

WITNESS STATEMENT OF [REDACTED]

1. I, [REDACTED] am [REDACTED] years old seeking permanent planning permission at Land to the south of Chear Fen Boat Club, Twentypence Road, Cottenham, Cambridgeshire, CB6 8PX.
2. We first heard about the site through word of mouth, it was around July/August 2021 when we first visited. We then got in touch with Green Planning Studio regarding gaining planning permission for the site.
3. The previous owners owned the site for years and were selling the land because the site was too big for the two of them.
4. The previous owners lived on site in caravans for a couple of years and we bought the site with the same intention of what they had been using the site for.
5. I never thought we would end up in the situation we are currently in and potentially at risk of losing our homes.
6. We moved onto site in the summer of 2022 and share the site equally between the 9 plots.
7. When I first ^{went}~~when~~ to view the site, it was around July/August 2021, before even purchasing, there was already access to the site so it was one less thing for us to think of. There were also banks on site, but they were not very stable at the time. We did some work to secure them, levelling them off and stabilising them. We did not remove them and start again.
8. We just needed to focus on creating our plots and turning them into our homes.
9. We don't use the area to the north of the tree line to live. We use it as pastureland.
10. I live on Plot [REDACTED] with my wife, [REDACTED] and our [REDACTED] children; [REDACTED]

11. [redacted] grandmother [redacted] and ~~her~~ [redacted] son also live on our plot in a separate caravan to ours.

12. [redacted]

13. My family and I have lived all over the place. We found that we were living around St Ives around the winter months before having our site and then in summer we were travelling around as my work picks up during these months.

14. My wife's grandmother lived on what I believe is a privately owned gypsy site in [redacted] it used to be a nice place for her and her son to live at but in recent years has become unsafe. As time passes, we find we are having to support her and her son a lot more so having her move onto our plot was a necessity.

15. There is so much going on with the appeal I have not had a chance to think ahead if we are not able to stay here. I am not aware of any other sites where there would be enough room for all of us so that we can stay together. It would be a nightmare of all nightmares.

16. We own static homes so we would need to consider selling our homes to replace them with tourers so that we could move from site to site. Moving a static home is not an option, especially if it is for a short temporary solution.

17. There is nothing in the area that is readily available for any of us and if we have to move on, I think we will just be travelling and stopping where we can. I am hopeful that we will get the planning we need to stay here and stay together.

18. I work completing driveways and ~~rock~~ ^{block paving} paving, cleaning the driveways too. I do this self-employed and will travel wherever my work takes me so I go all over the country. It is so important that we have a permanent place to live, I have a family now so whilst I am

working away my wife stays at home and looks after our children. We have started to build a life here and it would not be fair for me to take my family to all the different jobs I am completing, there would be no stability.

19. I am very proud of where I come from and my background and want my children to be around our culture and be brought up the way I was so we attend gypsy and traveller fairs every year that we can. I think I can proudly say I have attended all the fairs in England such as Appleby, Stow-on-the-Wold, Cambridge Midsummer Fair, these are just a few of many. We chop and change the fairs we go to every year to fit around us but occasionally we may not get the chance to go, we are extremely disappointed when we miss them.

20. Three of my children attend [REDACTED] Primary School, we are so lucky that it is local to the site, around a 5-minute drive. I went through the education system and I would like our children to do the same, education is vital nowadays.

21. My wife and I find it extremely important that the children learn through education. We are so fortunate that we can raise our children with our cultural beliefs and show them the traditions that shape our family alongside allowing them to learn to read and write.

22. [REDACTED]

23. My family are registered at [REDACTED] Surgery.

24. We are in such a unique situation where we are all able to live together. I get to see my family everyday and we are such a close family. Every plot is related in some way or another and I am related to someone from each plot.

25. This is our home and it is a wonderful place to live that we are not willing to give up easily. We tried going about the situation the right way by attempting to get the correct

planning permission to move onto site but we found there was no progress. We had to put all our families first and made the big decision to move onto site. We had nowhere else to go.

26. To us, this is the perfect site. We have made friends with people who live in the village. The locals were not too happy when we first arrived but they have gotten to know us now and we all get along within the community.

27. At the end of the day, we are just a family looking for somewhere to live. We are not trouble makers, we are all workers and hard working at that, we just want somewhere where we can be together and live peacefully. We want to finish developing the site, it is currently liveable but we want to make it our own and make it beautiful. A home to love and keep in the families for generations to come.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated herein are true.

Full name

Signed

Date: 1/4/25