

Planning for Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation

10 January 2024

Borough Council of
King's Lynn &
West Norfolk



Legal Requirements

The Housing Act 2004

- Places a duty on local housing authorities to undertake regular assessments of the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers either living in, or resorting to their area
- Requires local authorities to include the needs of Gypsies and Travellers in any housing strategy they produce and to take any such strategy into account in exercising their functions

Legal Requirements

Equality Act 2010

- Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers are covered by the protected characteristics of race. Local authorities have a duty under this Act to **actively** seek to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and promote good race relations

Public Sector Equality Duty

- Duty on public authorities to consider how their policies and decisions affect people who are protected under the Equalities Act

Policy Requirements

Those that meet the definition for planning purposes in terms of National Planning Policy:

- a 5-year supply of specific deliverable sites through allocations
- specific developable sites for years 6-15 of a local plan
- Where there is no identified need, criterion-based policies should be included

Those that do not meet the definition for planning purposes:

- Travellers who no longer travel and therefore no longer fall under the planning definition
- Still need to provide culturally suitable housing under the requirements of the Equality Act.
- Housing need to be assessed as part of the wider housing needs of the area and usually addressed through criteria-based policies.

Gypsy and Travellers Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) 2023

- Identified Gypsy & Traveller and Travelling Showpeople sites
- Identified the number of pitches/plots
- Undertook interviews
- Identified households that met the planning definition
- Identified those that didn't
- Determined current and future needs.

Need by year periods

Year Period	Dates	Need (Pitches)	Need (Plots)
0-5	2023-2027	71	4
6-10	2028-2032	10	-
11-15	2033-2037	11	1
16-17	2038-2039	5	-
0-17	2023-2039	97	5

*was previously 76 pitches and 102 over the plan period.

How is the Council Planning to Meet 5-year Accommodation Needs?

- Identify existing authorised sites/yards that are capable/suitable to accommodate additional pitches/plots to meet the needs of the families on those sites = **37 pitches**
- formalise long standing tolerated and unauthorised sites where there is an identified current or future need = **4 pitches**
- Identify new sites (West Dereham and Wheatley Bank) for Gypsy and Traveller use = **11 pitches** still short of **19 pitches to meet the 5-year need.**
- Identify other potential land/sites through ‘Broad Locations’ for growth (**which could accommodate up to 60 pitches**) to potentially accommodate the remaining need.
- The strategy is to consult on all of the above sites/locations to provide flexibility to the finalised list of allocated sites in March 2024.

Consultation Period

The Consultation on the Gypsy and Traveller Potential Sites and Policy begins on the **26th January and last for 6 weeks until the 8th March 2024.**

There will be four documents subject to the consultation:

1. The Gypsy and Traveller Potential Sites and Policy Consultation Document
2. The Gypsy and Traveller Site Assessment Document
3. The Gypsy and Traveller Sustainability Appraisal
4. The Gypsy and Traveller Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 2.