

## Horsham District Council

# Gypsy/Traveller, Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Needs Assessment

**DECEMBER 2012**

WS Planning & Architecture, Reigate Place, 43 London Road, Reigate, Surrey, RH2 9PW  
T: + 44 (0)1737 225711 F: + 44 (0)1737 226311 admin@wsplanning.co.uk www.wsplanning.co.uk

Registered Office: 4-5 Kings St, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1ND Company No. GB3763487 WS Planning is a trading name of Woods, Sanders & Co Ltd  
Managing Director: Mr B Woods BA TP MRTPI Directors: Mr S Copping BA (Hons) Dip TP MRTPI, Mr A Tompson BA (Hons) PG Dip. Arch RIBA

## Executive Summary

### The Study

1. In March 2012 the Government published the national ***Planning policy for traveller sites (PPTS)*** which requires Local Planning Authorities to establish need for pitches and projected need for additional pitches for years 1-5, 5-10 and 10-15 of the plan period. The PPTS also requires Council's to identify and annually update a specific supply of deliverable sites for years 1-5, 5-10 and where possible years 10 – 15 over a plan period.
  
2. In June 2012, Horsham District Council commissioned WS Planning & Architecture to produce a Gypsy and Travelling Showpeople Gypsy/Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Needs Assessment. This report presents the projection of requirements for the following periods:
  - 2012-2017
  - 2017-2022
  - 2022-2027
  
3. The Housing Act 2004 placed a duty upon local authorities to produce assessments of accommodation need for Gypsies and Travellers. In July 2006, along with a number of neighbouring local authorities in West Sussex, but excluding Chichester District Council, Horsham District Council commissioned a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTAA). This GTAA provided an overview of the accommodation and related needs and experiences of the Gypsy and Traveller community across West Sussex. The study was published in 2007 and established a requirement for 39 Gypsy/Traveller pitches in Horsham between 2006 and 2011. The West Sussex Travelling Showpeople Study identified the potential need for 2 pitches in the District during the same period.

4. The Council commissioned Baker Associates to undertake an assessment of potential sites for travellers, alongside suggestions for a future policy approach. The Horsham District Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Study Final Report was published in July 2011 and identified 13 potentially suitable sites and 62 pitches, some of which have found to be unsuitable.
5. The report does not assess the potential of specific sites for travellers and therefore does not replicate the previous work undertaken by Bakers Associates. The purpose of the assessment is to inform the “*direction of travel*” in future development of planning policy in the Horsham Framework.
6. In accordance with the Council’s brief, the Surrey Methodology was used to inform the preparation of the assessment. The Surrey Methodology comprises three separate stages:
  - Phase 1 – desktop review
  - Phase 2 – interviews with travellers
  - Phase 3 – review and consultations
7. A questionnaire was prepared based on the Surrey Methodology, however Officers at the Council advised that they had spent a number of years establishing a good relationship with the travelling communities and visited the sites at least twice a year as part of the bi-annual caravan count. Therefore a large amount of the information that would have been gathered through the questionnaire was already available and was collated at the first desk top stage of the process with follow up site visits to complete the process.

### Local accommodation provision

8. The survey revealed a total of 96 households currently residing in the District across a range of household types:

- There are 3 local authority sites in the District, 2 are managed by West Sussex County Council and 1 by Horsham District Council providing a total of **32 pitches**
- An additional **4 pitches** have been created at the site operated by Horsham District Council through overcrowding
- There are **31 authorised** permanent pitches in the District
- There are **16 unauthorised** permanent pitches tolerated for more than 10 years
- There are currently **3 authorised private sites with temporary consent** in the District
- There are currently **4 unauthorised pitches** on land owned by Gypsies and Travellers
- There is an unlawful encampment of New Age Travellers residing in the District comprising approximately **15 households**
- There is 1 authorised site with **4 pitches** for Travelling Showpeople in the District
- There are a number of families known to be living in bricks and mortar accommodation which was collected indirectly through the evidence gathering process, however it is recognised that the precise numbers are unknown. The 2011 census should provide data about the number of people who regard themselves as Gypsies and Travellers. This data was not available before this study was finished but it is recommended that it should be used to inform the final policies that are developed.

### Characteristics of local Gypsies and Travellers

9. The interviews conducted with the travelling community identified some important characteristics of the travelling community in the District.

