

Helen Hooley



17th May 2026

Dear Planning Inspectorate,

WITHOUT PREJUDICE

2026-05-17 FINAL PLEA – RE OBJECTION TO LOCAL PLAN CANTERBURY/WHITSTABLE MARCH 2026

I write to you all, to reiterate my grave concerns and object on regarding the Local Plan. This is one final plea, for a sanity call and to do what's right for the existing community.

I attended the committee meetings at Whilst I thank you all for the support, the evening genuinely felt like the plan was already a done deal and that CCC were merely paying lip service as per your obligations. Again, I must express how utterly unheard and distressed we all feel about this. There were 1,000s of objections to this plan, and yet we have seen little if any response to them. The plan features many complex policies. So, to simply suggest an “all or nothing” vote, would I feel be an egregious neglect of public opinion, and would surely be subject to judicial review.

I feel that we (the community), have already provided exceptions technical and structured objectives to the plan. This letter, therefore, is instead an emotional and heartfelt plea, to you, the deciders of Whitstable/Canterbury's fate. It is a last request so that we do what's right as opposed to what is easiest.

As context, I work myself, in the realms of construction and public sector infrastructure. I understand the pressure you are under; I really do. Hundreds of thousands of pounds on surveys, design etc; “How can we ‘bin’ all of this and start again, heads will roll etc etc...” We have all been there, and it is very easy to take the easy route. Nevertheless, I am begging for your benevolence and understanding.

I shall now write specifically relating to the policies hitting my family the most, namely W9 and W6. The Golden Hill / South Street community have never felt so utterly robbed and betrayed. Putting a gypsy/traveller site bang in the middle of an existing quiet, affluent, family and red oriented community; it is beyond madness. With relation to our opinion of the proposed habitats, we are all thinking the same thing and yet we are silenced by political correctness, even though our past experiences are utterly correct.

You should know that the irreparable damage caused by your Local Plan is already happening. There have been little if any properties for sale here in the past 3-4 years. Suddenly, I have seen 3no. in the small Aurum Close, and at least another 3no. on Golden Hill. I took the liberty of speaking to 3 of these properties whilst delivering leaflets and they are all selling because of what could potentially land on their doorstep. They also confirmed that none of them had even realised what was proposed until they were made aware with campaign leaflets against the development. The collective stance was that they could not afford the dramatic devaluation of their properties, nor could they risk having family so close to the site.

These are our neighbours and our friends. We are all decent, kind and hard-working families. We are not racists, nor bigots? We have been brandished "NIMBYs" by central government, and our local government don't even have the decency to adequately publish forewarn of their intentions. Don't you think it is utterly disgusting, that none of these voters were adequately briefed of your intentions; that a gypsy site was just slipped into the plan as if it was a minor tweak?! That really is lowest of the low.

Since when were people not allowed to object to something detrimental to their livelihood? At what point is destroying families and their financial stability an ethical move? Where has the democracy of planning gone? Central Government are an absolute disgrace, and it is Local Government's moral duty to stand up for their residents and not against them!

I would now like to discuss Gypsies/Travellers being the proposed clientele. People may think badly of my judgement and declare racial prejudice; however, I declare that I bear no discrimination and instead, the opinion is based entirely upon years of personal experience. Ergo, I think that I deserve to be heard.

Professionally, I have experienced these sites for over 20 years. Every experience has involved crime, ASB, littering, music noise pollution, recreational noise pollution, chemical pollution, vermin, vandalism and endless maintenance expenditure. Facilities are trashed; items are illegally burnt. There is rarely any gratitude nor respect of the facilities. The tenants do not respect; they simply take and throw every possible loophole in the mix to avoid any accountability. Police usually become regularly involved and yet, the said individuals seem to get away with everything. It was always the usual case that police claim no evidence, or the case that the individuals just move on before they can be captured. These are all facts; you know it, we know it, so please take a moral stand and revoke the idiocy of putting the site in the middle of an affluent, quiet and crime-free setting.

More relevantly, I have suffered from Gypsies/Travellers on a personal level. Friends have been threatened with death on their family just because of an objection to ASB. This is the kind of person you are dealing with, no morals, no reason, just danger. In my late teens, I was carjacked by travellers for through the night, at knifepoint. For the 13 longest hours of my life, my car was put on the market for trade, and valuables were sold to others. Whilst driving all night under knifepoint, they planned burglaries. The incident destroyed me, PTSD hit me hard, and I have never been the same again.

