West Sussex County Council - Planning Consultation Response

To: Horsham District Council

Date: 22 October 2026

FAO: Hannah Darley

From: WSCC - Highways Authority

LPA Reference: DC/26/1440

Location: Land at Grid Reference 510699 117812, Bramble Lane, Thakeham

Proposal: Use of land as Gypsy/Traveller site comprising 2 pitches with the siting of a Mobile Home and Dayroom per pitch.

Date of Site Visit: N/A

Recommendation: Advice

This application has been dealt with in accordance with the Development Control Scheme protocol for small scale proposals.

WSCC in its role as Local Highway Authority (LHA) has been consulted on highway matters by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) for the proposed change of use of land to gypsy/traveller site comprising of two pitches with the siting of a mobile home and dayroom for each pitch. The site is located on Bramble Lane, a privately maintained road – as such, these comments should be considered as advice only.

For context, the LHA was previously consulted regarding a similar application at this site, DC/26/0506 (*Change of Use of land to Gypsy/Traveller site comprising 2 pitches with the siting of a mobile home and dayroom per pitch*), of which no highway safety or capacity concerns were raised. The LPA refused the application on grounds unrelated to highways.

Regarding the current submission, the plans appear not too dissimilar from that of the previously refused application, albeit from some minor amendments. Access to the maintained highway network is at the existing access point at Crays Lane, an unclassified road subject to a speed restriction of 20 mph. A series of private access tracks link the maintained highway to the application site. Whilst visibility appears somewhat restricted at the existing access point, the LHA recognise that this section of highway is low speed and lightly trafficked. In addition, the proposed development is not anticipated to give rise to a significant material intensification of use of this existing access point.

Furthermore, an inspection of collision data provided to WSCC by Sussex Police from a period of the last five years reveals no recorded collisions within the vicinity of the access point on Crays Lane. Therefore, there is no evidence to suggest the existing access has been operating unsafely, or that the proposals would exacerbate an existing safety concern.

The applicant proposes two car parking spaces per plot. Whilst technically a withdrawn document, the Good Practice Guide on Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites (2008) recommended a provision of two car parking spaces per pitch – as such, the proposed parking provision would be considered sufficient. The proposed hardstanding exhibits suitable space for on-site turning to be achievable.

The site is situated in Thakeham Village, which provides limited services within walking/cycle distance of the site. There is a limited bus service from the B2139 providing links to Horsham and Storrington, though these are limited to a handful of services per day. Cycling is a viable option for local trips, but residents may rely on the private car for trips further afield. The LPA may wish to secure cycle parking provision if they deem it appropriate to do so.

In summary, the LHA does not consider that this proposal would have an unacceptable impact on highway safety or result in 'severe' cumulative impacts on the operation of the highway network, therefore is not contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework (in line with TR6 paragraph 4) and that there are no transport grounds to resist the proposal.

Kyran Schneider
West Sussex County Council – Planning Services (Highways)