

**Case Name:** *Whitehead (On Behalf of the Copthorne Village Association), R (On the Application Of) v Mid Sussex District Council* [2020] EWHC 3166 (Admin) (23 November 2020)

**Full case:** [Click Here](#)

**Commentary:**

The High Court has dismissed the Claimant, Whitehead (on behalf of the Copthorne Village Association) challenge of the grant of outline planning permission to Gleeson Strategic Land ("Gleeson") by the Defendant, Mid Sussex District Council, for a residential development at land north of Clayton Mills, Ockley, Hassock, West Sussex.

The permission was challenged on grounds that the Officer's Report misdirected members of the planning committee by using the constraints of the site at Hassock to justify the provision of pitches at a different site Copthorne, which Gleeson had secured for £750,000 and that the Officer's Report was based on a misinterpretation of the development plan. Further, it was argued that the report failed to draw attention to constraints on the Copthorne site, which included the Defendant's lack of control over it.

The Claimant argued that the absence of provision on-site for gypsy and traveller pitches would "cause pressure to approve unsuitable sites in other locations".

The Court held that the officers were not required to assess whether there was a good reason for not requiring provision on-site and that off-site provisions were consistent with the local development plan policies. It did not consider that an officer was required to investigate or tell the committee about the details of the arrangement for securing the Copthorne site or the agreement between the Defendant and the landowner.

*Case summary prepared by Lida Nguyen*