You will naturally rule out my complaint; that it is an isolated incident, of which generalisation must not be cast. On that point, I would ask the members to research the expenditure, the crime, and the commonplace troubles logged at these sites. What decent person consistently trespasses and destroys public/private land? When they are given somewhere to reside, ask yourself are they grateful, law-abiding and tax-paying citizens? No, they are not! These site habitants live how they want to live and do what they want to do, much to the detriment of everybody else. Anyone who dares approach or complains receive threats, and we're not just talking blue language. We're talking long-term psychological and physical abuse. The harassment starts out small, loitering outside your house, noise all night, dumping something nasty on your doorstep. The habitants will spend me on local streets at all hours, trail bikes, litter, drugs, and there's nothing you can do about it. Every street will be regularly scouted, and soon enough, the burglaries start. If authorities become involved, then things get nastier; car damage, threats, anything that cannot be proven. If you dare to contact the police, then your family will never be safe again. Unfortunately, they take ownership of the streets, and if innocent neighbours get targeted hard, then the Gypsies/Travellers simply vanish without trace.

Yes, this all sounds like drama and prejudice, but unfortunately this is everything that myself, family and associates have ever experienced, over many many years. We all know that it's the truth, and yet we are all silenced on the basis of prejudice.

The proposal to allow travellers/gypsies direct access to Golden Hill will be an absolute haven for crime, ASB and vandalism. When are these sites ever placed in the middles of a decent neighbourhood? They are not, and for very good reasons. I would like to ask the board and planning inspectorate whether they would welcome a site moving in next to their house? Anybody that says yes, are sadly very naïve.

On a separate note, I have noted the endless list of objections which are deemed unreasonable or invalid? I am sorry but the stance that noise, "type of person", house devaluation etc. are all classified as "invalid" reasons, is beyond cruel and unjust. These decisions are destroying people's financial

security. Our houses will be utterly unsellable and the value will plummet. My friends have already had sale rejections due to "local authority search" bringing up the gypsy proposal. How dare anybody do this to good and hard-working families! Where on earth did morality go?! We would all love a world where everybody gets on, but I am very sorry to say that these people do not integrate

To conclude on this matter, we feel utterly traumatised and desperate. Financial hardship just gets worse and worse. Over the past 5 years we have endured miscarriage, cancer, and life-changing surgery. We have a 3yr old, and we are just desperate for peace and safety. So please, please stop ruining lives with this ridiculous and cruel proposal.

Separately, I would like to remind you of how ridiculously complex the covenants are on this land. No developer will manage to overcome these matters without High Court. Nobody has done their homework, so again, the concept is incredulous.

I shall also remind you that CCC's Jan 2026 Strategy, Sec on 4.1 utterly contradicts the Local Plan, as it confirms that no new Traveller sites are required, and yet here we are, proposing one of the largest sites in the UK in an utterly wrongful location.

Additionally, national guidance suggests no greater a provision of 10.no pitches in any proposal. We would again, challenge this negligence. Something is very awry with all of this.

I also wish to make comment upon the individual who is making this land available. He was seen being arrested today, whilst attempting to drive away from 3no armed officers. If you are not already aware of the magnitude of his libellous abuse across many Facebook community pages, then I would suggest that you liaise with the police. Multiple neighbours of Golden Hill and surrounding streets have been verbally abused or challenged in the streets. There is clearly a very nasty personal vendetta is going on, and his intention were even heard in the street yesterday, of his plan to "devalue properties" by "putting Gypsies behind the houses". By consenting to W6/W9, The Council (and/or Planning Inspectorate), are embroiling themselves into a web of abuse, harassment, and scandal. Should the council/developer risk doing business with such an individual, then it will very certainly hit the press I am sure of that.

To conclude, the Local Plan received 1,000s of extremely valid objections. We saw little if any consideration of these. Over the past 3 days, we collected 348 local objections on a petition which you are now in possession of. Over such a small time-frame, the volume speaks volumes in our opinion. It is not too late to remove these policies, nor is it too late to object to the entire plan.

Please ladies and gentleman, consider our failed infrastructures and do the right thing.

Yours,

Helen Hooles. [REDACTED]