

Dear Sir

APPEALS CONCERNING LAND NORTH OF LYDIA PARK, STOVOLDS HILL, CRANLEIGH

- **APPEAL A BY MR T DOHERTY (APP/R3650/W/22/3313865) – 1 GYPSY/ TRAVELLER PITCH**
- **APPEAL B BY MR S DOHERTY (APP/R3650/W/23/3314447) – 3 GYPSY/ TRAVELLER PITCHES**
- **APPEAL C BY MR M & MRS A DOHERTY (APP/R3650/W/23/3322400) – 1 GYPSY/ TRAVELLER PITCH**
- **APPEAL D BY MR M DOHERTY (APP/R3650/W/22/3323108) – 1 GYPSY/ TRAVELLER PITCH**

JOINT STATEMENT BY THE PARISH COUNCILS OF
ALFOLD, BRAMLEY, DUNSFOLD, and HASCOMBE

The above-mentioned Parish Councils, all of whom will be affected by the above planning applications, have prepared this Statement to summarise their concerns about the material harms that we believe will result should any of the named developments go ahead.

We all want to ensure that the planning system fulfils its role of facilitating, in the words of the NPPF, 'strong, healthy and vibrant communities'. We wish this on behalf of all sectors of our community. The planning system should be fair and appropriate for all and embody a process in which everyone can have confidence. However, the history at this site has led to a strong feeling in the local community that a sense of parity has been lost.

In our separate representations, to be made in person, we shall be submitting evidence that we believe shows how the planning system has unfortunately so far failed to prevent unsustainable development at the existing GRT site on Stovolds Hill.

There is no demonstrable need for starting a new site in the field which is the subject of the Appeal Sites A, B C and D. The existing GRT sites already irrefutably dominate the existing settled community, against policy in NPPF/PPTS, and we seek to have a sustainable balance restored in the development of the whole community in this area. The letting out of numerous mobile homes to non-travellers on the existing GRT sites is evidence that, even if GRT community members can demonstrate a need for a limited amount of accommodation, there is already an existing over-supply.

We support the reasons for refusal made by the Local Planning Authority. But we go further in drawing to the Inspector's attention the intentional unauthorised over-development which is in breach of planning permissions granted. This has led to a catalogue of social issues, damage to the natural environment, wildlife and habitats, and other harms. All of these are causing grave concern to the local community.

The site of the Appeals is the subject of a recent 'live' High Court Injunction¹. We draw attention to this due to the commonality of ownership across the sites mentioned and whilst the Injunction is not the subject of the Appeals, it is an active and related issue to the current Appeals. Recent continued unauthorised development in this site shows a lack of regard for the Injunction and the process of planning law. The fact that an Injunction was necessary demonstrates the seriousness of the situation. We must emphasise the exasperation felt by local communities and

¹ IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CLAIM NO: QB-2021-002721 KING'S BENCH DIVISION BEFORE KAREN RIDGE SITTING AS A DEPUTY HIGH COURT JUDGE 1 SEPTEMBER 2023

their elected representatives who simply wish to achieve a strong, healthy and vibrant community in this area, to meet the objectives of the NPPF.

Local residents feel strongly that the planning system is failing them. For confidence to be restored, they need to see that their representations are taken seriously and that decisions made recognise the rights and responsibilities of everyone.

The above Parish Councils therefore urge the Inspector to dismiss all the above Appeals.

Alfold Parish Clerk

For and on behalf of Alfold Parish Council, Bramley Parish Council, Dunsfold Parish Council and Hascombe Parish Council.