2GB

Dear Planning Team

Following the Parish Council Meeting on 29th September 2025, this is to confirm that Itchingfield Parish Council would like to make the following representation to be put before HDC Planning Committee.

DC/25/1029 - Shannon Witney, Kingfisher Farm, West Chiltington Lane, Billingshurst, (Barns Green) - Use of the land for the stationing of caravans for residential purposes for 5 gypsy pitches together with the formation of additional parking, hard standing., landscaping and utility/dayrooms ancillary to that use.

Itchingfield Parish Council observes that it is clear that work on the site has commenced therefore this application should be regarded as retrospective. It is further stated in the application form under "Description of the proposal" that work has not started.

Under materials it states that walls will be brick, roofs will be tiled. Plan showing indicative pictures of the caravans show metal structures with essentially flat roofs. In practice the structures on site have pitched tiled effect roofs but are of prefabricated mobile home construction. No provision is made for the collection of waste or of recycling. The method of disposal of surface waste via soakaways is not sustainable as shown in assessments for application DC/25/0934 for 10 Gypsy pitches adjacent to the current application site. The method of disposing of foul waste via cess pits is similarly not viable on this site. Notwithstanding the above there are already 11 traveller pitches without planning consent following refusal of appeal APP/Z3825/A/11/2150329 on the Kingfisher Farm Site. The Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling show people act 1994 states that sites should be limited to no more than 11 pitches in order to minimise the likelihood of internal disputes leading to violence. Also adjacent to the south of the proposed site is an established Romany settlement of 14 permitted pitches. The proposed numbers of pitches for Kingfisher Farm is already causing issues around disruptive and anti-social behaviour in the local established community. It is also apparent that the site is not being used for gypsy occupation alone as proved during recent police action.

Bearing in mind the above there are surprisingly no objections from the locality. I understand this is due to the fear of reprisals if their details are published.

Itchingfield Parish Council therefore strongly recommends this planning application for refusal.

Kind regards

Alan Strudley
Chairman to Itchingfield Parish Council