

[REDACTED]
Date: 17 December 2025 at 13:03:14 GMT
[REDACTED]

Subject: Your Urgent Support Requested

Dear Mr Milne,

Planning ref: DC/25/1727

Proposal: Erection of a six-pitch settled gypsy accommodation site (Retrospective)

We are writing to seek your support regarding the proposed planning application at Longwells Vineyard, Marches Road, Warnham RH12 3SL.

Residents have raised serious and well-founded objections to this application, including its inappropriate siting in a rural location on green belt farm land, close proximity to family homes (some gardens back onto the vineyard) highways and road-safety concerns, sewage and drainage constraints, and the overdevelopment and intensification of open countryside. Despite these concerns being clearly set out, there is a growing perception locally that Horsham District Council is not giving due weight to residents' objections.

This has resulted in a significant loss of confidence in the planning department and process, which increasingly appears to residents to be a foregone conclusion; rather than a balanced and impartial assessment. Indeed, there is information circulating locally that the Council may already be in discussions with the gypsy/traveller community regarding the potential purchase of adjoining council-owned land. Residents were not aware that this land had been advertised for sale or that any consultation had taken place, and would welcome clarification on the transparency and governance of this process. The land owner - [REDACTED], and associate - [REDACTED] (owner of the adjoining plot) already own sites in the local area operating under the banner of Gypsy/Traveller provision. These are commercially driven developments open to anyone willing to pay, rather than sites genuinely addressing identified local need. This significantly undermines the justification being advanced for the proposal.

There is also deep concern among residents that - over the past decade, Horsham District Council has approved a significant number of Gypsy/Traveller sites which have repeatedly failed to operate as intended, instead becoming effectively unlicensed caravan sites. This has led to a cumulative and overwhelming impact across the district, creating a widespread perception that planning conditions are not being enforced and that control has been lost. Residents are increasingly asking when this pattern will be addressed and how confidence in the planning system can be restored.

We [REDACTED] hoped that our Liberal council representatives would bring a renewed sense of openness, fairness, and accountability to local decision-making. We therefore respectfully ask for your support in ensuring that residents' concerns in this matter are properly heard and given due weight.

We would be grateful if you could intervene on behalf of local residents to ensure that:

- Proper consideration is given to the clear and consistent objections raised
- Full transparency and due diligence are applied to the planning process
- Any perception of predetermination is addressed
- The integrity of the planning system is upheld

Thank you for taking the time to consider this matter. We would welcome any intervention or assistance you are able to provide. We look forward to your response, which we will be happy to share with the local community.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Autumn Leaves, Northlands Road, Warnham, West Sussex RH12 3SQ