

**From:** Nigel Brown  
**Date:** 29 December 2020 at 14:31:16 GMT  
**To:** Angie Driscoll  
**Cc:** Enforcement <[enforcement@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:enforcement@uttlesford.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Travellers at Birchanger

Dear Angie

Apologies for the radio silence at this end. You may be aware that Sarah has been on maternity leave since May.

Firstly, we have no pending news regarding the Planning Appeal, as you may recall we had a virtual hearing scheduled for September which was postponed by the Planning Inspectorate following objections from the agent for the travellers. We await the agreement of what I assume will be a physical hearing, which in our current circumstances will be delayed even further. I am totally frustrated with the lack of progress from the Inspectorate. A hearing/inquiry should certainly have been accommodated long before we had all even heard of Covid 19.

In addition I understand that the parish council had been receiving complaints that large static caravans were been brought onto the site. Since we served the injunction on the travellers way back at the beginning, they have been required to check with us any changes on the site. Which I must say they have been good in doing.

Back in the autumn, they did check in with me to request that they swap one caravan for another. We have operated the one on/one off approach throughout. One of the families have a personal requirement for a larger caravan (to include WC accommodation which is very rare for travellers). As such, I agreed to that wish. Technically, provided they are not increasing the net numbers they didn't need our consent. I appreciate that the static caravans are somewhat large however, they still qualify as caravans. Sadly, the passage of time and the growing age of some of the children on the site, has resulted in the need for the travellers to upgrade their caravans etc. We are obliged to respect and react to any changing health challenges.

It is clear that only Sarah and I have a working knowledge of the site. As such, with the restrictions on site visits brought about through lockdowns, and restrictions on me personally there has been a delay in me getting out there. I managed to pay a visit just before Christmas and went on the site. The nature of the site remains unchanged, apart from a couple of smaller vans being swapped for larger ones. I am mindful that this time of year, irrespective of lockdown restrictions, is a prime time to travel and as such if anything there was less on the site than I recalled.

I intend, subject to my own shielding restrictions, to go back out during January to check, to ensure that liberties aren't taken when they return from their Christmas travels.

Whilst, I'm I can also confirm that we have agreed with the travellers that they can renew their access with some tarmac. We did agree this way back in the Spring, and I was surprised that the accessway was still as poor as ever.

Please don't hesitate in coming back to me should you have any further queries.

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