- The existing Gypsy population are primarily Romany Gypsies, the ethnicity of the future occupiers at the Kingfisher Farm site is however not currently known
- Household size tends to be significantly larger than the settled population, many families comprising 3+ children
- The privately owned Gypsy sites are owned and occupied by extended family groups, some of whom have lived in the District for many years. The families are settled and no longer travel as a way of life, the children attend the local schools and the families access the local services such as doctors etc
- There is one unauthorised encampment of New Age Travellers who still actively travel as a way of life. New Age Travellers require places to stay for short periods of time without fear of eviction
- There is one Travelling Showpeople site in the District who travel at certain times of the year to fairs but use their site in the District as a base and have done for many years

### **Accommodation need and supply**

10. From the results of the interviews and the Council's data sources the current existing backlog of need has been calculated using the Surrey Methodology. There is currently a backlog of existing need totalling 39 pitches comprising households seeking permanent site accommodation, overcrowding and concealed households, unauthorised developments and temporary planning permissions. There is an additional need generated by the 15 New Age Traveller households currently residing on an unauthorised encampment in the District. Interviews also revealed that there are likely to be an additional 8 Gypsy/Traveller households forming between the years 2012-2017.
11. Requirement for future additional pitch provision had been based on two scenarios, one which includes the New Age Travellers and one which excludes New Age Travellers on the

grounds that this community do not require “pitches” in the conventional sense but an area of land where they can camp.

12. The Summary of Gypsy/Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation need is shown in the Tables 7 & 7a below.

**Table 7 – Projected need (including New Age Travellers)**

Pitch Requirements	Gypsy	Travelling Showpeople
a) Existing number of households (baseline)	92	4
b) Existing at 2017	129	4
c) Projected to 2022	149	4 (4.3)
d) Projected to 2027	172	5 (4.6)
Extra pitches required	43	1

**Table 7A – Projected need (excluding New Age Travellers)**

Pitch Requirements	Gypsy	Travelling Showpeople
a) Existing number of households (baseline)	77	4
b) Existing at 2017	114	4
c) Projected to 2022	132	4 (4.3)
d) Projected to 2027	153	5 (4.6)
Extra pitches required	39	1

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### Purpose of the report

1.1 WS Planning & Architecture have been commissioned by Horsham District Council to undertake a Gypsy/Traveller, Travelling Showpeople Needs Assessment. The aims of the assessment are to:

- Create a robust, transparent and consistent evidence base to identify the need for travellers' pitches/plots in Horsham District.
- Undertake a study which is consistent with adjacent Local Authorities in accordance with the Duty to Co-operate.
- Identify current levels of accommodation provision for travellers.
- Identify current levels of need, including overcrowding, concealed households, households living in bricks and mortar housing but wishing to live on sites, identifying households living on sites but wishing to live in bricks and mortar housing.
- Show household preferences in terms of the location, tenure and type of accommodation sought, reflecting the roaming lifestyles of travellers.
- Identify the size and type of accommodation provision needed, including the demand for authorised sites (both static and transit) and for permanent affordable housing provision.
- Identify future levels of accommodation need over a 5, 10 and 15 year period.
- Inform the development of future housing and planning policies at a local area.
- Inform the understanding of the need for permanent and transit pitches and plots.



- 1.2 The results of this assessment will be used to inform planning policy in the emerging Horsham Framework. It will also be used to inform Strategic Planning over a wider area to accord with the Duty to Co-operate.
  
- 1.3 In accordance with the Council's brief, the Surrey Methodology for carrying out Traveller Accommodation Assessments has been used to inform this study.

## **2.0 ABOUT HORSHAM DISTRICT**

2.1 Horsham District is a large area that covers 205 square miles (530 square kilometres) of open countryside and attractive small towns and villages in the county of West Sussex. Horsham is the main town, administrative and commercial centre of the district. Over 131,000 people live in the Horsham District, with around 47,000 living in Horsham town and its immediate area. Parts of the south and north east of the District lie within the South Downs National Park and the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty respectively.

2.2 The District is also close to Gatwick Airport and Crawley to the north east and borders the Surrey District of Mole Valley to the north. Whilst the adopted Core Strategy recognises the importance of the north of the District and role it plays in the continuing growth of Crawley, it also seeks to protect the setting of the town and to contain development in order to avoid lack of integration and detachment from other existing communities within the District.

2.3 Other than the main town of Horsham, the District is characterised by its rural nature with a number of scattered villages and small towns and hamlets. These settlements have been the subject of "Settlement Sustainability" studies resulting in a number of small towns and villages being identified as Category 1 Settlements with a good range of services and facilities and some access to public transport with the remainder identified as Category 2 Settlements with a more limited range of services.

2.4 Horsham District has a number of locations where Gypsy and Travellers are located including a field occupied by New Age Travellers and one Travelling Showpeople site. Whilst

the exact population numbers are not known, these will be available in the 2011 census, previous estimates based on the bi-annual caravan count estimate that the current traveller population is likely to be about 0.4% of the total population.

