

Planning & Regulatory Committee 25 January 2023

UPDATE SHEET

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL PROPOSAL TA/2021/1983

DISTRICT(S) TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Pendell Transit Camp, Land off Merstham Road, Merstham, Surrey

Use of the land as a ten-pitch transit site for the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community, including the erection of amenity blocks and site manager's office, creation of a vehicular access, landscaping, parking and refuse storage and associated works.

Amend Address – Strike Out “Pendell Transit Site” – the site is not an existing facility. Address should read:

Land off Merstham Road, Merstham, Surrey

Paragraph 10 – Add (contaminated land) adjacent to (Environmental Health)

Paragraph 23 – Remove ‘be’

Delete Paragraph 239 and 240 and replace with:

It is the Officer's view that any refusal of planning permission would not be considered to interfere with any Convention right of prospective occupants of the transit site or indeed any Convention right of the residents of the permanent Pendell Camp Travellers' Site.

Paragraph 245 add: Officers recognise that the Public Sector Equality Duty also applies to current occupiers of the Pendell Camp Travellers site and officers have had regard to their needs in this regard.

Reason for Refusal:

Replace Reason 2: The proposal would result in an urbanising impact on the character of the Local Area, harmful to the AONB and AGLV contrary to the Policy CSP19 and CSP20 of the Tandridge Core Strategy, Policies DP7 of the Tandridge Local Plan Part 2 Detailed Policies Document (2014).

Add Reason 7: The proposal would be sited adjacent to an existing settled community and would dominate this community. Furthermore, through the design of the proposal and location, the site would be isolated from the rest of the community. The proposal would not therefore accord with paragraphs 25, 26 and Policy H of the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (2015) on locational grounds.

CONSULTATIONS AND PUBLICITY

Additional Representation –

1 additional representation has been received which raises objection on the grounds of:

- Lack of pedestrian access to the site.
- The roads being prone to flooding.
- No public transport links to the site.
- No shops or services within proximity of the site.
- The proposal would place an unacceptable burden on local infrastructure.
- The proposal would result in displaced travellers adjacent to existing travellers and would not be fair on these residents.

1 Additional representation has been received which supports the proposal on the grounds of:

- There are no places to stop for Gypsy and Travellers in Surrey. The only option is to park on roadside.
- A transit site with basic amenities where people can stay legally will stop Travellers being moved on constantly, and reduce community tensions.

Consultees (Statutory and Non-Statutory)

East Sussex County Council Gypsy and Traveller Team Manager –

- Supports the application - The application is sensitive to the needs of the Gypsy, Roma, Traveller community (GRT) and sensitive to the surrounding landscape.
- A transit site in East Sussex, provides GRT members with access to electricity, running water, shower, and toilet facilities as well as waste facilities. It also provides a chance to access local services when they are in the area. A site in Surrey could provide the same.
- Transit site in East Sussex provides a place GRT members can stop without fear of eviction. This has kept unauthorised encampments low in East Sussex.
- Believes the development of a transit site in Surrey will improve the lives of people travelling and reduce conflict between communities.