

ADDENDUM REPORT PLANNING COMMITTEE 12th NOVEMBER 2009

Item: 6.3

Site: Twin Oaks, Ridge Road, Plympton, Plymouth

Ref: 09/00562

Applicant: Mr J Keating

Pages: 23-34

Members are advised of the following addendum items in respect of this application:-

1. A letter has been received from the occupier of Hardwick Nurseries, which refers to the temporary permission recommended by Council officers and states that in this respect the families involved came from the approved gypsy site at Chelson Meadow. It is stated that Council officers made a conscious decision not to implement enforcement action. The letter considers that the applicant's 'minority' group status is not sufficient to allow the proposals in light of previous decisions to refuse applications for development, and that this flies in the face of local democracy. It is also stated that the site has many more vehicles than would be required for residential use and that it is being used for a business base. The letter also refers to the occupation of land by travellers in other areas of the country. The letter states that the hedge referred to previously is not at the site entrance but is in the south west of the site and that this was an ancient hedge removed by a JCB. What action will be taken under the Hedgerows Act 1997? It is stated that there are additional caravans, a log cabin and more vehicles appearing and staying overnight; the site is being used as a base for a business. The letter also refers to the occupation of land by travellers in other areas of the country.
2. A letter has been received from Hardwick House, which states that it is an error to consider that there is a lack of gypsy and traveler sites in Plymouth for these applicants; in this respect it is stated that the applicants moved of their own volition from an existing licensed gypsy site. The letter queries whether the applicants are ethnic minorities that are protected under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000. There is criticism also of the officer's recommendation given the importance of the site as green space and part of the proposed countryside park. The letter also submits that officers have failed to give weight to objectors, including the Plympton St. Maurice Association, the Plympton and District Civic Society and the Plympton Community Council. The proposals are also considered to set a precedent for similar development.
3. A letter of support has been received; which refers to a submitted petition.
4. A petition in support for the application has been submitted under cover of a letter from Plymouth and District Racial Equality Council. The letter refers to the signatories on sheet 42 of the petition and states that these individuals are all members of staff at The Gables Hospital (near the sites).