- 2.5 From the information available from the Council's records, supported by the information gained as a result of the interviews, the Gypsy/Traveller population living in the District is of predominantly Romany origin living in extended family groups on sites across the District. These families are generally settled and no longer rely upon travelling to find work and generally operate their own businesses within the District. These families access local facilities and services in the same way as the settled population and evidence from the Local Education Authority show that the children of these families are attending school.
- 2.6 There is one Travelling Showpeople family that have been living in the District for many years on an established site with planning permission. The family have no dependents and are unlikely to require additional pitches for the foreseeable future. Their current site is also big enough to provide additional pitches if required.
- 2.7 There are a group of New Age Travellers living on a field in the District whose way of life is different from the other groups because they are actively mobile, perhaps settling at a location for a few months before moving on. The group live in a commune often travelling around as a group, living as separate households. However individuals come and go at will and it is therefore difficult to determine the age ranges within the group and whether there are children currently living on site.
- 2.8 In sustainability terms, the District is rural in character with a number of scattered villages and towns. Whilst most residents will be able to make some trips on foot or live reasonably close to public transport routes, public transport is often limited and journeys by car are needed. Journey lengths and distances made by the settled population would not therefore differ from those made by the travelling population to any significant degree.

### 3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The *Core Strategy*, adopted in 2007, is the current development plan document and includes Policy CP16, (Inclusive Communities) which requires that positive measures are taken to create socially inclusive and adaptable environments to meet the needs of gypsies and travellers, amongst others.
- 3.2 Government guidance published in 2006 and 2007, Circular 01/06, *Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites* and Circular 04/07, *Planning for Travelling Showpeople*, required Council's to carry out Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Needs Assessments and recommended that Local Planning Authorities identified locations suitable for site provision.
- 3.3 The *West Sussex Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTAA) 2007* established a requirement for 39 pitches (a pitch consists of space for a mobile home, a touring van, an amenity building, and parking) in the District between 2006 and 2011. The *West Sussex Travelling Showpeople Study (TSS)* indicated a possible need for 2 pitches during the same period.
- 3.4 Under the circular guidance, the GTAA and TSS were required to feed into policies made at regional level to set District targets, and then policies would be made at local level to follow targets and identify sites.
- 3.5 The Council had been waiting for these targets to be set through a partial review of the South East Plan before taking forward site allocation work. It is noted that the Council

adopted a criteria based policy, Policy DC 32 Gypsies and Travellers within the General Development Control Policies (2007) Development Plan Document, in order to deal with applications that came forward in the interim.

- 3.6 After the new coalition government came into power in May 2012 they subsequently announced the abolition of the South East Plan and the dissolution of the South East England Partnership Board in the summer of 2010; so that although the abolition was later found to be unlawful, work on the policy was not carried forward. The Localism Act 2011 has confirmed that regional spatial strategies, including the South East Plan, will be abolished.
- 3.7 In light of the realisation that targets were not going to be set regionally and the receipt of a number of ad hoc applications, as well as anticipation of new government guidance, the Council employed consultants to undertake a physical assessment of potential sites for travellers, alongside suggestions for a future policy approach. The findings will be used as evidence to inform the formulation of policies. **The Horsham District, Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Site Study, Final Report, October 2011** by Baker Associates identified 13 potentially suitable sites; equating to 62 pitches in total. The study report can be found on the Council's website at:  
[www.horsham.gov.uk/environment/planning\\_policy/documents/GTTS\\_Study\\_Nov\\_2011.pdf](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/environment/planning_policy/documents/GTTS_Study_Nov_2011.pdf)
- 3.8 New government guidance, **Planning policy for traveller sites**, was published on the 23rd March 2012 and came into force with the publication of the **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) on the 27<sup>th</sup> March**. It replaces the two circulars referred to in paragraph 2.2 above. Whilst it continues to require councils' to establish needs, it also requires Local Planning Authorities to identify, and up-date annually, a supply of specific deliverable sites to provide 5 years worth of sites against locally set targets, along with a supply of sites or broad locations for growth to 6 to 10 and where possible 11 to 15 years. The planning policy context is expanded upon in section 3 of this report.

- 3.9 In July 2012 the Council published a Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Sites Preferred Options Consultation Document. The purpose of the document is to guide the allocation of sites that are considered suitable, available and achievable. The options bring forward sites for allocation that meet this criteria but may or may not currently have planning permission.
- 3.10 Following the publication of new government advice referred to above it has become necessary for the Council to undertake a revised Needs Assessment in order to strengthen the Council's evidence base to ensure that future policy is fully compliant with the NPPF.

