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CULTURE

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Date: 23rd August 2010

Site at: North Fairground Site, Vale of Health, Camden

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Mr. Charles Frederick Danetre Abbott is retired but still oversees the operation of the north fairground site and ensures all facilities are maintained and business rates are paid. Mr. Abbott's family, in particular his sons and grandsons undertake the main provision of carousels and stalls to fairground sites across the UK. The family currently operates 11 stalls and carousels from the site. These include rifle ranges, planes, fishes, and fun house. Photographs of the Abbott's fun house, planes and burger vans (dated 1996 - 2008) are enclosed.

The usual working of the site is that for much of the spring and summer the carousels and stalls are touring the UK. They return to the site occasionally during this period to repair equipment. For the past few years during late summer a few of the stalls have operated on this site, open to those that visit the Vale, however this appears to have ceased in 2006. The stalls and carousels return during the winter months (October - March) for repair and maintenance. Twice a year (Easter and Christmas) the site is also used as a main staging post. This allows the fair operating at Covent Garden to store their equipment and caravans while operating in London.

There are eleven permanent caravans on the site as detailed above. The rest of the caravans that visit the site are temporary and are mainly used by other fairground workers who individually use the site as a staging post and provide services to fairgrounds, such as electricians and mechanics. Nearly all those who are permanent on the site help out repairing and maintaining the fairground equipment, though some permanent residents also have full time employment elsewhere.


I personally have been to site three times during the course of the last six weeks and at no time have I seen 21 caravans parked on the site. On my first visit there were twelve caravans, on the second visit ten caravans and on the third visit there were sixteen caravans and a carousel which was being prepared to take to a show.

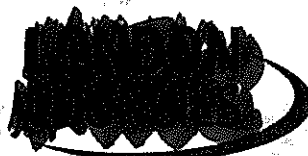
Though it would appear that the use of the fairground site has diminished from its heyday in the 1980's, it is still an active showman quarters and there is little evidence to support that this site has been a residential site for the last ten years. There is certainly little evidence in my opinion to support that has in excess of twenty residential caravans on the site.

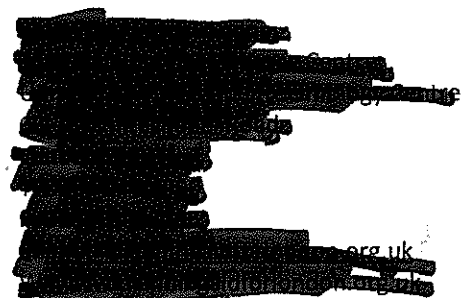
Should you require any further information then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,






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