# Saundersfoot residents block travellers' site plan to protect Pembrokeshire beauty spot



Residents of Saundersfoot in Pembrokeshire have achieved a significant victory in their effort to halt the establishment of a travellers' site in the picturesque Welsh village. The proposal, which sought to construct a static caravan, a touring caravan, and accompanying utility and ecological enhancements at Froghall Yard on Moreton Lane, faced considerable backlash from the local community. With a population of approximately 2,500, over 300 residents signed a petition voicing their opposition to the development, demonstrating a united front against the plans that could potentially alter the character of their village.

The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park development management committee ultimately rejected the application, citing the lack of local connection between the applicant and the community as a critical issue. Dai Evans, the applicant and a member of a long-standing Romany Gypsy family, argued that he currently resides in overcrowded conditions on a traveller site in Pontypool, approximately 100 miles away. However, locals questioned the justification for choosing a site so far from his residence, noting the area had not been used for caravans or any similar purposes for over 30 years.

Members of the Saundersfoot Community Council unanimously opposed the application, echoing concerns that allowing such a development would set a troubling precedent, opening the door to overdevelopment throughout the national park. A community member expressed that the plans would represent "gross overdevelopment," potentially leading to further encroachments on the area’s natural beauty. Additionally, worries were raised about how the project would affect views along Incline Way and the overall landscape integrity.

The opposition to the proposal highlights a broader context of tension surrounding travellers' sites in Wales. Following a recent inquiry by members of the Senedd, ongoing issues related to the living conditions of Gypsy and Romany communities across the nation were underscored. Many participants in the inquiry raised alarms about insufficient housing provision, escalating rent, and utility costs, as well as the lack of suitable pitches for travelling communities.

This particular case reflects not only the local sentiments in Saundersfoot but also the complex dynamics at play when it comes to integrating the needs of diverse communities. Despite the community's recent win, there are suggestions from the planning agent that the application might be resubmitted, leaving the door open for renewed discussions on how best to balance community interests with the rights of those seeking to establish homes in the region.

The growing opposition to traveller sites was further echoed by another successful petition in the area, where over 1,200 signatures were gathered in a broader call for halting the approval of new caravan sites in regions already perceived to be at capacity. This petition highlights the ongoing concerns regarding the sustainability of such developments, particularly in ecologically sensitive areas like Pembrokeshire.

As the debate continues, the balance between community preservation and the rights of transient populations remains a compelling and contentious issue, drawing attention from local councils and the Welsh Assembly alike.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14750787/families-win-fight-stop-travellers-pitch-beauty-spot.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.herald.wales/west-wales/pembrokeshire/nearly-300-sign-petition-against-proposed-traveller-site-in-saundersfoot/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14750787/families-win-fight-stop-travellers-pitch-beauty-spot.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[3]](https://www.tenby-today.co.uk/news/planning/saundersfoot-traveller-site-proposal-faces-strong-opposition-782871), [[4]](https://www.tenby-today.co.uk/news/planning/saundersfoots-traveller-site-proposal-faces-community-backlash-779868)
* Paragraph 3 – [[6]](https://www.herald.wales/west-wales/pembrokeshire/pembrokeshire-caravan-petition-to-be-noted-only/), [[5]](https://www.tenby-today.co.uk/news/planning/objectors-label-traveller-plans-for-saundersfoot-site-as-misleading-766716)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14750787/families-win-fight-stop-travellers-pitch-beauty-spot.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[7]](https://www.herald.wales/west-wales/pembrokeshire/pembrokeshire-caravan-petition-to-be-noted-only/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14750787/families-win-fight-stop-travellers-pitch-beauty-spot.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.herald.wales/west-wales/pembrokeshire/nearly-300-sign-petition-against-proposed-traveller-site-in-saundersfoot/> - Residents in Saundersfoot, Pembrokeshire, have launched a petition opposing a proposed traveller site on Moreton Lane. Nearly 300 signatures have been collected against the plan, which includes a static caravan, a touring caravan, a day/utility room, and ecological enhancements. The Saundersfoot Community Council has also unanimously voted to object to the application, citing concerns over the site's agricultural status and its potential impact on the local landscape. The application is being considered by the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority, with a site visit planned before any formal decision is made.
3. <https://www.tenby-today.co.uk/news/planning/saundersfoot-traveller-site-proposal-faces-strong-opposition-782871> - A proposed traveller site on the outskirts of Saundersfoot has faced strong opposition from the local community. Nearly 300 residents have signed a petition against the development, which includes a static caravan, a touring caravan, a day/utility room, and ecological enhancements. The Saundersfoot Community Council has also unanimously voted to object to the application, citing concerns over the site's agricultural status and its potential impact on the local landscape. The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority is expected to visit the site before making a formal decision.
4. <https://www.tenby-today.co.uk/news/planning/saundersfoots-traveller-site-proposal-faces-community-backlash-779868> - The proposed traveller site in Saundersfoot has sparked significant community backlash. Nearly 300 residents have signed a petition opposing the development, which includes a static caravan, a touring caravan, a day/utility room, and ecological enhancements. The Saundersfoot Community Council has unanimously voted to object to the application, expressing concerns over the site's agricultural status and its potential impact on the local landscape. The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority is expected to visit the site before making a formal decision.
5. <https://www.tenby-today.co.uk/news/planning/objectors-label-traveller-plans-for-saundersfoot-site-as-misleading-766716> - Objectors to the proposed traveller site in Saundersfoot have labelled the application as misleading. They argue that the application focuses on a small portion of the overall site, implying no intention to develop the rest. Concerns have been raised about the potential for further development, as the applicant has already cleared and levelled the entire site, including the removal of trees and hedgerow. The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority is expected to visit the site before making a formal decision.
6. <https://www.herald.wales/west-wales/pembrokeshire/pembrokeshire-caravan-petition-to-be-noted-only/> - A petition by a senior Pembrokeshire councillor calling for a halt to new caravan sites in areas already at capacity has been considered by the Pembrokeshire County Council. The petition, which attracted 1,251 signatures, highlighted areas such as Pleasant Valley, Summerhill, and surrounding regions close to the coast and National Park. Despite meeting the threshold for debate, the council decided to note the petition and encouraged the public to continue making representations ahead of the adoption of the second local development plan (LDP2).
7. <https://www.herald.wales/west-wales/pembrokeshire/pembrokeshire-caravan-petition-to-be-noted-only/> - A petition by a senior Pembrokeshire councillor calling for a halt to new caravan sites in areas already at capacity has been considered by the Pembrokeshire County Council. The petition, which attracted 1,251 signatures, highlighted areas such as Pleasant Valley, Summerhill, and surrounding regions close to the coast and National Park. Despite meeting the threshold for debate, the council decided to note the petition and encouraged the public to continue making representations ahead of the adoption of the second local development plan (LDP2).