

## 7. New Policy for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

### Policy Justification

- 7.1. The overarching aim of the National Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (2023) is to ensure fair and equal treatment of the travelling community, in a way that facilitates their traditional and nomadic way of life while respecting the interests of the settled community. As part of this, the Council is required to proactively plan to meet the housing needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in the Borough. This is necessary to meet the requirements of the 2010 Equality Act, given that Gypsies and Travellers are classified as having “protected characteristics”.
- 7.2. There Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments undertaken in 2023, identifies the Gypsy and Traveller need in accordance with the definitions of Government Policy. This has been supplemented with information by the Council's Annual Caravan Count.
- 7.3. The GTAA (June 2023) identifies a need for a minimum of 102 additional permanent pitches by 2039, of which 76 pitches are needed by 2027/2028. **There is also a required need for an additional 5 plots for Travelling show people with 4 plots to be delivered by 2027/2028.** The evidence does not identify a need for any transit or temporary provision. It has been agreed through Duty to Cooperate that the Council and neighbouring authorities are able to meet their own needs in full, with no dependence on neighbouring areas.

### **Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Requirements to 2040**

<b>Year Period</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Need</b>
<b>0-5</b>	<b>2023-2027</b>	<b>6972</b>
<b>6-10</b>	<b>2028-2032</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11-15</b>	<b>2033-2037</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>16-17</b>	<b>2038-2039</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>0-17</b>		<b>958</b>

### **Gypsy Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Requirements to 2040**

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

- 7.4. Since the publication of the GTAA, there **hasve** been **changes to Government legislation and several planning decisions and an extension to the Plan period by a year** that have since been reflected in the current supply. In

turn, this has reduced the overall net remaining need **as identified within the GTAA** and will continue to do so as planning decisions are made.

- 7.5. The evidence shows that the Borough has a healthy supply of sites for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople which can meet the identified needs for the first five years of the plan. This will be achieved through a combination of windfall sites (in accordance with Policy LP28); establishing or re-establishing pitches within existing sites; intensifying and/or extending authorised sites; and/or requiring current arrangements on sites owned by Gypsies and Travellers - who accord with the national policy definition - to be formalised.
- 7.6. The proposed new policy framework in this document sets out the criteria against which planning applications will be assessed to meet the needs of Gypsy and Travellers over the plan period. These criteria will also provide a robust framework to consider any unidentified needs of the community during the plan period. As with sites identified for the settled community, it is important that each Gypsy and Traveller site is considered in accordance with the principles of sustainable development.
- 7.7. Similarly, it is vital that residents can access education, health and utilities, such as mains water supply, drainage, and community facilities in the same way that the settled community can. Gypsy and Traveller sites may also need to have good access to the road network to accommodate the movement of larger vehicles associated with their livelihood, as well as their nomadic and traditional way of life.
- 7.8. A Gypsy and Traveller pitch is normally conditioned through a planning permission. The approach taken will be site-specific, and will reflect the needs of the households expected to live on the site, the size of the site, and its location. Licenses are a legal requirement for all caravan sites, and must be obtained from the Council's Housing Standards Team prior to occupation (a separate regulatory process).

## New Policy: Sites for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

1. The permanent accommodation needs of the Borough's Gypsy and Traveller community will be met through the provision for ~~958~~ permanent pitches by 203940, with approximately ~~69~~ 72 permanent pitches to be delivered by 2027/2028. There is also a required need for an additional 5 plots for Travelling show people with 4 plots to be delivered by 2027/2028, by:
- a) Supporting the ~~allocation on~~ the extension of ~~37~~ 40 pitches on existing authorised Gypsy and Traveller sites at:

Ref	Site Name/address	Number of Pitches to be Authorised
GT14	Land at Blunts Drove	<del>10</del> 12
GT17	Land at The Lodge, Small Lode, Upwell/Outwell	9
GT18	Land at 2 Primrose Farm, Small Lode, Upwell/Outwell	<del>13</del> 14
GT21	Land at Four Acres, Upwell/Outwell	5

- b) supporting the intensification ~~establishment or re-establishment~~ of 25 pitches within an existing authorised Gypsy and Traveller sites at:

