

HAVE YOUR SAY ON TRAVELLERS IN ROWSLEY BY 28TH APRIL!

EMAIL: planning@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

Derbyshire Dales District Council have now submitted their planning application for a temporary traveller site on Old Station Close. The application is for a 2 year site but there is nothing to stop the Council extending that once the travellers are here.

Unfortunately, the District Council do not have to include any previous submissions, so we all need to send in our comments again. Please note that anything you send will be publicly available on the Council's website. **QUOTE APPLICATION NO. 25/00200/FUL**

All your comments should include your own experiences and points of view, but certain things HAVE to be taken into account in planning decisions including the points below:

Rowsley Parish Council strongly objects to the use of Old Station Close car park as a Traveller Site as it is against the District Council's own Local Plan policy commitments as well as its Statutory Duty for the following reasons:

1. Businesses on Old Station Close employ dozens of local people and depend on the car park which is extremely busy most of the time. Loss of parking space will harm these businesses which is against the District Council's own Local Plan policy S9 that states it will support the retention of existing employment within existing communities.
2. The loss of car parking will disproportionately affect the users of the one-of-a-kind LEVEL arts centre for disabled people which is against the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty.
3. The District Council have said that if the car park is full people must park on the surrounding roads, BUT Chatsworth Road is already gridlocked on a regular basis due to parking which causes disruption on the A6, whilst Church Lane and School Lane cannot take any more parking. This is again contrary to Local Plan policy S9 which protects "existing infrastructure and connectivity" within rural communities AND Policy HC6 which states that a Gypsy and Traveller Site "would not result in a level of traffic generation which is inappropriate for roads in the area".
4. The application goes against the District Council's Local Plan policies S7 and EC11 to support the development of the White Peak Loop which has planning permission to go through the car park to keep it safe and off the road.
5. The application goes against Local Plan policy EC8 which promotes sustainable tourism. Rowsley is a main gateway to the National Park and its only public car park is also heavily used by tourists walking to Chatsworth House, Haddon Hall and Bakewell as well as walking the Derwent Valley Heritage Way, which uses Old Station Close.
6. The site is also against Local Plan policy HC6 which states that the Council will safeguard land at Watery Lane, Ashbourne for travellers, which they have not done.
7. These Travellers do not want to be in Rowsley, they want to be in Ashbourne near their family, schools and support services as stated by Dr Siobhan Spencer the Gypsy and Traveller spokeswoman at the Rowsley Public Meeting on 13/9/24.
8. The site is completely unsuitable. It is small, dark and damp. This Traveller family have left twice before of their own free will because they hate it so much.