

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE A MEETING 9TH MAY 2018

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<u>ITEM</u>	<u>REF. NO</u>	<u>Representation From</u>	<u>Summary/Comments</u>	<u>Case Officer</u>	<u>PAGE NO</u>
7b	0443/17	Cllr Jessica Fleming	Member Referral Form (copy attached)	ELTH	1-2

MEMBER REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE

See Planning Charter for principles. Paragraph references below link to Planning Charter.

Planning application reference	0443/17
Parish	Wattisfield
Member making request	Jessica Fleming
13.3 Please describe the significant policy, consistency or material considerations which make a decision on the application of more than local significance	<p>This application is for conversion of a temporary accommodation site to a permanent Gypsy and Traveller Site. Local Plan POLICY H12 states:</p> <p>WHERE A NEED FOR A CARAVAN SITE FOR GYPSIES (AS DEFINED BY SECTION 24(8) OF THE CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT 1960) CAN BE DEMONSTRATED PERMISSION WILL BE GIVEN PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA ARE MET:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - THERE IS NO MATERIAL HARM TO NEARBY RESIDENTIAL AMENITY OR TO THE CHARACTER AND APPEARANCE OF THE SURROUNDING AREA; - THERE IS NO HARMFUL CONFLICT WITH OTHER POLICIES IN THE PLAN DESIGNATED TO PROTECT THE COUNTRYSIDE, WILDLIFE, AND SITES OF ARCHITECTURAL, ECOLOGICAL OR HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE; - SATISFACTORY ACCESS CAN BE OBTAINED, AND ADEQUATE PARKING AND TURNING AREAS PROVIDED FOR VEHICLES, INCLUDING COMMERCIAL VEHICLES WHERE APPROPRIATE; - THE SITE IS WITHIN A REASONABLE DISTANCE OF LOCAL FACILITIES AND SERVICES. <p>The site is on the outskirts of the village and the boundary is close to but not quite within the Wattisfield Conservation Area boundary – http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/UploadsMSDC/Economy/Heritage/Con-Area-Apps/Wattisfield2009CAA.pdf</p> <p>As this would be a permanent and substantial change I believe that any long term effects on nearby residential amenity and/ or the Conservation Area should be fully explored by a committee.</p>
13.4 Please detail the clear and substantial planning reasons for requesting a referral	<p>Establishing a permanent Gypsy and Traveller site is a significant change in planning terms from the present temporary permission, and I believe the concerns about this change, expressed by the Parish Council both to me directly and in its comments which are posted on the District website, should be fully considered. Due to the inherent nomadic nature of the Gypsy and Traveller community there is no assurance that the present stable and well accepted family occupying the site would continue in the long term. There are</p>

	<p>concerns about how such a site would be controlled if not temporary, about the fact that Wattisfield hosts at least two other Gypsy and Traveller sites and about the possible cumulative effects of hosting multiple sites.</p>
<p>13.5 Please detail the wider District and public interest in the application</p>	<p>There is wide - in fact County-level - public interest in the locations of Gypsy and Traveller sites of all kinds. A proposal in 2015 to establish several new short term stopping sites in Suffolk elicited a very high degree of public concern.</p> <p>Any site intended to host temporary Traveller or Touring caravans I believe should be considered in public if that has been requested, as it has, so that an opportunity to comment is provided and appropriate controls are agreed if it is approved.</p>
<p>13.6 If the application is not in your Ward please describe the very significant impacts upon your Ward which might arise from the development</p>	<p>In my Ward.</p>
<p>13.7 Please confirm what steps you have taken to discuss a referral to committee with the case officer</p>	<p>I have contacted the assigned planning officer Rebecca Biggs but find that she is out of office until 6th March.</p>