

# Planning for Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation

2 August 2023

Borough Council of  
King's Lynn &  
West Norfolk



- **Legal Requirements**
- **Policy Requirements**
- **Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment (2023)**
- **Accommodation Needs**
- **Options to meet the accommodation needs**
- **Work being undertaken**
- **Timeline for work to be undertaken**

# 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

## National Planning Policy Framework

- Requires housing needs for Travellers be assessed and reflected in planning policies

## Planning Policy for Travellers Sites

- Provides a definition of **‘Gypsy and Travellers’** and **‘Travelling Showpeople’** for planning purposes

Must address needs for those that meet the planning definition and those that do not – in different ways



# Policy Requirements

## Those that meet the definition for planning purposes:

- a 5-year supply of specific deliverable sites
- 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.



# Current Situation

Category	Sites/Yards	Pitches/Plots
Public Sites	2	44
Private with planning permission	56	128
Tolerated	4	10
Unauthorised	12	15
Displaced	10	10
Travelling Showpeople Yards with planning permission	6	23
Travelling Showpeople Yards Tolerated	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>231</b>



# Planning Status of Households

Status	Meet Planning Definition	Does not Meet Planning Definition	Undetermined
<b>Gypsy &amp; Travellers</b>			
Public Sites	6	35	5
Private Sites	73	43	7
Tolerated Sites	1	7	0
Unauthorised Sites	10	3	2
Displaced	7	3	0
<b>Travelling Showpeople</b>			
TSP Private	17	0	0
TSP Tolerated	1	0	0
<b>Net Pitch Need</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>14</b>

# Current and Future Need

<b>Current Need (1-5 years)</b>	<b>Pitches (G&amp;T)</b>	<b>Plots (Travelling Showpeople)</b>
Households on unauthorised developments	5	-
Concealed Households/Doubling Up/Over-Crowding	41	3
5-year need from teenage children	23	1
Displacement	7	-
<b>Total Current Need</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Future Need (years 6-17)</b>	<b>Pitches</b>	<b>Plots</b>
New Household Formation	26	1
<b>Total Future Need</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Net Pitch Need (Plan Period)</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>5</b>

# Need by year periods

Year Period	Dates	Need (Pitches)	Need (Plots)
0-5	2023-2027	76	4
6-10	2028-2032	10	-
11-15	2033-2037	11	1
16-17	2038-2039	5	-
<b>0-17</b>	<b>2023-2039</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>5</b>

# Understanding the identified need

- No identified need for transit provision
- The need comes from households on existing authorized/unauthorized or tolerated pitches/plots
- Most sites are small and privately owned by families
- Teenage children likely to stay with extended family
- Logical to try and accommodate those needs on existing sites where possible



# How to meet 5 year identified need

- Identify existing authorised sites/yards that are capable/suitable to accommodate additional pitches/plots to meet the needs of the families on those sites
- Identify sites/yards where there is an identified need and there are vacant plots that can be used to meet current and future need
- Consider extension of authorised sites where there is an identified need but currently no capacity for additional pitches/plots
- Consider formalising tolerated sites where there is an identified current or future need
- Consider formalising unauthorised sites
- Use Council owned land to provide provision
- Potentially identify new sites (Call for Sites)



# Work Being undertaken

- Assessing all existing sites (authorized/unauthorized/tolerated)
- Available/suitable and deliverable
- Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment on all sites
- Seek input from Highways on access to sites
- Concentrating on sites where need has been identified in the first instance



# Timeline for Gypsy & Traveller Work

	2023							2024	
	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Work required for the Local Plan	A	B/D	B/C/D	B/C/E	B/C/E/F	G/H	H	I	I/J

## Key Stages of required work

A	Finalise the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA)
B	Update the HELAA to include the Gypsy and Traveller sites and undertake site assessments
C	Update the Housing Need Assessment to include the recommendations from the GTAA
D	Undertake informal consultation with statutory infrastructure providers
E	Prepare relevant evidence such as a Sustainability Appraisal and an update to the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.
F	Prepare draft planning policies on Gypsy and Traveller Provision
G	Cabinet Approval for the formal 6-week Consultation Period
H	Undertake a formal 6-week consultation
I	Produce finalised Policies and evidence
J	Cabinet Approval for finalised documents



# Questions?

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