# Travellers’ Burley settlement plan sparks outrage over ‘token’ e-bike chargers and suburban threat



A controversial planning application for a new settlement in Burley, New Forest, has sparked significant local outrage, as a group of travellers aims to establish their presence with the installation of e-bike chargers. The proposal, which has been described by critics as an attempt to incorporate 'token sustainability features,' has drawn sharp objections from more than 70 local residents concerned about its potential impact on the historic village and the surrounding environment.

The planners behind the proposal, Michael Chalk and Tom Butler, previously established static caravans on former horse paddocks before submitting an application that includes two static caravans, additional touring caravans, boundary fencing, parking facilities, and various other amenities, including the contentious e-bike charging points. Locals have accused them of adopting a façade of sustainability to secure approval for a move perceived as one that seeks to urbanise the area. This sentiment was echoed by Philip Mosley, a resident who criticized the inclusion of e-bike chargers as insufficient to mitigate the broader environmental impacts associated with permanent residential housing.

This situation is further complicated by the geographical context of New Forest National Park. With its picturesque heathland and rich biodiversity, the area is cherished for its natural beauty. Residents fear that the application could set a dangerous precedent, allowing for further developments that disrupt the character of their community. Mosley underscored that genuine sustainability should harmonise with the environmental context, rather than merely be a pretext for building.

Further criticism came from Andrew and Rachel Holloway, residents adjacent to the paddocks, who lamented the transformation of their pastoral view into an 'urbanised' landscape. They noted that the developers’ additions—such as grey plastic bike sheds—fail to enhance the scenic quality of the New Forest, which the couple feels has been irrevocably damaged. Their sentiments highlight a broader concern among the villagers that the proposed development could compromise the delicate balance between housing needs and environmental preservation.

Dr A Lawrence and Dr C Walter, expressing their concerns, labelled the application as 'mischievous.' They argued that it seeks to validate an encroachment of residential building onto rural land within a National Park, reiterating that the proposed infrastructure fundamentally alters the land's nature. Their assessment resonates with fears that incremental development like this could lead to a gradual suburbanisation of Burley.

Compounding local frustrations is the presence of 'threatening signage' erected by Chalk and Butler upon their arrival, which warns trespassers of guard dogs and restricted access. This aggressive posture was cited by at least one objector as indicative of a reluctance to integrate into the community, contradicting the applicants' claims of intent to meld with local life.

As the New Forest Park Authority prepares to make a decision on the application, the discussions surrounding it reveal deeper tensions about sustainable development, community identity, and the preservation of ecological integrity in one of England's most cherished natural landscapes. The villagers' objections reflect a desire to protect the unique character of Burley, underscoring the ongoing challenge of balancing housing needs with the integral importance of environmental sustainability.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14760923/Travellers-woo-councill-install-e-bike-chargers-New-Forest.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14760923/Travellers-woo-councill-install-e-bike-chargers-New-Forest.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490),
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* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14760923/Travellers-woo-councill-install-e-bike-chargers-New-Forest.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490),
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14760923/Travellers-woo-councill-install-e-bike-chargers-New-Forest.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490),

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1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14760923/Travellers-woo-councill-install-e-bike-chargers-New-Forest.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data