

From: Teresa Homewood [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 9:50 PM
To: Local Plan (TWBC) <LocalPlan@TunbridgeWells.gov.uk>
Subject: Public Consultation on Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's Local Plan: New Evidence Base Documents
Importance: High

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<https://consult.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/kseapi/public/keyplan/events/3320D7E1-DE8C-4C25-BCFF-FAD0F306F8EE/supportingfiles/15412/content>

Dear Sirs

With reference to the above Public Consultation: New Evidence Base Documents, I am writing to formally raise concerns for the proposed additional Gypsy and Traveller sites.

The Gypsy and Traveller site assessments lists the existing Gypsy and Traveller sites within the Tunbridge Wells Borough, currently there are 26 sites, of which 9 are in Paddock Wood, there are also 2 additional sites at Brenchly and Matfield, TN12 6 postcode. Currently the TN12 6 postcode already have 47.6% of Tunbridge Wells Brough Gypsy and Traveller Sites. This does not include the Gypsy and Traveller Sites which are within the Maidstone Borough, that are also in Paddock Wood (TN12 6 postcode).

Maidstone Borough Council have confirmed in writing that currently there are 4 Gypsy and Traveller sites in Paddock Wood (TN12 6 postcode). Of which, 3 have been rejected in 2016. As of January 2024, they have 29 pitches listed on these 4 sites in Paddock Wood. This assessment was undertaken in 2016 and Maidstone council have admitted this number may have changed.

Tunbridge Wells Council is suggesting out of these 26 sites 19 new pitches should be added. Of the 19 new pitches, Paddock Wood would have an additional 18 pitches, and the only other site outside Paddock Wood is Cranbrook which suggest to 0-1 pitches, so potentially all the proposed pitch supply would be in Paddock Wood.

This figure is disproportionately high and unsustainable in an area where facilities over stretched, currently the doctors cannot accept any new patients, the primary school have had to increase their intake from 3 to 4 classes per annum, with no new building planned, which is potential healthy and safety problem with larger classes and over congested areas and can only have a negative effect on children's education, with larger classes. The train service is already, concerningly, over crowded. Paddock Wood has problems with flooding and these have been exacerbated with the additional 3 new housing sites, 3 new flat developments. Further developments would have an ongoing negative impact as no additional infrastructure has been allocated.

There has also been no consideration given by Tunbridge Wells Council with regards to access to these sites, which is by country, single track Lanes, with no pavements that already struggle with existing Gypsy and Traveller sites traffic.

These valid concerns need to be taken into consideration by Tunbridge Wells Planning before adding 100% of the entire Boroughs Gypsy and Traveller Pitch supply to Paddock Wood

Yours faithfully

Mrs T Homewood