

WITNESS STATEMENT OF [REDACTED]

1. I, [REDACTED] am [REDACTED] years old am currently living on Plot [REDACTED] at Land to the south of Chear Fen Boat Club, Twentypence Road, Cottenham, Cambridgeshire, CB6 8PX where we are seeking permanent planning permission.
2. There are a total of nine plots on site.
3. I moved onto site with my family roughly two a half years ago with everyone else here, it will be three years in summer. I know it was 2022 and it was around June or July time.
4. We did not move onto the site straight away. The site did have some earth banks and access when we first came here.
5. If permanent planning permission is granted, I would continue to live on the pitch with my wife, [REDACTED] who is [REDACTED] years old, and our two children, who are [REDACTED] years-old and our [REDACTED] years old.
6. My family and I previously lived on a privately owned gypsy site [REDACTED] in Cambridge. There were a number of reasons why we chose to leave. It became overcrowded very quickly, there was not much room to move around. I was unable to let my children play outside as it was not a secure site and there was a lot of traffic constantly driving past.
7. It was in my family's best interest that we looked to go elsewhere. Somewhere we could call a home and somewhere where my children have the freedom to play and grow.
8. If we have to move off, I do not know what I will do. I have no plan B. I have tried asking for help in the past. I would speak to a lady that worked for the Council who helps us travellers to see if there was anything local, but she told me there was a minimum of a five-year waitlist to get on a pitch.

9. We would need to find somewhere where there would be space for all of us. We are one unit. My brother, sister and I need to be able to be close to our mum in case she needs help [REDACTED]
10. I am a self-employed and have my own home improvements company. I do anything from roofing to driveways, anything that improves your home. I have built a good rapport within the area so I am nice and busy. I find I tend to stay within a 10-mile radius of where I live.
11. I have previously attended gypsy and traveller fairs, mainly Appleby Horse Fair. It was a great event to attend, and I love being around our culture surrounded by friends and family. I do not attend the fairs as much anymore. I will try to go to Appleby when I can, but I have a family I need to prioritise and would rather stay near our home than go further afield.
12. We are hoping to enrol our [REDACTED] year-old son at the local primary school after this summer. We are keen to looking at getting our boys into school, education is extremely important to my wife and I, we know you need to be able to read and write nowadays.
13. My wife and I have been looking at pre-schools for our youngest boy and hope to be able to get him a place so he can get used to it before jumping into a school.
14. My whole family are registered at our local surgery, [REDACTED] Surgery. It has been noted by my doctors that [REDACTED]
15. We have put a lot of time into the site to make it liveable here, making it a home for all of us. Living on site with my family and extended family is great, all our kids get to play and grow up together in a gypsy community. I get to see all my nieces and nephews grow up.
16. We have endless support in all aspects from the children, to work needs. We are all family and we stick together through life.

17. My life is here, [REDACTED] This is
our home and I am worried what our future holds should we not be able to stay here.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated herein are true.

Full name [REDACTED]

Signed [REDACTED]

Date: 1/4/25

