

● Application Number: AL/117/12

The Old Barn, Arundel Road

Change of use of land of a second mobile home and storage of two caravan units for Travelling Show Persons.

Planning Policy Response

In 2007, Circular 04/2007: Planning for Travelling Showpeople required that an assessment of the accommodation needs of Travelling Showpeople was undertaken to inform planning policy. As a result, a Study was prepared by David Coutie Associates (DCA) in 2007 and published in 2008. The aim of the study was to assess the accommodation needs of Travelling Showpeople across the Districts of Arun, Chichester and Horsham. The results of the Study found that there were two Travelling Showpeople yards in Arun which provided a total of 6 plots and that there was a need to make provision for one further pitch in Arun within the five year period from 2007-2011.

The baseline figure of 6 pitches in Arun, as identified by the DCA Study, was incorporated into the Partial Review of the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East: Provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople – Recommendations for Policy H7, June 2009. The Partial Review recommended the provision of 2 net additional plots by 2016. It should be noted however that the recommendations of the Partial Review were not adopted, and that it is anticipated that the South East Plan will be revoked this year.

In March 2012, Circular 04/2007 was replaced by Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS). PPTS sets out that local planning authorities should set plot targets for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople which address the likely permanent and transit site accommodation needs of travellers in their area, working collaboratively with neighbouring local planning authorities. Local Planning authorities must also be able to demonstrate an up-to-date five year supply of deliverable Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople sites in their Local Plan.

Subsequently, in 2012 Arun District Council commissioned Peter Brett Associates (PBA) and ORS to undertake a Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation assessment (GTAA) to identify accommodation needs for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople over the next 15 years (2012-2027). The final results of this report are due by March 2013.

As part of this work, data was gathered over the course of 2012 and into 2013. As part of this work, a total of 4 Travelling Showpeople yards were identified in Arun which accommodate approximately 13 plots (this is an increase of 7 plots since 2007 and illustrates a growing need for Travelling Showpeople accommodation in the district). The emerging GTAA has identified that there is a need for additional Travelling Showpeople plots in the District over the next 15 years, to meet the demands of growing households in particular.

Although the results of the GTAA will not be made available until they are finalised next month, it should be noted that the consultants have used a growth model for Travelling Showpeople based upon the expiry of temporary permission, overcrowding at existing sites and household growth. For household growth, the typical rate used for the Travelling Showpeople population is between 1%-1.5%. Based on the model used in the emerging GTAA, and taking account of the existing number of plots in the district, it is clear that there will be a local need to make provision for additional plots over the course of the next 15 years. It is therefore considered that this proposal, to develop an additional plot on an existing site, will contribute towards the district's Travelling Showpeople accommodation needs.

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