

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. I have been asked by Havant Borough Council planning department to establish the Gypsy and Traveller ethnicity and planning status of Mr James Madgwick with regards to the above application.
3. At 09.00 hours on Monday 20th March 2017, I met with Mr James Madgwick (26 years of age) and his father Les (52 years of age) on the land I now know as Stables Adjacent to Hollybank Cottage, LongCopse Lane, Emsworth.
4. I discussed at great length the planning application submitted to Havant Borough Council by James Madgwick this included his family history, movements and cultural heritage.
5. I ascertained that his family roots are in the local area and the Madgwick family is a very strong Portsmouth Gypsy family.
6. James informed me that he had obtained planning permission for the on site stables a few years ago and more recently planning permission for a tack storage shed. He is living on the site with his partner Pasha Green (22 years of age) she is herself of Gypsy ethnicity and is pregnant, with the baby due in September 2017. They have been living on the site for about 12 months and hence the planning application for accommodation on the site.
7. I was advised that they had contacted numerous sites and local authorities in the south east to enquire about waiting lists and the availability of pitches. Currently there are no vacant pitches, have not been for some time and all sites have long waiting lists which will take years to work through for a pitch to become available. As a result it was decided that their own land was preferable to the side of the road.
8. Les Madgwick informed me that some years ago he and his family had visited and stayed with relatives on the former Hampshire County Council site at Bury Brickfields and having spoken to the former site manager I am able to confirm their visits to the site. It should be added that this particular site in the New Forest is particularly horse and pony orientated with most of the residents owning livestock and the connection with the Madgwick family as horse traders is very pertinent. In addition; as the site has planning permission is for Gypsy and Traveller residence and site licence conditions are only for that community, it goes without saying that only members of the Gypsy Traveller community reside on and visit the site.

9. Whilst talking to the Madgwicks I looked at many photographs indicating a Gypsy and Traveller horse trading lifestyle and also viewed historic film footage showing Mr Les Madgwick attending Appleby horse fair years ago with his family and living the traditional lifestyle in caravans and trailers. I discussed at length family and friends namely the Smiths, Wickens, Green and Ruston families and from personal experience I can say that I have had dealings historically with all of these families and have verified their Gypsy and Traveller ethnicity.
10. Since this meeting I have made enquiries of the Traveller Liaison Officer in West Sussex who can confirm that the families listed above including the Madgwick family are well know in the West Sussex area and across the south east of the country as being of the Gypsy and Traveller community.
11. From the verbal and photographic evidence produced to support his way of life and from my experience with the Gypsy and Traveller community in general, their lifestyle and my personal knowledge of the Madgwick family, I am of the considered opinion that there is no doubt the applicant is of Gypsy ethnicity.
12. The site is approximately one acre in size, in a rural location and has been owned by the applicant for about the last eight years. The Madgwick family are predominantly horse dealers as was evidenced by the stables on site being fully occupied. I established that the family have historically and still do visit most of the horse fairs in the country through out the year, not just as a family holiday but to conduct business buying and selling horses and ponies together with tack and equipment.
13. I asked where they stayed when travelling and did they have any documents to prove where they had travelled to and was informed that when travelling they stayed with friends and relatives on private land. However, historically they would have stayed at the side of the road but in keeping and in common with this community the retention of any records and official notices to quit is not very common.
14. I asked if it was possible to obtain written letters to prove where they had been and who they had stayed with over the years and was informed that this could be done if required.
15. Like most families of the Gypsy and Travelling community in this day and age they live in mobile homes when on their own land and take a mobile tourer (caravan) with them to live in whilst they are away on business and / or holidays.

16. I spoke to Mr Madgwick about any problems encountered when using the local lanes with horse boxes and large caravans. He informed me that businesses in the local area have used horse boxes for years and local residents have caravans sited on their driveways and it is not a problem for them driving up and down the lane when going away on holiday.
17. I enquired about local facilities in the area which would allow easy access for shops, schools and medical facilities and I was informed that the Gypsy and Traveller community are well used to travelling for the purposes of accessing facilities and in any case all they currently required was within a short distance of the site in question.
18. I was informed that during his life the applicant together with his family has travelled the Country widely for business / economic purposes and he is still away working for at least 3 to 4 months of the year. His home base would not solely be used as a place to commute to work and return home daily but would be somewhere for his family to establish a settled lifestyle whilst he is away as opposed to living at the side of the road due to the lack of local, regional and national pitch and transit site availability.
19. As reported earlier, Mr Madgwick's partner is due to give birth later this year and the requirement for permanent accommodation to facilitate a settled life style, access to doctors and midwife services and eventually schooling is of paramount importance in his life.
20. I am not by any means and do not profess to be an expert in planning and case law but I do have a limited knowledge of these matters and also practical expertise attained having dealt with matters and issues relating to the Gypsy and Traveller community over the last fifteen years.
21. During my visit I did inform the applicant that any evidence he could produce to prove a traveling lifestyle and if possible to show for economic purpose would be beneficial to his application. I advised that the planning officer having site of these documents prior to any planning meeting would be beneficial and suggested that his planning agent Mr Rowe or Dr Murdoch could facilitate this for them.
22. The applicant has a cultural lifestyle of living in a traditional caravan and a history of travelling for economic purpose but would like to settle down for the stability, health and future education of his family. I conclude that after consideration of all the facts, my balanced view is that Mr James Madgwick is of Gypsy and Traveller status as required for planning purposes.

Barry P. Jordan-Davis

Dated: 24th March 2017