

Provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

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1.1 Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople have particular accommodation needs that require additional consideration. To ensure that members of these communities are able to access decent and appropriate housing with access to services including health and education, the Council must make provision for accommodation to meet identified needs.

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- 1) When considering planning applications for sites for Gypsies and Travellers or Travelling Showpeople, a criteria based approach will be used. The following criteria will be taken into account:
 - a) Avoid areas at risk from all sources of flooding
 - b) Avoid causing an adverse impact on areas of recognised wildlife, heritage or landscape importance, and on the openness of the Green Belt;
 - c) Be in or near existing settlements with access by foot and/ or public transport to local services, including shops, schools and healthcare;
 - d) Be well located to the highway network, with safe and convenient vehicular and pedestrian access to the site;
 - e) Provide adequate on-site facilities for parking, storage, play and residential amenity;
 - f) Provide adequate levels of privacy and residential amenities for occupiers and not be detrimental to the amenities of nearby occupiers; and
 - g) The circumstances of the applicant and their need for pitches on the application site.
- 2) Existing Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople sites/yards will be safeguarded unless there is robust and justified evidence that there is no longer a need for their retention.

Reasoned Justification:

1.2 The NPPF sets out that within the context of establishing need (housing), the size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups in the community should be assessed and reflected in planning policies and specifically refers to travellers as one of these groups.

1.3 Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS) sets out the Government's planning policy for traveller sites and should be read in conjunction with the National Planning Policy Framework. The PPTS states that the Government's overarching aim is to ensure fair and equal treatment for travellers, in a way that facilitates the traditional and nomadic way of life of travellers while respecting the interests of the settled community.

1.4 The Council will seek to meet identified needs on suitable sites in sustainable locations and to maintain a five-year supply of deliverable pitches/plots taking into account the findings of the Council's Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (July 2025) and any subsequent updates. All the identified Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Sites within the District will be 'safeguarded' to ensure that the permitted use as a traveller site is not lost through the grant of any subsequent planning permission whilst there remains a need for sites.

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1.5 The table below sets out the identified need for gypsy and traveller pitches within the District by year periods. There is a need of 37 pitches arising from those households who meet the planning definition and a need of 4 pitches arising from households with undetermined need.

Year Period	Dates	PPTS Need	Undetermined Need
0 – 5	2025 – 29	21	1
6 – 10	2030 – 34	5	1
11 – 15	2035 – 39	7	1
16 – 20	2040 – 41	4	1
0 – 20	2025 – 41	37	4

1.6 The table below sets out the identified need for travelling showpeople plots within the District by year periods. There is a need of 6 plots arising from those households who meet the planning definition and a need of 10 plots arising from households with undetermined need.

Year Period	Dates	PPTS Need	Undetermined Need
0 – 5	2025 – 29	6	5
6 – 10	2030 – 34	0	2
11 – 15	2035 – 39	0	2
16 – 20	2040 – 41	0	1
0 – 20	2025 – 41	6	10

1.7 The GTAA has not identified the requirement for transit sites within the District, as such we have not planned for such a facility at the current time, although will keep this approach under review as suggested by the GTAA.

1.8 There are a range of different methods to meet identified need, and often a combination of methods is often most effective. The approaches can be categorised as a criteria-based policy approach, extension of existing sites, allocating entirely new gypsy and traveller sites, or allocating parts of strategic general needs housing sites. A combination of approaches will be utilised in order to meet the need identified within the GTAA.