

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PlanningPolicy](#)  
**Subject:** Local Planning Plan Review 2025  
**Date:** 24 January 2025 16:23:16  
**Attachments:** [Ltrr to Planning Policy Team. Jan 2025.pdf](#)

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Dear Sir / Madam,

Please will you take the attached letter into account when considering the Review.

Yours sincerely,

John Handy



Planning Policy Team,  
Planning Department,  
West Berkshire Council,  
Council Offices,  
Market Street,  
Newbury, RG14 5LD

24 January 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Local Plan Review**

I would like, please, my views on the policy taken into account within this review, in particular Section RSA25; Long Copse Farm, Enborne Travelling Show Peoples' Caravan site.

This item of the policy is as the result of a speculative application by the previous owner of the circus but, I understand, remains the owner of the site, who parked his lorries on the site and over-wintered a few caravans. No material evidence has been presented that there is a local need to extend the number of pitches on this site for travelling show people.

The application identifies a desire on the part of the applicant, not a wider need. If the logic which the council are applying here, i.e. that desire carries greater weight than need, was applied to other planning applications many undesirable developments would gain consent, to detriment of all except the applicant. It would appear that the planning authority is taking advantage of this application to justify inclusion within its planning policy.

There has been a history of contraventions of planning consent on this site and disregard for the proximity of the woodland and inability/unwillingness for the council to take enforcement action. I have witnessed this.

The inclusion of Long Copse Farm in medium term planning policy cannot therefore be justified.

Other reasons for omitting this site from the plan because of the detriment it would cause to the local community:

the increased traffic on local lanes, in particular past Enborne Primary School

presumably, children from the site would have the right to attend the local school. This would create extra pressure on staff and pupils at the primary school by the seasonal appearance of show peoples' children

pressure on Long Copse itself, an ancient, semi-natural ancient woodland (SNAW). A ten metre strip or a bund will have no effect on the incursions by people and pets in the wood. This is not only a SNAW, but carries a woodland Tree Preservation Order. These sites are notoriously difficult to monitor and the pressure on the planning authority to uphold the Order will be almost impossible to enforce.

The development is right in the middle of one of the main parts of the important civil war site of the Battle of Newbury (1643) and other developments have been refused on these grounds i.e. land north of Craven Road between the town and the A34.

The other major worry is that the council will lose control of this site, just as Winchester City Council lost control of what was designated as a travelling show people site at Micheldever. This has become a very large travellers' site, with all the attendant problems everyone is aware of, particularly local people who have been victims of rural crime (as I have, several times) and the rural police.

There is a great deal of local anger about the way planning policy is implemented, the way this application in particular, has come about; the way the local authority have dealt with it to date and the likely local consequences if it were to be granted. That people feel disenfranchised and have lost faith in and respect

for politicians and authority, the whole system, in fact, and become so angry, comes down to policies like this and the way they are imposed in direct conflict with public opinion.

I most sincerely ask that this site is removed from planning policy during the review.

Yours sincerely,

John Handy