## **4.0 ASSESSING THE NEEDS OF TRAVELLERS: THE PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT**

### **National Planning Policy and Guidance**

#### ***Planning policy for traveller sites***

- 4.1 National policy and guidance in respect of planning for travellers is set out in the Government's "Planning policy for traveller sites" (March 2012). The publication of the planning policy replaces Circular 01/2006 'Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites' and Circular 04/2007 'Planning for Travelling Show people'.
- 4.2 The aim of the planning policy is to provide a light-touch strategy putting the provision of new pitches and plots into the hands of local authorities as per the concept of "Localism". It seeks to ensure fair and consistent treatment for travellers, in a way that supports the traditional and nomadic way of life of travellers while respecting the interests of the settled community which is decided at a local level.
- 4.3 To help achieve this, the Government's aims in respect of the planning policy are:
- that local planning authorities should make their own assessment of need for the purposes of planning
  - to ensure that local planning authorities work collaboratively, develop fair and effective strategies to meet need through the identification of land for sites
  - to encourage local planning authorities to plan for sites over a reasonable timescale
  - that plan-making and decision taking should protect the Green Belt from inappropriate development
  - to promote more private traveller site provision while recognising that there will always be those travellers who cannot provide their own sites

- that plan-making and decision-taking should aim to reduce the number of unauthorised developments and encampments and make enforcement more effective
- for local planning authorities to ensure that their Local Plan includes fair, realistic and inclusive policies
- to increase the number of traveller sites in appropriate locations with planning permission, to address under provision and maintain an appropriate level of supply
- to reduce tensions between settled and traveller communities in plan-making and planning decisions
- to enable provision of suitable accommodation from which travellers can access education, health, welfare and employment infrastructure
- for local planning authorities to have due regard to the protection of local amenity and local environment

4.4 The planning policy contains two policies which relate to the assessment of the need and future provision of new sites. Policy A deals with 'Using evidence to plan positively and manage development' and Policy B provides advice on 'Planning for traveller sites'. The main thrust of these policies is to:

- give local planning authorities the freedom and responsibility to determine the right level of traveller site provision in their area in consultation with local communities, while ensuring fairness in the planning system
- enable local planning authorities to make their own assessment of need for the purposes of planning based on robust evidence of local need
- remove the specific reference and requirement for Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments (GTAA)
- enable local planning authorities to use their assessment of need to set their own targets for pitch/plot provision encourage local planning authorities to plan for sites over a reasonable timescale and identify sufficient deliverable sites to deliver site need in the first five years.



### ***The National Planning Policy Framework***

- 4.5 The Government states that the planning policy for traveller sites should be read in conjunction with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) so far as relevant.
- 4.6 The Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published on 27th March 2012. It is a key part of Government reforms to make the planning system less complex and more accessible, and to protect the environment while promoting sustainable growth.
- 4.7 The NPPF is now critical in formulating planning proposals at a local level, as it sets out the overarching policy priorities for the planning system, against which local plans are being prepared and decisions are made on planning applications. The policies in the Framework apply with immediate effect and replace Planning Policy Guidance Notes (PPGs) and Planning Policy Statements (PPSs).
- 4.8 The NPPF directs local planning authorities to national planning policy for traveller sites, published at the same time, when assessing the accommodation needs of travellers. The NPPF will however, be an important consideration when identifying sites for travellers' accommodation having completed a needs assessment. This will be in parallel with local planning policies which guide site selection.

### ***The Housing Act 2004***

- 4.9 Whilst there have been numerous changes occurring to the planning policy framework at the national level, the requirement to assess the accommodation needs of the travelling community remains firmly embedded in the Housing Act 2004.

4.10 The Act requires local housing authorities to include travellers in their accommodation assessments and to take a strategic approach, including drawing up a strategy demonstrating how the accommodation needs of travellers will be met.

***Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments Guidance (GTAA's) (CLG, 2007)***

4.11 Whilst the Government's NPPF replaces a plethora of Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) and Guidance Notes (PPGs), a number of guidance documents still remain. This includes the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment Guidance (2007).

4.12 It is acknowledged that the GTAA guidance is expected to be formally withdrawn by the Government and is unlikely to be replaced. However, some sections were considered relevant by the Surrey authorities during the preparing of the methodology and are helpful when completing the TAA.

