

Planning Committee – 9 December 2008

Report of the Development Manager

Enforcement Item

Parish:

1. **File/Complaint Number** 47/2006/004
2. Slough Green Caravan Park, Burnt House Copse, West Hatch
3. **Names of Owners** Mr J Penfold, Paddock Farm, Peak Lane, Compton Dundon, Somerton TA11 6PE
4. **Name of Occupiers** Miss R Cathcart
5. **Nature of Contravention**

Stationing of caravan outside the permitted area of the Slough Green site for residential purposes.

6. Planning History

It was brought to the Council's attention in September 2008 that the owner of the above site had allowed a family to occupy land that falls outside the approved site area. The owner was contacted and sent a letter on 22nd September 2008 requesting that he removes the family from the land within 21 days from the date of the letter. After the expiry of the 21 days the owner contacted the Authority and stated that the occupier had seven children, one of which had recently been involved in a serious accident and had no where else to go. The owner of the site has recently submitted an application for a Gypsy/Traveller family on other land he owns.

7. Reasons for Taking Action

The permission granted on 14th August 2007 was for named persons only and was restricted to an area indicated on the approved plan. The area occupied by Miss Cathcart falls outside the area and is adjacent to a County Wildlife site and Thurlbear Wood SSSI. It is considered that the occupation of a plot within this area may damage the ecological character and therefore contrary to Taunton Deane Local Plan Policies EN2 and EN3. It is not considered that any personal circumstances associated with this case are such as to outweigh this strong objection on substantive planning grounds.

8. Recommendation

The Solicitor to the Council be authorised to serve an Enforcement Notice and take prosecution action subject to satisfactory evidence being obtained that the notice has not been complied with.

In preparing this report the Planning Officer has considered fully the implications and requirements of the Human Rights Act 1998.

CONTACT OFFICER: Mr J A W Hardy – 01823 356466