

**DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE
APPLICATION TO VARY CONDITION 4 OF APPLICATION
AL/94/11 TO ALLOW NO MORE THAN 5 MOBILE HOMES IN
RESPECT OF THE SITE WHICH CURRENTLY HAS
PERMISSION FOR THE USE OF LAND AS A PRIVATE
GYPSY AND TRAVELLER CARAVAN SITE COMPRISING OF
4 NO MOBILE HOMES (2 OF WHICH HAVE EXTENSIONS)
AND ASSOCIATED WORKS ON LAND AT THE PADDOCKS,
NORTHFIELDS LANE, ALDINGBOURNE**

APPLICANTS – MR. AND MRS D SEARLE

**AGENT – DR. ANGUS MURDOCH MRTPI,
MURDOCH PLANNING**

INTRODUCTION

This statement relates to the application to vary Condition 4 of application reference AL/94/11 in order to allow no more than 5 mobile homes on the site which already benefits from planning permission for the use of land as a private Gypsy and Traveller caravan site comprising of 4 no mobile homes (2 of which have extensions) and associated works. The site already benefits from an extant planning permission and therefore this application relates to one further mobile home to accommodate Mrs Searles' recently widowed mother Mrs. Sarah Keet.

THE LAW AND PLANNING POLICY

By Section 70 (2) of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 when dealing with an application for planning permission regard has to be made to the provisions of the Development Plan, so far as material to the application and to any other material considerations. By Section 38(6) of the Planning Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 planning applications should be made in accordance with that Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

There is no 'saved' Gypsy sites Development Plan policy to apply to the application proposal and as a consequence the proposed use of the site has to be assessed in relation to the extant national policy, Circular 1/2006 *Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites*.

The overall rationale for this application to vary is to accommodate Mrs Searle's mother Mrs Sarah Keet which arises due to the recent death of her husband. Mrs Keet is elderly and vulnerable and need to reside with her daughter for physical and emotional support.

The applicants, Mr. Darren and Mrs. Kim Searle are Gypsies and Travellers for the purposes of paragraph 15 of 1/2006 in that they are "*persons of a nomadic habit of life*" whose travelling is abeyance for reasons of the health needs of the family.

Given the foregoing, it is suggested that the site complies with Planning Policy for Traveller Sites and that Condition 4 should be varied.

DESIGN PRINCIPLES AND CONCEPTS

Amount

The application concerns 5 no. pitches for Gypsies and Travellers who comprise an extended family group of great-grand parents, grand parents, parents and children.

Layout

Layout of the proposed change of use has been designed to minimise the visual impact of the caravans. There is already a level of screening afforded to the site and further landscaping measures can be illustrated to the Local Planning Authority's satisfaction and further screening can clearly be achieved, given the applicants landholding.

Scale

The proposal is for 5 pitches.

Landscaping

The applicants are agreeable to any reasonable landscaping conditions being imposed on a permission.

Access

Access to the site is via an existing access which affords adequate visibility for the proposed use.

Car parking

There will parking provision for 2 vehicles per pitch on the site.

MURDOCH PLANNING

MARCH 2013