4.13 Particularly useful to the formation of this methodology and the undertaking of the TAA are the following points:

- The guidance defines accommodation need as households who are unable to access suitable housing without some financial assistance and notes that the particular lifestyle and culture of Gypsies and Travellers can give rise to distinctive accommodation needs
- The guidance notes that careful consideration should be given to the appropriate timing for the survey as the caravan count consistently shows higher numbers on unauthorised encampments, and lower numbers on permanent residential sites, in the summer. The guidance states that it is also likely that numbers in housing will be lower in the summer.
- When assessing future need accurate projections are likely to be more difficult. Analysis of changing demand (which may be expressed through unauthorised sites or

low demand for authorised sites) will provide further information but it should be possible to identify:

- The intentions of those households planning to move which may free up spare pitch or bricks and mortar capacity;
- The likely rate of household formation and annual population increase; and
- Travelling patterns within the survey area and in and out of surrounding areas.

4.14 Regard has been had to the above policies and guidance in the preparation of this assessment.

## 5.0 HORSHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL TAA – METHODOLOGY

5.1 The north of the District is close to Gatwick Airport and borders the borough of Crawley together with Mid Sussex Council to the east. Due to its location, Horsham district is also a member of the Gatwick Diamond partnership formed in 2003 along with West Sussex and Surrey County Councils, Crawley Borough Council, Mid Sussex District Council, Mole Valley District Council and Reigate and Banstead Borough Council.

5.2 Section 110 of the Localism Act sets out a **“new duty to co-operate”** which requires, amongst other things Local Planning Authorities to consider undertaking **“joint approaches to plan making”**. Horsham District large district situated within the south-east region of England, in the County of West Sussex. 21% of the District lies within two nationally designated important landscapes the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the north and the South Downs National Park in the south. The South Down National Park Authority is the Local Planning Authority for those areas in the south of the District within the National Park. As such therefore, the Horsham District has a statutory duty to work and co-operate with the South Downs National Park Authority.

5.3 In March 2012, the Gatwick Diamond Partnership published a **“Local Strategic Statement”** in which it states that:

***“This ‘Local Strategic Statement’ builds on the joint working of recent years. It has been framed in the context of the new Localism Bill and the duties and responsibilities proposed, particularly for local authorities. In particular it responds to the proposed ‘duty to cooperate’ with respect to the planning of sustainable development.”***

5.4 The statement sets out the following four main objectives:

- *To provide a broad but consistent strategic direction for the Gatwick Diamond area on planning and economic issues which cross local authority boundaries;*
- *To set out, for the shorter term, how that strategic direction will be translated into change and development;*
- *To establish effective mechanisms for inter-authority cooperation on strategic issues so that longer term decisions made through the local plan making processes are well informed;*
- *To identify those areas where joint working will be prioritised*

5.5 The delivery plan contained in paragraph 10.2 of the Strategic Statement states that the partnership will:

*“Work together to assess the needs of gypsies, traveller and travelling showpeople and develop an agreed approach.”*

5.6 The local authorities in Surrey have collaborated together and prepared a methodology for undertaking accommodation assessments which is set out in the report *“Preparing Travellers’ Accommodation Assessments (TAAS) The Surrey approach”* which has been adapted by the other authorities within the Surrey and Gatwick Diamond Partnership including Horsham District Council and has therefore been used as guidance by WS Planning & Architecture to prepare this TAA.

5.7 A full copy of the Surrey methodology is attached as **Appendix 1**. The Surrey TAA methodology was prepared to take account of the views expressed by the Panel in the draft report into the partial review of the SE Plan.

- 5.8 The Panel's report expressed concern regarding the robustness of previous TAAs including the West Sussex Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTAA) 2007. However the report went on to make positive comments regarding Chichester District Council's TAA regarding the simplicity of the methodology and that the writers clearly had firsthand knowledge of the circumstances and the accommodation needs of local travellers. The Surrey methodology was based on the Chichester TAA, following the positive comments made in the draft Panel report
- 5.9 WS Planning & Architecture has prepared the TAA in close liaison with the District and County Council's Officers together with other community organisations who are regularly engaged with the travelling communities within Horsham District.
- 5.10 The methodology based on the Surrey model comprised the three following phases:
- Phase 1 – desktop review
  - Phase 2 – interviews with travellers
  - Phase 3 – review and conclusions

## **6.0 HORSHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL TAA – PHASE 1 DESKTOP REVIEW**

6.1 This section of the report looks at the available data in order to present what is known about Gypsies and Travellers within Horsham District. The Council take a pro-active approach towards the Gypsy/Traveller issues and over the years have built up well established links with members of those communities. Whilst there is no sole Officer at district level responsible for Gypsy/Traveller matters, members of those communities are encouraged to liaise with specific Officers from the Council's Planning, Property, Housing, Legal, and Environmental Health teams. Consequently the Council has, over the years, collected a substantive amount of data regarding the culture and needs of the travelling community within the district.

