

WYMONDHAM HERITAGE SOCIETY

7th July 2023

Ms. Annette Feaney,
Programme Officer
Norfolk County Council.

Dear Ms. Feaney,

GNLP5005

GNLP5023

GNLP Gypsies and Travellers, Travelling Show People and Residential Caravans

I am writing on behalf of Wymondham Heritage Society to object to the use of Strayground Lane to accommodate at least 12 Travellers pitches.

Strayground Lane is an important route for walkers, giving access from the Town via Tolls Meadow and Cemetery Lane to open countryside beyond. It is part of the “Green Ribbons” strategy identified in the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Lane still retains the character and charm of a rural thoroughfare. The recent clearing of the site beyond the waste depot and enclosure with a brutal industrial style fence has impacted on the character of the Lane and is of great detriment to the character of the Bays River County Wildlife site.

As the Waste Refuse Site is to be moved, this is a good opportunity to re-instate the area as part of the County Wildlife Site. The restoration of industrial land for wildlife and public enjoyment is common practice in all areas of the country, for example coal pits. It would remove the great majority of vehicles using the Lane, particularly heavy vehicles as at the present.

The route from Norwich Road via Wharton’s Lane and Strayground Lane is very narrow and twisting with poor visibility. The volume of traffic using the Lane is in conflict with walkers, as the road is so narrow that pedestrians are forced to climb onto the verge. Any improvements to widen the Lane and create better passing bays risk losing the rural character of the Lane and County Wildlife Site.

STRAYGROUND LANE THEREFORE IS JUST NOT THE PLACE FOR AT LEAST 12 TRAVELLERS SITES. The vehicles and cars associated with the activities of the Travellers will be completely out of character with the CWS. Any concreting or buildings on the Strayground Lane site would render it completely inhospitable to wildlife, flora and fauna.

This is an idyllic site for wildlife and walkers which would remain so if this proposal were to be rejected, as it should. The current Travellers site on the London Road should be upheld and become a permanent site. It is eminently more suitable for the Travellers, with much better access to the London Road than that proposed at present.

Is there any reason why the current site on London Road, Sutton, cannot remain? To try and shoe-horn at least 12 Travellers pitches (and there could be more) into the proposed Strayground Lane site is utter madness and completely unfeasible. The resultant damage to the Lane in erecting passing places etc. is out of the question.

It is eminently time to eradicate the need for excessive vehicles along this narrow and unique By-Way. Has an ecological assessment yet been made and any identified impacts on nearby sites mitigated?

Q9 Have the sites proposed for allocation been selected using a robust, objective, and consistent process?

The answer to this question has to be “no”.

Please eliminate the Strayground Lane proposal as a Travellers site from the GNLP.

Yours sincerely,

Janis Raynsford
Chair, Environment WHS