**NOTICE OF PROPOSED CARAVAN CLUB CERTIFICATED LOCATION AT FERNEY COTTAGE PATTINGHAM ROAD -** reference number: 404 LT GM 21.

These comments are made on behalf of **Badger Parish Council (“BPC”):**

1. The centre of the small village of Badger is 0.9 miles away from the proposed site (“Site”). There are three potential routes to access the Site. The longest, through Beckbury is not less than 4 miles and the second from Stableford is 1.9 miles from the B4167.Both lanes are mostly single-track without any formal passing places. Both these approaches involve passing through Badger village which has very narrow roads, often partially blocked with parked vehicles. The route through the village also involves passing under a single track 7’9” listed brick arched bridge. Passing and reversing opportunities are extremely limited. The third access to the Site (“Access Lane”) is along another single-track lane from an unclassified road (“Road”) which joins the B4167 to the A464. The Road is narrow two way and quite heavily trafficked, being a through route from Bridgnorth to the M54. It is twisty with a number of blind bends. However, it is the only acceptable route for caravans to negotiate, simply because it is the shortest route from a two-lane highway to the Site and does not pass through the village. The Site is 0.3 miles from the Road. All the lanes often have large agricultural vehicles, often with trailers using them, with no ability to reverse if encountered. The lane linking Stableford and Beckbury is a bus route with buses taking the entire width of the lane. Parked vehicles have prevented the bus from passing on occasions causing it to turn around in a village lane and continue by another route. The disruption which could occur if a car towing a caravan meets a tractor, could cause serious problems with emergency vehicles trying to get to the village.
2. The access into the Site (or at least where the notice is posted) is on the brow of a hill but with very poor visibility. There have been two accidents on the nearby dam/bridge in the recent past. The current entrance is narrow and not accessible for vehicles towing caravans along the Access Lane, without widening the access to the field and removing some hedging. The loss of hedgerow and disruption to wildlife must be taken into consideration.
3. BPC understands that the owner of the property adjoining the Site does not have objections in principle but is concerned about safety aspects. However, she will make her own representations. The locality is attractive to walkers and cyclists and many of the latter ride in bunches, often rather too quickly for safety. The Access Lane is on a known club cycle way. The wider area has a number of tourist attractions and so the desirability of such sites is understood. However, Badger itself has no facilities for visitors.
4. BPC is very concerned about the safety of the local residents and is conscious of the difficulties which are often encountered with vehicles attempting to pass on the lanes. A number of villagers have expressed concern at the potential problems which may be caused if caravans follow Sat Navs, ignoring any instructions in the Caravan Club Handbook/website that may direct them on a route which doesn’t direct them through the village. BPC strongly opposes anything which will introduce cars and caravans along the country lanes which then pass through the village. Because of the potential for traffic disruption and the safety concerns, notwithstanding any instructions given in the Caravan Club Handbook, if approval is given for the site, it should be a requirement that the access be modified and angled so that vehicles can only gain access and egress along the 0.3 miles of the Access Lane from the wider unclassified Road. Even this short Access Lane has its hazards and will not be without its problems. The Caravan Club handbook/website should make the access requirements perfectly clear.
5. Taking all the above points into account, BPC is unable to support the application, since it believes that even with the clearest instructions given to caravanners, problems of the type envisaged will inevitably occur.

TJ Lipscombe

Chairman

15.10.2021