6.2 The Council's Officers advised that based on previous experience that the travelling population were reluctant to respond to formal questionnaires and this was taken into account in preparing the methodology. This is expanded upon more fully in paragraphs 7.1 and 7.2 of this report.

### **Population size and movement of travellers**

6.3 It has been estimated that the number of Gypsies and Travellers living in West Sussex is between 3,000 and 3,500. This figure has been based on data such as the bi-annual Gypsy and Traveller caravan count. Figures released in the January 2012 count show that the total number of caravans in the District was 126 (30 more than in January 2011). The marked increase is due to the presence of two New Age Traveller sites which arrived in the District during this period. However overall, this constitutes a small percentage of the total population. This is backed up by other data relating to the ethnicity of school children in West Sussex. For example, in the Billingshurst area 0.8% of all pupils were Gypsy Roma children. The other data sources used indicates that other than the New Age Travellers the remaining travelling population are settled and do not move around.

### **Waiting List and Homelessness data**

- 6.4 The Council's record show that there is currently one name on the Council's housing waiting list who is currently homeless and wishes to live in a caravan and not in bricks and mortar. West Sussex County Council maintains the waiting list for travellers wishing to move on to a County maintained site.

### **Re-housing Data**

- 6.5 There are a number of families known to be living in bricks and mortar accommodation which was collected indirectly through the evidence gathering process, however it is recognised that the precise numbers are unknown. The 2011 census should provide data about the number of people who regard themselves as Gypsies and Travellers. This data was not available before this study was finished but it is recommended that it should be used to inform the final policies that are developed.

### **Movement of travellers to and from permanent housing**

- 6.6 There is no data available regarding the movement of travellers to and from permanent housing.

### **Data on public sites**

- 6.7 Within Horsham District there are three publicly owned sites of which two (Adversane and Cousins Copse) are managed by West Sussex County Council (WSCC) and each site has 12 pitches. This gives a total of WSCC pitches of 24. A further site at Small Dole is managed by Horsham District Council and has 8 pitches, giving a total of 32 publically run pitches.

### **Data on Private Sites**



6.8 Horsham's records indicate that there are 14 privately owned sites within the district. One of the sites has recently been vacated since it lies within an allocated site for development. Another site was formerly occupied by an extended gypsy family in three mobile homes, which have been replaced by two permanent dwellings. A further site is not occupied by travellers and has therefore been discounted from this assessment.

6.9 Of the remaining 11 sites, one site is an authorised travelling showpeople's site. Two further sites were identified by the Council. One was occupied for a time by a group of New Age Travellers who have since moved on. The other site was identified by the Council as a potential site but it is currently largely unoccupied with the exception of a small commercial vehicle business which operates from the site.

6.10 8 sites are privately owned and occupied by gypsy families. The following sites have planning permission granted on a personal basis:

- Lane Top, Nutbourne
- Greenfield Farm, Valewood Lane
- Parsons Field, Pickhurst Lane, Pullborough
- Oaklands, Dial Post
- Northside Farm, Burnthouse Lane, Rusper

6.11 Of the three remaining sites Oakdene, Blackgate Lane has a personal planning permission for one mobile home although there are currently three stationed on the land. There is currently an outstanding retrospective planning application for an additional 3 mobile homes on the land for the extended family (Council's ref: 12/2093). The site at Kingfisher Farm was allowed on appeal for 11 pitches in 2011 and has no restrictions in terms of occupancy. The planning permission is currently being implemented. The site at Hazbec

Stud, Hooklands Lane, Ashington is occupied by a gypsy family and has a temporary planning consent for an agricultural workers dwelling expiring in January 2014.

#### **Tolerated sites (definition which is agreed by MH and EC?)**

6.12 There are two tolerated sites which have been established for over 10 years. These are:

- Hillside Park, Small Dole (12 pitches)
- Southview, The Haven, Billingshurst (1 house and 4 pitches)

#### **Unauthorised sites (definition which is agreed by MH and EC?)**

6.13 There are currently 4 unauthorised pitches within the District, three of which are on land at or adjacent to existing authorised sites. The remaining site has recently been refused planning permission and therefore remains unauthorised, pending the result of an appeal. The site at The Windmill, Washington is occupied by a group of New Age Travellers.

#### **Current planning position**

6.14 As referred to above there is a current undetermined planning application for 3 additional mobile homes at site at Oakdene, Blackgate Lane, Pullborough. There are two planning appeals outstanding for a site at The Caravan, Littleworth Lane, Partridge Green. The other outstanding appeal is against the recent refusal of planning permission for the site at Deer Park Farm, Hampers Lane, referred to above.

