

Provision for Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople

Policy H/20: Provision for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

1. Provision will be made for at least 11 plots for Travelling Showpeople between 2011 and 2031, as indicated in the Cambridgeshire, King's Lynn & West Norfolk, Peterborough and West Suffolk Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2016.
2. Sites that have unrestricted planning permission for Gypsy and Traveller or Travelling Showpeople site use are safeguarded for this use. Planning permission for alternative development or changes of use will not be permitted.

- 7.72 The Government's Planning Policy for Traveller Sites requires that local planning authorities set targets for the provision of Gypsies and Traveller pitches and Travelling Showpeople plots which address the likely site accommodation needs of travellers in their area, working collaboratively with neighbouring local planning authorities. This planning guidance was revised in 2015, in particular revising the definition of Gypsies and Travellers for the purposes of planning.

- 7.73 Responding to the new guidance and the need for up to date evidence on the level of need, the Council joined forces with other local authorities in Cambridgeshire, as well as parts of Norfolk and Suffolk, to commission a new Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA), which was completed in 2016.
- 7.74 Government policy requires Councils to maintain a five year land supply of Travellers sites, in a similar way to housing, and identify deliverable sites to meet the needs to meet identified for the first five years. The GTAA identified no need for Gypsy and Traveller pitches during the plan period, taking account of existing available supply. The Local Plan does not propose any further allocations.
- 7.75 The GTAA identified a need for additional Travelling Showpeople Plots, particularly arising from overcrowding on existing plots.
- 7.76 The assessment acknowledges that it was not possible to determine the travelling status of a number of households, and a proportion of these may meet the definition provided in the PPTS. Any proposals for sites in the district will be considered according to Policies H/22 and H/23. The GTAA will be reviewed regularly. There will be a need to monitor the plan and review it as necessary to take account of more up to date evidence.

Figure 9: Gypsy and Traveller need in South Cambridgeshire

Period	Need for Gypsy and Traveller Pitches	Need for Travelling Showpeople Plots
2016 - 2021	-17	9
2021 - 2026	2	1
2026 – 2031	3	1
TOTAL 2016 to 2031	-12	11

Source: Cambridgeshire, King's Lynn & West Norfolk, Peterborough and West Suffolk Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2016.

- 7.77 To ensure that the levels of Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation are maintained, sites are safeguarded to meet the continuing housing needs of these communities. Safeguarding will ensure that sites are not lost to competing uses. This could be a particular issue in Chesterton Fen Road where major developments are taking place close by. Unrestricted means not subject to conditions restricting the time of occupancy such as a temporary or personal planning permission. The policy will apply to any new permission granted as well existing sites. It excludes former publicly owned sites at Meadow Lane, Willingham and Mettle Hill, Meldreth, where the use has been discontinued.

- 7.78 The Council was planning to produce a separate Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document, and consulted on principles in 2006, and site options and policies in 2009. Following significant changes to government policy, including the removal of regional plans, it was determined that Gypsy and Traveller issues should be addressed as part of a single Local plan, rather than continuing to prepare a separate document.
- 7.79 Needs Assessments are reviewed periodically. There will be a need to monitor the plan and review it as necessary to take account of more up to date evidence.
- 7.80 The Government's Planning Policy for Travellers Sites requires plans to identify specific sites, or where not possible broad locations, where future need will be met. The Council considers that major developments provide an opportunity to deliver provision to meet longer term needs should they arise.
- 7.81 In respect of those Gypsies and Travellers or Travelling Showpeople who do not lead a nomadic lifestyle according to the planning definition, South Cambridgeshire will continue to assess and plan to meet their needs, as part of its wider responsibilities to plan to meet the accommodation needs of its settled community. The Housing Act 1985 (as amended by the Housing and Planning Act 2016) includes a requirement to consider the needs of people residing in or resorting to the District with respect to the provision of sites on which caravans can be stationed, or places on inland waterways where houseboats can be moored. Policy S/13 includes a commitment to consider the implications of an assessment, including whether any site allocations should be made to meet any need identified, working with the local housing authority, through an early review of the Local Plan.