

GYPSY AND TRAVELLER SITES: LOCAL PLAN MONITORING REPORT – DECEMBER 2019

Background

National Planning Policy for Gypsy and Traveller (G&T) sites (Aug 2015) requires Local planning authorities identify a 5 years supply against their locally set pitch targets. This note summarises estimates of need and provision for permanent gypsy and traveller pitches as at December 2019. This monitoring report does not cover unauthorised sites.

Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA)

A Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment was undertaken across Somerset Councils in 2010. This evidence is now out of date but remains the basis of estimates in the adopted Local Plan.

The 2010 GTAA provides a starting estimate of the **existing need** for pitches – drawn from survey work and counts on unauthorised sites and encampments - together with an estimate of **future need**. Future need is based on national assumptions of GT household formation. An update to the GTAA was made in July 2013 which ‘rolled forward’ the future need figures to 2032. Copies of the GTAA are available on the Mendip website. A new GTAA survey has been commissioned with neighbouring Somerset Authorities to start in February 2020. This will take account of changes to the planning definition of Gypsy and Travellers in national guidance. Estimates of future need will also be re-assessed as most recent GTAA studies are based on much lower levels of growth. The Council has committed to an early review of Local Plan Part 1 which will take account of this updated evidence.

Council Policy

Policy DP15 of the Local Plan Part (adopted Dec 2014) covers the provision of gypsy and traveller sites. DP15 does not actually set specific pitch ‘requirements’ or targets but does refer to the need estimates in the GTAA. Policy DP15 states that a separate G&T site allocations document will be prepared to identify sites. Following examination of the Mendip Local Plan Part II, the Inspector has recommended that the Council consult on the provision of a GT site at Morlands, Glastonbury and include a commitment to identify GT sites in the Part 1 review.

Need v. Provision of pitches

Based on 2010 GTAA, the current need is shown in Table 1. This totals 119 pitches taking account of existing need (44 pitches) and future need (75 pitches). The Council have permitted 32 additional G&T pitches and 1 plot for Travelling Showmen since 2010. Planning applications for 5 pitches are currently under consideration. Provision in Mendip is exclusively on private ‘windfall’ sites and largely on land owned by gypsies and travellers. There are no public sites in Mendip.

Shortfall in Pitches against Estimated Need

Even if the GTAA is not strictly a plan requirement, it remains clear that:

- (1) The Council cannot demonstrate a five year supply of gypsy and traveller sites.
- (2) There remains a substantial shortfall in pitch provision in the district.

Table 1 indicates the shortfall is around 87 pitches against current need estimates.

Table 1: Gypsy and Traveller Sites - Permanent Accommodation (pitches)	
Assessment of need for against delivery/provision - December 2019	
1. Assessment of existing need as at 2010	
	Pitches
Net flow to/from bricks and mortar accommodation	4
Estimate of pitches on unauthorised sites	28
Estimate of need for local residential pitches based on unauthorised encampments	14
Expiry of Temporary pitches 2010 - 2015	4
Vacant pitches	-6
Existing Need for pitches	44
2. Estimate of future G&T pitches need (2013 roll forward)	
New Household formation 2010-2015	25
New Household formation 2015-2020	25
New Household formation 2021 - 2025	25
Future Need for pitches (based on growth estimates)	75
Existing and household formation	119
3. Delivery of GT Pitches (1/1/2010 to 31/12/2019)	
Pitches granted consent	32
Expiry of new temporary permissions	0
Pitches allocated in emerging/adopted local plans	0
Pitches through community-led initiatives	0
Pitches with application under consideration	5
4. Estimates of shortfall in pitches as at 31.12.2019	
Shortfall against existing need	12
Shortfall against existing and future need	75
Overall shortfall	87