#### **Caravan Numbers and Trends from the Caravan Count**

6.15 Whilst the bi-annual caravan count provides a snapshot of the scale and distribution of the travelling community, the robustness of the count has been questioned. The report of the Panel regarding the SE Plan Partial Review also criticised previously prepared GTTA's on the

basis that too much reliance had been placed on the CLG Caravan Count the Panel’s report stating that:

***“The Caravan Count is widely regarded as a less than robust source of evidence of the number of pitches, the number of households and even the number of caravans in the area. It is, at best, useful as an indicator of trends in the number of caravans over time, but even then, so much depends on consistency, of recording by those collecting the data.”***

This is borne out in the figures produced in the Caravan Count for Horsham District over the last five counts shown in Figure 1 below:

**Figure 1 – Caravan numbers across accommodation types in Horsham District**

		Authorised Sites (with Planning Permission)				Unauthorised Sites (without Planning Permission)				
		Private Caravans				No. Of Caravans on Sites on Gypsies own land		No. Of Caravans on Sites on land not owned by Gypsies		Total All Caravans
Region	Count	Socially Rented	Temporary Planning Permission	Permanent Planning Permission	All Private Caravans	"Tolerated"	"Not Tolerated"	"Tolerated"	"Not Tolerated"	
Horsham	Jul-12	42	2	16	18	13	12	0	24	109
	Jan-12	43	4	19	23	20	16	0	24	126
	Jul-11	43	4	19	23	15	13	0	0	94
	Jan-11	43	4	21	25	11	9	0	0	88
	Jul-10	43	3	21	24	18	9	0	0	94

6.16 Figure 1 shows the following:

- Caravan numbers have remained the same on socially rented sites;
- The number of private caravans with either permanent or temporary planning permission has reduced over the first 6 month period of this year; and

- Overall the caravan numbers have increased by 15% over the last 5 counts

6.17 The biggest increase is the number of unauthorised caravans on land which is not in the travellers' ownership. This is due to the arrival of a group of "New Age" Travellers in 2011, comprising between 15-25 caravans at any one time who are currently encamped on a site in Washington.

## **7.0 HORSHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL TAA – INTERVIEWS WITH TRAVELLERS**

- 7.1 To undertake the research a survey questionnaire was designed and was based on the example within the Surrey methodology. Notwithstanding this, the Council's experience has shown that in the past the travelling population in the District do not react favourable to formal surveys, not least because they consider it to be an invasion of their privacy. In addition there is a feeling within the travelling community that expectations have been raised before as a result of previous consultations but no progress has been made regarding resolving their accommodation needs. When interviewed, the New Age Travellers felt particularly strongly about this issue.
- 7.2 Based on the experience of the Council's Officers who regularly liaise with the travelling community it was decided not to send out copies of the questionnaire, to the travelling community. A large amount of the information that would have been gathered through the questionnaire was already available and was collated at this first desk top stage of the process with follow up site visits to complete the process. The questionnaire was therefore used as a basis for conducting face to face interviews to obtain the necessary additional information over and above the Council's data.
- 7.3 The majority of interviews were conducted by pre-arranged appointments, the Council's Officers first contacting the occupiers of the sites. The exceptions were the two sites managed by West Sussex County Council at Adversane and Cousins Copse. In these cases, an Officer from the Council accompanied the consultant and they visited the sites on spec and spoke to representatives of both sites who were able to provide the necessary information regarding the occupants of each plot.

7.4 The two sites at Small Dole were visited by the Council's Officers and interviews were conducted with as many of the individual plot owners as were available. Eight interviews were conducted across the two sites. The interviewees were able to provide information regarding the absent plot occupiers because they were family members or had lived at the sites for some time. The Small Dole site is owned and run by the Council and therefore the Council has a record of all occupants of this site.

7.5 Interviews were conducted with the occupants of the privately owned sites. Whilst not all households were interviewed, these sites are occupied by a single extended family group. The interviewees were therefore able to provide relevant information for each household. Interviews were conducted at the following sites:

- Lane Top, Nutbourne
- Oakdene, Blackgate Lane, Pullborough
- Parsons Field, Pickhurst Lane, Pullborough
- Southview, The Haven, Billingshurst
- Greenfield Farm, Valewood Lane, Barns Green
- Northfield Farm, Burnthouse Lane, Rusper
- Deer Park farm, Hampers lane, Horsham
- Hazbec Stud, Hooklands Lane, Ashington

7.6 The owners of the sites at Picketty Corner, Coolham Road and the Marringdean Road site were not interviewed. The site at Picketty Corner originally had four mobile homes on the site which have been replaced by two permanent dwellings which are occupied by gypsy families. The site at Marringdean Lane is no longer occupied and forms part of the development site. The owners of the site have moved in to bricks and mortar accommodation in Billingshurst. A mobile home has been placed on the land immediately adjacent, outside the residential curtilage and as such is unauthorised.

