

WITNESS STATEMENT OF [REDACTED]

1. I, [REDACTED] am [REDACTED] years old seeking permanent planning permission to continue living a gypsy lifestyle with my family at Land to the south of Chear Fen Boat Club, Twentypence Road, Cottenham, Cambridgeshire, CB6 8PX.
2. I live on Plot [REDACTED] with my wife [REDACTED] and our five children. My eldest daughter is [REDACTED] years-old, my boys are [REDACTED] years-old and [REDACTED] years-old, and the twins are [REDACTED] years-old.
3. We first moved onto the site around June 2022 after spending some time creating a base for the 9 plots and making sure the site was liveable.
4. The site was previously had two static caravans on which the previous owners used to live in. I think they lived on site for a few years.
5. All the site had when we were in the process of moving on was the access as well as some embankments of earth. Before moving onto site, we made sure that we levelled and tidied the mounds up. We shaped them up to make the place look tidier.
6. I grew up on a site off [REDACTED] Caravan Park. I lived there all my life with my family and spent my time growing up there. I moved out to start my own life with my family once I met [REDACTED]
7. We moved to [REDACTED] Cambridge. It was a privately owned gypsy site not far from where I grew up, it was ideal being able to stay somewhat close to home. This is where we lived before moving to the site at Chear Fen.
8. We originally moved onto [REDACTED] in 2010 or 2011 so we had been there for quite some time, we were settled there.
9. Overtime the site became progressively unsafe and it was not somewhere fit to bring up my children. I had no other choice but to put my family first and make sure that they were not in a dangerous environment or being raised there.

10. The safety of the site was out of hand and it was not somewhere I felt comfortable living with my family. As well as the site being unsafe, it became overcrowded very quickly.
11. I am not aware of any alternative pitches that have the correct planning on or any council pitches available in the area for us to go to should this not work out. If I did, I would have looked to have put myself on a site rather than travelling roadside.
12. I am very limited with options of what my family and I will do should we not be allowed to stay here. I am not aware of any pitches, private or council, within the area that would have space for us and I hear so many stories about how long it is to get a pitch when you are on a waiting list.
13. I would never dream of returning to where we used to live.
14. I have my own limited company. I carry out groundwork and property maintenance. I will travel to jobs if I need to. I sometimes find myself travelling London and Essex way. I find a lot of my work nowadays is local due to word of mouth.
15. I have grown up with a gypsy lifestyle and I am proud of my roots. As soon as summer comes around, we get ready for the gypsy and traveller fairs. I go to them every year; it is a tradition. I go to a few of the fairs mainly attending Appleby Horse Fair, Stow Fair and Ballinasloe Horse Fair in Ireland. I take all my family; it is important to keep the travelling tradition going.
16. It has been great having a stable base for my wife and children. My eldest daughter is currently working part-time for me.

17.

18. I have heard so many stories about teenagers getting caught in the wrong crowd and going down the wrong path. I do not want this for any of my children and find my sons having a hobby they enjoy keeps them busy.
19. My twins are my youngest and they currently attend primary school. We have not thought about secondary education yet but I know they both enjoy being at school. We just take each day as it comes and nearer the time we will look into furthering their education.
20. The whole family is registered at the [REDACTED] in Cambridge. We are in the process of switching to a more local surgery in [REDACTED]. It has taken so long as I was sceptical about changing doctors. I suffer with [REDACTED] and grew such a good relationship with my current doctors at [REDACTED] that it delayed the switch.
21. All of us on site have made the effort to fit into the community here in Cottenham. We get along with everyone in the village.
22. On site we are all family in one way or another. My wife's three brothers live on site here and we also have my mother and father-in-law living on site.
23. It is crucial that we are all able to live here together. My wife's mum is currently waiting [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
24. [REDACTED]
25. Things are steadily getting worse [REDACTED]
One day it could all change, and not necessarily for the better.
26. We have created a home here and we are all family in some way. We support each other in whichever way we can as that is what family do.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated herein are true.

Full name

[REDACTED]

Signed

[REDACTED]

Date: 1-4-25