

Pins Ref:APP/N5090/W/24/3346789

Site: Land NW of Mays Lane, Arkley, Barnet

LPA Ref: 23/3816/FUL

I am Councillor Tim Roberts and have been a councillor for Underhill Ward for the past 10 years. I am also a member of the Council's Planning Committee.

Firstly, I have made it a priority to contact as many as possible of the Underhill residents who live closest to the Mays Lane site in question. Two weeks ago I visited Partridge Close in Mays Lane, which is the largest residential close in proximity to the site. There are 21 homes on this close and I spoke with the residents of 17 of these homes. All the residents I spoke to were aware of the planning enquiry. All the residents I spoke to stated they were against the planning application to locate two residential caravans on this site. No one I spoke with on Partridge Close was in favour of this planning application.

In addition to speaking with Partridge Close residents, I spoke with the residents of all the houses on Mays Lane that lie to the west of Shelford Road up to Cottage Farm that is directly opposite the proposed caravan site. I also spoke with all the residents of Shelford Road which lies to the east of the proposed site. The residents of all these homes were against the planning application; several said they had replied to the council's planning application notice and had requested to speak at the hearing. No local resident, out of the 30 homes most closely positioned next to the caravan site was in favour of the planning application.

Objectors to the application will have notified the council of their reasons for objection. However, misuse of green belt land and possible further applications for extended residential use of the site were the most frequent reasons stated to me for objection to the application.

My Underhill Ward is a thriving ward that has greatly increased its appeal to potential residents in the past few years. Good education facilities and access to green belt space are two of the main reasons frequently given by local residents for living in Underhill.

Barnet Council has an outstanding record for provision of housing and affordable housing. Barnet is among the top five boroughs in London for delivery of affordable homes for the year 22/23. The borough's target for 24/25 is 962 for affordable units or 40% of the total housing delivery.

It is Barnet's outstanding record on housing and affordable housing that makes this Mays Lane planning application totally irrelevant. There is no need for this housing of two caravans for residential use on a former green belt site. Up to now this two acre site has been used for grazing by livestock and has obviously maintained its green status. Local residents objecting to the application are all concerned that if this application is approved then it will be followed further applications, turning a once green field site into a housing estate. The realisation of this possible outcome will greatly affect the living standards of residents on this part of Mays Lane. Issues about traffic increase, littering, anti-social behaviour, lack of pavements to link up with the main part of Mays Lane, noise and potentially dangerous access to the site are all quoted among the reasons given for objection.

This application is not in the interests of my residents in Underhill Ward which is noted for its combination of quality housing and matching greenspace. I request that this unwanted application be rejected.

20.1.25