

Stables Adjacent to Hollybank Cottage, LongCopse Lane, Emsworth
PO107UR – APP/16/01234 - Mr James MADGWICK

1. I am the Gypsy Liaison Officer for Hampshire County Council.
2. Further to the report I submitted on Friday 24th March 2017 I have been asked by Havant Borough Council planning department to enquire further with the applicant with regards to some specific questions which for the sake of regularity I have replicated as follows:
 - A. Why have they decided to settle in Havant and not Portsmouth or New Forest, which is where it appears they have strong links?
 - B. Do they own any other land that they could move onto? Where would they live if they did not own this land? (by the side of the road?)
 - C. What is the relationship with the address in Portsmouth? Do they own it etc?
 - D. Also I note in paragraph 22 of your report that the applicant would like to settle down for stability, health and future education of his family. Is he therefore looking for a permanent planning consent rather than a temporary permission?
3. At 14.50 hours on Wednesday 5th April 2017, I returned to the site I now know as Southdown View, Stables Adjacent to Hollybank Cottage, LongCopse Lane, Emsworth PO107UR where I spoke to the applicant Mr James Madgwick and his father Les.
4. I then put the above questions to the applicant and his answers were as follows.

In answer to question A: The applicant stated that whilst he has relatives and friends in the Portsmouth and New Forest area, the simple fact is that within a 2 to 4 mile radius of the land in question there are numerous family members, relatives and friends who would be able to assist his partner with livestock left in the stables and also ensure she felt safe when he is away at horse fairs and working. Also with the birth of the baby due in September there would be family around to ensure the safety and security of his partner whilst he was away.

In answer to question B: The applicant stated that he does not own any other land and if the current application fails then he will have to resort to living at the side of the road because there is no other suitable accommodation available in the local area.

In answer to question C: The applicant stated that his father, Les Madgwick owns and lives in a bricks and mortar property in the Portsmouth area together with his wife and two daughters. The house is a three bedroom property therefore does not have any spare capacity and in any case the applicant being of Gypsy ethnicity wishes to retain his cultural tradition of living in a caravan / mobile home accommodation.

In answer to question D: The applicant stated that he is making an application for permanent permission to reside on the land in question.

5. In view of the above answers it is my considered view that the applicant in this matter is in need of permanent accommodation in the light of personal changes, most particularly his partner's pregnancy. If the planning application for the land in question is refused then the applicant and his partner will almost certainly have to resort to living at the side of the road with all the issues and insecurity inherent in that lifestyle.
6. In conclusion, based on the evidence that has been collected and the applicant's need for permanent accommodation it is now my considered view that, given the evidence of local family connections and support network for the applicant and his family, the Planning officer and the Planning committee of Havant Borough Council, should be able to consider and take account of these local connections, the ethnicity and the personal circumstances of the applicant in deciding the application to establish permanent accommodation within the Borough.

Barry P. Jordan-Davis

Dated: 11th April 2017