

## **Planning Application: APP/16/00021**

Land - Stables adjacent to Hollybank Cottage, Long Copse Lane, Emsworth

**Proposed Development:** Change of use from private equestrian yard to a mixed use comprising private equestrian yard and two pitch, private gypsy and traveller site (including amenity block and two touring caravan pitches).

### **Supporting Evidence to Demonstrate a Nomadic Way of Life**

**Name: Les Madgwick Date of birth:** [REDACTED]

**Name: Jimmy Madgwick (Les's son) Date of birth:** [REDACTED]

### **Background and Travelling statement**

#### **Requirement to live on site and Intention to travel**

The applicants, Les and his son Jimmy, have close local family connections within the area and both maintain their gypsy status travelling for an economic purpose.

**Les and his son Jimmy are happy to accept a personal condition as part of the planning permission to reflect his circumstances.**

Les and his son Jimmy **continue to travel and intend to continue to travel.**

#### **Travelling Background**

The applicants have always travelled for work as general dealers and continue to do so; they travel regularly with other members of the travelling community to undertake building and maintenance work around the country, in addition the applicants regularly deal in and breeds horses. **As has been the custom since their teens** the applicants have continued to attend the majority of the annual gypsy and horse fairs listed below for business to buy, sell and trade horses; typically combining building work on route to the fairs.

**Stow Horse Fair Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire in May**

**Wycombe Fair, Hampshire in May**

**Epsom Derby in early June**

**Appleby Horsefair Appleby-in-Westmorland, Cumbria in early June**

**Priddy Horse Fair in Devon**

**Kenilworth Horse Fair in July**

**Horsmonden Horse Fair, Kent**

The Madgwick family name is particularly well known especially by those in the horse trade in the Portsmouth Area as is clear from the **photos appended to this statement**.

*In addition several DVDs of Les at the annual Horse Fairs are available on request.*

Although Portsmouth was the family base the applicants spend most of their life travelling around the country with other members of their extended family. **The witness statements from members of the travelling family confirm that the applicants maintain a nomadic way of life and continue to travel for a living.**

As is clear from the **photos appended to this statement**, the families' mode of transport was historically barrow wagons, horses and later caravans.

On the road the family have always done anything to earn money for their family; such as fruit picking, collected scrap, farm work, bought and sold logs, chopped wood and collected rags. Before the rags were sold his mother had to sort and remove any decent clothing which could be worn by her family. They also bought eggs and potatoes etc. from farms and then sold them by knocking on doors in whatever part of the Country they found themselves in at the time.

Anything they could buy, sell or trade they did so and continue to do. They also bought and sold horses, carts and harness this was an activity that usually took place when they met up with other members of the Gypsy community. They attended many of the Gypsy Fairs annually and other markets such as Beaulieu Rd, Salisbury, Southall and Chichester where they bought, sold and traded items such as horses, carts, harness, ducks, chickens, and even lawnmowers. The one fair they never missed, as a family was Appleby Horse Fair in Cumbria. This is the one Fair every Gypsy endeavours to attend as it is considered to be the "Annual Holiday" a time to catch up with friends, family and other members of their community.

Both Les and his son Jimmy have had very little education only attending school when their family returned periodically to the Portsmouth area. Formal education was not a priority for the family. As Les got older (and with the same applying to his son Jimmy) he was expected to make his own money using the skills and crafts they had been taught by their father and other members of their extended family. Les and his son Jimmy have had a very hard childhood however they and their extended family only ever recall the good times.

Les and his son Jimmy maintain a nomadic lifestyle as they've gotten older and went out on his own. Initially they did what they knew best that was bought, sold and traded horses, carts and harness. Once they had made enough money they bought their first caravan that enabled them to spread their wings and travel independently. For many years one of the most profitable activities undertaken by Les as he grew up included "Door Knocking" This entailed deciding on a part of the country to target

such as the West Country, Wales, Cambridge or Birmingham and staying in that area for anything from 1 day to 2 weeks depending on how well he did financially. They pick an area preferably with a mix of private and council houses to work, dropping leaflets through all the letterboxes within that area asking if the occupants had anything on the list of items required to sell. The items required at the time varied from precious metals, antiques and china to scrap, copper, brass, batteries and rags etc. depending on which items were more profitable at the time.

In the late eighties "Door Knocking" became unprofitable so his main source of income had to change. During this time he met and married his first wife against the wishes of his family, because she was not a Gypsy girl.

Les and his son Jimmy continue to deal in horses and all the other activities connected with the horse trade and the Gypsy community.

**Is there an intention of maintaining and living a nomadic habit of life in the future.**

**Les and his son Jimmy continue to attend as many of the annual Gypsy fairs as possible. Both Les and his son Jimmy continue to buy, sell and trade for their livelihood.**

The applicants actively maintain the Gypsy travelling lifestyle that they are fiercely proud of and continue to travel for work. Whilst maintaining a postal address at [REDACTED] in the past neither the applicants or their family have ever lived in bricks and mortar accommodation; they would not be comfortable there as such occupation is a different way of life to the manner in which they have grown up and their gypsy lifestyle. The applicants have always lived in a caravan or mobile home either on the road or in the curtilage of [REDACTED] when they were younger.

Since coming of age the applicants have had to travel from site to site (regularly doubling up on plots) but never having had any site as a settled base to call their own.

The applicant is keen to keep the land in a good state and get to know their neighbours from the settled community. The applicant is adamant that this is how they will always live and to maintain a nomadic way of life for an economic purpose and comply fully with both the Planning and Housing Acts definitions of "gypsies and travellers including that within Annex 1: Glossary of Planning Policy for Traveller sites.

**Health issues and dependents**

Les Madgwick – [REDACTED]

Jimmy Madgwick – [REDACTED]

## Photos – Family travelling history

Les Madgwick – circled yellow

Jimmy Madwick – circled green

Les Madgwick father – circled blue

Les Madgwick – grandfather circled red





