

**JAMES WILD MP**  
Member of Parliament for North West Norfolk



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Planning Inspector  
Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk  
King's Court Chapel Street  
King's Lynn PE30 1EX

22 August 2024

Dear Planning Inspector

I am writing in response to **Matters, Issues and Questions (MIQs) on Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople's accommodation needs and sites [G41]**, in advance of the Resumed Hearing sessions.

I recently met West Walton Parish Council who set out objections to two sites being considered; GT14 (Land at Blunts Grove) and GT15 (Land SW Common Road (The Bungalow) Walton Highway. Over 70% of existing sites are situated in the parishes of West Walton, Outwell, Upwell, and Walsoken, which places significant pressure on the local community and infrastructure. Increasing the number of pitches would only exacerbate the detrimental effect on local services, infrastructure, and facilities in the area.

I share the concerns raised by the Parish Council and I am writing to ensure their representations are properly considered during the examination of the local plan:

**GT14**

**Location and scale:** The extension to the existing development is an isolated position within the countryside and not located a reasonable distance from supporting facilities within Walton Highway. The scale of the proposal is inappropriate having regard to the character and appearance of the local area and will increase pressure on local services.

**Access:** The site is in the countryside with no footpath or street lighting outside the site and therefore there is likely to be heavy reliance on private vehicles to access services and facilities. There is only one access to the site, passing several dwellings, adding to increased traffic and noise on a narrow, rural lane.

**Infrastructure:** Infrastructure is already stretched. Schools in the catchment area are full to capacity. St Paul's Road and Blunts Drove are narrow, almost single carriageways and in an extremely poor state of repair. Extra vehicle movements on this road will cause more wear and tear and issues with speeding.

**Flooding and utilities:** The site is located within Flood Zone 3. There is also no sewage system at the site so there is a need for septic tanks and there is very low water pressure which is an issue for residents.

## **GT15**

**Enforcement order:** This site is currently subject to an enforcement order which has not yet been complied with and as such should not be included for consideration. Previous planning permissions for this site have been refused.

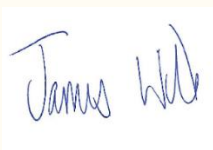
**Location:** The development is in an isolated position within the countryside and not located a reasonable distance from supporting facilities within Walton Highway. There are no pavements and any verges have been encroached upon by overgrown trees and shrubs so that there is no pedestrian refuge. There will be a clear reliance on private vehicles to access services and facilities.

**Infrastructure, flooding and utilities:** Please see concerns raised under GT14.

**Appropriateness:** This proposal is not sustainable with respect to the current capacity of key services, infrastructure and facilities and is also not appropriate having regard to the character and appearance of the local area.

In summary, local residents are concerned at the potential increase in the number of pitches and the suitability of increasing provision in the area given the existing challenges and I trust the Inquiry will give their representations due weight.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James Wild". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

James Wild MP