# Burley villagers reject travellers’ permanent settlement plans amid fears for New Forest’s character



Residents of a quaint village in the New Forest, Hampshire, are expressing their discontent following the arrival of a group of travellers who have set up camp on farm land nearby. The situation has sparked significant outrage among the local community, who view the presence of the caravans as a direct threat to the character and tranquillity of their village.

The travellers are not only occupying the land but are also advocating for local councillors to approve plans for a permanent settlement, which includes provisions for e-bike charging stations. This proposal has met with stern resistance from locals, who regard it as a superficial or "performative" gesture lacking genuine consideration for the unique environment of the New Forest. One resident articulated a common sentiment, stating, “Protecting the unique character of the New Forest National Park should be a top priority.” This elucidates the villagers' deeper concerns about the long-term implications of such developments on their beloved countryside.

Burley, with a population of just over 1,300, has a rich history and is an integral part of the New Forest National Park. This area is celebrated for its stunning natural landscapes, diverse wildlife, and historical significance. The New Forest National Park Authority is currently in the process of reviewing its Local Plan, aiming to strike a balance between necessary development and the preservation of the park's distinctive character. Community consultations for this review will take place starting in February 2025, providing an opportunity for locals to voice their opinions on future developments that could impact their environment.

In the broader context of caravan culture in the UK, there is a growing debate on how to accommodate travelling communities while respecting the rights and concerns of permanent residents. The New Forest area, known for its picturesque scenery and tranquil environment, is particularly sensitive to these discussions. Residents fear that allowing permanent settlements for travellers could alter the landscape irrevocably and disrupt the balance that has allowed the region to thrive as a tourist destination and a peaceful retreat for locals.

As the situation in Burley continues to unfold, the villagers remain steadfast in their commitment to preserve the natural beauty and character of the New Forest. Their passionate response serves as a testament to the challenges rural communities face in navigating the complexities of growth, conservation, and community identity. The outcome of the ongoing discussions with local authorities will likely have far-reaching consequences, not just for Burley but for other similarly situated villages within the National Park.

In an environment where tourism and nature conservation often clash with development desires, the Burley villagers find themselves at a crucial crossroads—one that could define the future of their community for generations to come.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2062549/pretty-little-uk-village-uproar), [[4]](https://www.realnewforest.org/commoners-urged-to-give-opinions-on-local-plan-review/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2062549/pretty-little-uk-village-uproar), [[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burley%2C_Hampshire)
* Paragraph 3 – [[4]](https://www.realnewforest.org/commoners-urged-to-give-opinions-on-local-plan-review/), [[7]](https://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/planning/local-plan/new-forest-national-park-local-plan-review-2025/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[6]](https://www.forestryengland.uk/forest-planning/new-forest-inclosures-forest-plan-2019-2029), [[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burley%2C_Hampshire)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2062549/pretty-little-uk-village-uproar), [[7]](https://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/planning/local-plan/new-forest-national-park-local-plan-review-2025/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2062549/pretty-little-uk-village-uproar> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.caravansforsale.co.uk/touring-caravans/burley-hampshire> - This webpage lists various touring caravans available for sale in Burley, Hampshire. It features a range of models, including the Bailey Olympus 462 (2013), Hymer Living (2007), and Lunar Sussex Chilgrove (2011), among others. Each listing provides details such as the make, model, year, and brief descriptions of the caravans, catering to potential buyers interested in purchasing a touring caravan in the Burley area.
3. <https://www.caravansforsale.co.uk/static-caravans/burley-hampshire> - This page offers a selection of static caravans and mobile homes for sale in Burley, Hampshire. Notable listings include the ABI Beverley (2022), ABI Arizona (6 berth), and Willerby Rio Gold (2018). The site provides comprehensive information on each caravan, including specifications, condition, and location, assisting prospective buyers in finding suitable static caravans in the Burley region.
4. <https://www.realnewforest.org/commoners-urged-to-give-opinions-on-local-plan-review/> - An article urging commoners and residents to participate in the review of the New Forest National Park's Local Plan. The consultation, running from February 4 to March 18, 2025, seeks public input on development within the park. The plan aims to balance conservation efforts with local needs, ensuring the New Forest's unique character is preserved while accommodating appropriate development.
5. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burley,\_Hampshire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burley%2C_Hampshire) - A Wikipedia entry detailing the village and civil parish of Burley in Hampshire, England. The article covers Burley's history, geography, and notable features, including its location within the New Forest National Park. It also mentions the village's population, amenities, and cultural aspects, providing a comprehensive overview of Burley for readers seeking information about this Hampshire village.
6. <https://www.forestryengland.uk/forest-planning/new-forest-inclosures-forest-plan-2019-2029> - This document outlines the New Forest Inclosures Forest Plan for 2019-2029, encompassing approximately 8,500 hectares of the New Forest Crown Lands managed by the Forestry Commission. The plan details the management of habitats such as heathland, grassland, and ancient woodlands, aiming to balance conservation efforts with sustainable use and public enjoyment of the New Forest.
7. <https://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/planning/local-plan/new-forest-national-park-local-plan-review-2025/> - An announcement from the New Forest National Park Authority regarding the review of the Local Plan in 2025. The review seeks public feedback on development within the park, aiming to ensure that planning policies effectively conserve and enhance the New Forest's unique character while accommodating appropriate development. The consultation period runs from February 4 to March 18, 2025.