Ref	Site Name/address	Number of additional Pitches in relation to their existing capacity
GT05	19 - 121 Magdalen Road, Tilney St Lawrence	1
GT09	Land at the Stables, Walpole St Andrews	1
GT11	Homefields, (Western Side, Goose Lane), Marshland St James	1
GT15	Land SW Common Road (The Bungalow) Walton Highway	1
GT20	Land at Botany Bay, Upwell	1
GT28	Many Acres (Smithy's Field), Small Lode, Upwell, Norfolk	2
GT29	No 2 The Stables, (Rear of stables), Lynn Road, Wiggerhall St Germans	1
GT34	Land at Creaksville, South Creake	1
GT54	Land at the Pines, Whittington	1
GT55	Land at Victoria Barns, Basin Road, Outwell	1
GT56	Wheatley Bank, Walsoken (South of Worzals paralell to A47)	9
GT59	Land at Spriggs Hollow, Wiggerhall St Mary Magdalen	4
GT66	Land at Brandon Road, Methwold	1

- c) **Supporting** the formalisation of 7 long-term unauthorised pitches already in use by the Gypsy and Traveller community at:

Ref	Site Name/address	Number of Pitches to be <b>Authorised formalised</b>
<b>GT15</b>	Land SW Common Road (The Bungalow) Walton Highway	1
<b>GT59</b>	Spriggs Hollow, Wiggenhall St Mary Magdalen	1
<b>GT65</b>	Tall Trees, Downham Road Salters Lode Downham Market	5

- d) ~~supporting the establishment or re-establishment of 4 pitches within an existing authorised Gypsy and Traveller site and/or supporting the provision of 4 additional plots through the extension and/or intensification of existing authorised for Travelling Showpeople at:~~

Ref	Site Name/address	Number of additional Plots in relation to their existing capacity
<b>GT25</b>	Land at the Oaks, Northwold	2
<b>GT62</b>	Land at Redgate Farm, Magdalan Road, Tilney St Lawrence	2

2. Proposals for allocated and safeguarded Gypsy and Traveller sites, and/ or the extension and/ or intensification of such sites to address the needs, should, where appropriate:

- a) address an unmet need identified in the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment Update 2023, or any successor;
- b) in the case of an extension, be **appropriate in scale in relation to the size of the existing site and local character** ~~small scale, intensify the use of an existing authorised,~~ a well managed site and/or make effective use of brownfield land, **where practicable in line with Policy LP18 wherever possible;**
- ~~e) be of a scale that is appropriate to local character in line with Policy LP18;~~
- c) would not dominate or overwhelm the nearest settled community in terms of size and scale;
- d) provide safe and suitable access to the highway network and sufficient access and turning space for emergency and refuse vehicles in line with Policy LP13;
- e) have the ability to connect to all necessary utilities on the site including mains water, electricity supply, drainage, sanitation and provision for the screened storage and collection of refuse, including recyclable materials;

- f) ~~have no unacceptable impact on biodiversity and/or heritage assets and their settings, and use boundary treatments and screening materials which are sympathetic to the existing urban or rural form the ability to be well integrated into the local townscape or landscape, have no unacceptable impact on biodiversity and/or heritage assets and use boundary treatments and screening materials which are sympathetic to the existing urban or rural form~~ in line with policies LP19, LP20 and LP21;
  - g) ensure that amenity buildings or day rooms should be the minimum size necessary to provide required facilities;
  - h) address all forms of flood risk (coastal inundation, fluvial, pluvial and groundwater) through a site-specific Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) in line with Policy LP25;
  - i) Provide a flood evacuation plan for the site that has been agreed by the Environment Agency and the Local Flood Authority.
3. Beyond 2027, proposals for new sites, small extensions to, or intensification of, existing authorised **Gypsy, Traveller and/ or Travelling Show peoples** sites, will be supported where the proposal accords with Part 2 **a-j a-i** of this policy.
4. Proposals which result in the loss of existing authorised Gypsy and Traveller sites will not be supported unless it can be demonstrated that there is no longer a need for such accommodation in the Borough.

### **New Policy: Caravans, Park Homes and Houseboats**

1. Proposals for the delivery of new caravan pitches or park homes, or extensions to existing caravan or park home sites, will be supported where they are located on sites which would be acceptable for permanent dwellings and satisfy other relevant policies in the Local Plan.
2. Proposals for additional private houseboat moorings should, wherever possible, be situated where local services and facilities are accessible by active travel means.