G & T status/Personal Circumstances - UNREDACTED

[redacted]

The proposed site is made up of 2no plot with 1no mobile and 1no touring caravan plus 1no dayroom.

The applicant has lived in the area for many years. [redacted]

[redacted]

They are all claiming Gypsy status for the following reasons:

The Gypsy Traveller status of any family should never be in dispute and although they are not required to provide details of who will occupy the pitch as it would be down to the Council to impose an occupancy condition on the permission which would limit occupancy to any gypsy and traveller family which fall within the PPTS definition. However, the applicant and her sons already have an established gypsy status. The applicant still lives a nomadic lifestyle, and still regularly travels to horse fayres where they carry out horse trading activities and therefore still travel for economic purposes.

They cannot travel as often as they would like to due to caring for children and education. They are part of a long-established English Romany traveller family and are a well-known family and related to most of the larger traveller families across Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Canterbury, Essex, Oxford, Southwest and the UK. It is important that the family and dependents have a stable place to live and adding conditions would permit this. There has never been a challenge to the Gypsy status of the family and there is no reason to believe that this will ever change as the family have only ever lived on Gypsy sites and maintained and upheld a Gypsy lifestyle.

The family all grew up on a Gypsy site and they naturally have a cultural bias to live on a Gypsy site. The family are principally involved in grounds work and landscaping. Wherever possible every effort is made to stay on existing sites with friends and family and often when the family are away, they have worked in Kent, Sussex, Dover, Nottingham, London, Coventry, Warwickshire and Cardiff.

They attend several horse fayres around the UK including:

Peterborough, Nottingham, Leicester, Dartford, Kenilworth, Barnsley, Stow on the Would, Wickham, Appleby, Cambridge, Slough, Staplehurst, New Forest and Somerset. This also provides an ideal opportunity to trade horses and exchange work.

It is important that although it is understood that a Gypsy status means continuing a nomadic lifestyle, this can be done whilst also having a stable base.

A person cannot enrol in school or for medical services without a permanent address. It is also addressed with the Human Rights Act Article 8 that everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home, and his correspondence.

It goes on to say that there shall be no interference from a public authority with the exercise of the right except such as in accordance with the law and is necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security, public safety or the economic well-being of the country, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, or the protection of the rights and freedom of others.

The site will be made up of the applicant and her direct family members only (2 sons). Due to the circumstances around the family having to come together, names will not be provided for the public to be able to view for obvious reasons.

The fact that all the persons concerned in this application are travellers is of significance because they are entitled to respect their traditional way of life which an integral part of which involves living in caravans. Issues that particularly relate to the applicant in this instance are the LPA's unmet need of a 5 year supply of sites, medical and health, personal circumstances and human rights and gypsy status.

The applicants have demonstrated that they live a Gypsy way of life and would normally be travelling regularly but they now need a settled base for personal reasons.

The new policing bill has had a detrimental impact on Gypsy and Traveller families with the criminalisation of trespass. In its current form, part four of the bill changes the act of trespassing from a civil to a criminal offence and introduces additional powers for police to deal with roadside camps. This means that people who live on roadside camps could face time in prison, a fine of £2,500 or have their home taken away from them.

This will has had profound consequences for Gypsy and Traveller groups, already some of the most marginalised communities in England and Wales.

In conclusion the Gypsy Traveller status of the applicants and extreme personal circumstances of the site have been determined. Due to the complex needs of the children and adults, they cannot be on a shared site and need their own facilities.