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Project:
MS D WARD - NEW ACRE STABLES,
WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD, PENKRIDGE.
ST19 5PA

By:
MCC

Date:
24/4/2024
Revision:

MS D WARD PROOF OF EVIDENCE – NEW ACRE STABLES – APPEAL APP/C3430/C/24/3337033

APPEAL SITE: NEW ACRE STABLES, WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD, PENKRIDGE. ST19 5PA.

APPELLANT: MR J WARD/MS D WARD

ENFORCEMENT NOTICE BREACH: WITHOUT PLANNING PERMISSION, THE MATERIAL CHANGE OF USE OF LAND TO A USE FOR THE STATIONING OF A CARAVAN FOR RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES ON THE LAND.

PLANNING AGENT: MR MIKE CARR MSc MRTPI – MAT DESIGN LIMITED

PROOF SECTIONS

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1. INTRODUCTION

My Name is Donna Ward and I live on the appeal site with my 3 children.

John Ward purchased this parcel of land from Mr Fred Blossom Smith in 2017 so that I and my first child could have our own space. I have lived on the land for almost 7 years, and this is my home and I have nowhere else to go.

The enforcement notice is seeking to remove me, the children, and our static home. Effectively, if we lose the appeal, the children and I will become homeless and must go to a life on the road because the Council have nowhere else for us to go and they have no plans to provide any pitches or new sites.

Such a situation would be harmful to our family life and our health and well-being and most importantly, if we were forced to leave our home, then our children's lives and their life chances would be harmed considerably.

There are no sites or pitches available in the Borough and I am concerned that the Local Planning Authority are not treating Gypsies and Travellers in the Borough in the same way as they treat the settled population, particularly in relation to providing pitches and sites.

I say this because there are many new housing developments and houses for sale across the Borough and absolutely no land or sites that are available in the Borough for us to buy and have a settled base.

2. OUR GYPSY STATUS

We are Gypsies and travellers and we have travelled all our lives. We are people as defined in Annexe 1 of the PPTS, as of nomadic habit of life, and we continue to travel for work and cultural reasons, spending at least 12 weeks of the year travelling and working as a family group. We intend to continue our way of life whatever the result of this appeal.

3. MY FAMILY

Our family is made up of myself, and my 3 children who are aged 6, 3 and 10 months.

4. MY HOME AND THE CHILDRENS SCHOOLING

Given that there are no other pitches available on any public or private site, I decided to form a settled base next to my family so myself and the children can be could other and so that our children could enjoy a safe, settled environment and benefit from an education that I did not have.

My eldest child attends primary school in Penkridge and has joined after school clubs and made friends with local children. My children would never be able to do with a roadside existence, although the kids come out of school when we travel to the fairs and for work, and we consider that it is also very important that the cultural traditions of our heritage are kept up.

5. A TEMPORARY PLANNING PERMISSION

I consider that a temporary planning permission would be helpful to the well-being of my family and provide some security for myself and the children. If the planning Inspector considers that this the only available option, then I would ask that the temporary period covers 5 years or until such a time that the Council have plans in place to provide settles pitch and site accommodation for all the Gypsies and Travellers who need accommodation.

I understand that this is at least 140 pitches now, and this number has increased substantially overtime. However, this does not take account of the growth of my family.

6. CONCLUSIONS

I would ask that the ground A E and G appeals are allowed for the reasons set out in my proof of evidence, the evidence provided in Mr Mike Carr's proof of evidence.