

THAKEHAM PARISH COUNCIL CONSULTATION COMMENTS

TO:	Horsham District Council – Planning Dept
SITE ADDRESS:	Land at Grid Reference 510699 117812 To The South of Dukes Copse Community Bramble Lane Thakeham West Sussex
PROPOSAL:	Change of Use of land to Gypsy/Traveller site comprising 2 pitches with the siting of a mobile home and dayroom per pitch.
REFERENCE:	DC/26/0506
RECOMMENDATION:	Strong Objection
SUMMARY OF COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATION: Thakeham Parish Council (TPC) Strongly Object to the application.	

MAIN COMMENTS:

TPC Strongly Object to this application for the following reasons;

The site is good agricultural land and in no way can be considered less so because of the mix of different structures currently on the site. There is a suggestion it is more akin to brown belt which is incorrect.

The location IS obtrusive because it sits on the brow of a lofty ridge, is very prominent and can be seen from around the area. It is highly visible and therefore any new structures need to be compatible with the location.

If this application is granted it could open the door to further piecemeal traveller pitches here which would not be the best way of providing sites. While it behoves the LA to provide sites for travellers, they need to be in an appropriate location which this is not. The emerging Local Plan should identify suitable sites and this would provide better options. That plan is likely to be adopted in the near future.

The site sits outside the BUA and close to The Street which is designated as a heritage area. Any development in this area needs to be carefully considered and compatible.

There are no local essential services, including schools, and therefore car usage is the only viable means of travel as public transport is not an option.

Furthermore, if consideration is given to granting this application, then before any decision is made the applicant should demonstrate a need for this development. This should include evidence of travelling in the family history and information about their current circumstances. The previous successful appeal concluded an urgent need for accommodation, as the applicant is intending to look after the other specimens in the vicinity.

On a more technical note; TPC cannot see any reference in the planning documents submitted, to the Article 4 directive which TPC and HDC placed on this agricultural land when it was first divided into smaller plots. The 'significant threat' which the subdivision of land posed for the parish was that this much valued open countryside with its wide ranging views from the top of the ridge (where the application site sits) could lead to new owners putting inappropriate structures/ buildings onto their plots which would be harmful to the landscape setting.

Potential unscrupulous marketing of these plots could also lead buyers to believing residential development might be permitted and indeed there have been attempts of this nature which have led to enforcement notices, refused planning applications and appeals.

It is only the travellers site (DC/18/1543) at Plot 3 which was allowed on appeal and this was because TPC's NP had not provided for travellers pitches.

As this application was for a private site, it does not count in HDC's number of travellers sites available.

ANY RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS:

N/A

NAME:	A.Brown (Parish Clerk)
DATE:	26.06.2026 (D)