- 7.7 The planning permission allowed on appeal at Kingfisher Farm is currently being implemented and families are moving on to the site. The Council are monitoring the situation and will conduct interviews with the new families at the appropriate time.
- 7.8 A group interview was conducted with the New Age Travellers on the encampment at The Hollow Washington. Copies of the survey were sent to the occupants in advance of the interview and whilst they were not completed, the group agreed collectively to respond to the issues raised in the surveys.
- 7.9 The interviews were conducted across a 3 month period in order to avoid the holiday period and the fairs and festivals traditionally attended by the travelling communities. Interviews with the one travelling showpeople family living in the District together with the gypsy community living in bricks and mortar remain outstanding.
- 7.10 Whilst no one refused to be interviewed, a member of the Council's Environmental Health Team visited the site at Oaklands, Dial Post as they have an established and good relationship with the family.
- 7.11 The results of the surveys are shown in Table 1 overleaf.
- 7.12 The results of the interviews identified a total of 96 traveller households living in Horsham District. Of these 4 are Travelling Showpeople households, 15 are New Age Travellers (although these numbers vary as this community are still actively travelling) and the remaining 77 households are Gypsy families.

**Table 1 – Survey Responses**

Survey Responses								
Site	Type of Occupier	Ownership	No of h/holds identified	No. of interviews	Interviews Conducted With	Interviews Refused	Property unoccupied	No-one available
Adversane	Gypsy	WSCC	11	1	former warden	0	1	
Cousins Copse, Five Oaks	Gypsy	WSCC	14	1	site warden	0		
Small Dole	Gypsy	HDC	13	4	plot occupiers	0		
Hillside Park, Small Dole	Gypsy	Private	12	4	plot occupiers	0		
The Orchard, Ashington	Travelling show person	Private	4	0		0	4	currently travelling
Lane Top, Nutbourne	Gypsy	Private	3	3	members of each household			
Marrindean Road, Billingshurst	Gypsy	Private	0	0	not applicable	0	1	family relocated
Oakdene Blackgate Lane, Comore Hill, Pulborough	Gypsy	Private	3	2	Head of Family and daughter	0	0	
Oaklands, Dial Post	Gypsy	Private	3	1	Head of family	0	0	
Parsons Field, Pickhurst Lane, Pulborough	Gypsy	Private	1	1	sole household	0	0	
Pickety Corner, Coolham Road, West Chiltington	Gypsy	Private	2	0	not applicable	0	0	mobile homes replaced by permanent dwellings need to interview
Southview the Haven Billingshurst	Gypsy	Private	5	1	Head of family	0	0	
Two Mile Ash, The Paddock, Marlpost Road, Southwater	London Barrow Boys	Private	0	0	not applicable	0	0	not part of Survey
Greenfield Farm, Valewood Lane, Barns Green	Gypsy	Private	5	2	Head of family and daughter			
Northside Farm, Burnthorse Lane, Rusper	Gypsy	Private	3	3	members of each household	0	0	
Deer Park Farm, Hampers Lane, Horsham	Gypsy	Private	1	1	sole household	0	0	
Land south of Oaklands Farm, Hooklands Lane, Ashington	Gypsy	Private	1	1	sole household	0	0	
Rowfold Nurseries, Billingshurst	Gypsy	Private	0	0		0		not a gypsy site



Kingfisher Farm	Gypsy	Private	0	0		0	11	to be done
Land at Windmill, The Hollow, Washington	New Age Travellers	Private	15	12	Spoke to group collectively	0	0	
<b>Total Combined</b>			<b>96</b>	<b>37</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>	

## 8.0 PHASE 3 – REVIEW

### Outputs from questionnaires

- 8.1 Following the interviews it has been possible to compile some general conclusions regarding the travelling population living within Horsham District. In terms of ethnicity, all of the gypsy population are of primarily Romany origin. However this could change once the site at Kingfisher Farm is fully occupied. In all cases the respondents stated that they were based at their site and had given up travelling other than to visit relatives or attend fairs such as Appleby. Many of the sites were occupied by families with children attending the local schools.
- 8.2 There is one New Age Traveller site and from the information obtained from this group it is quite clear that their needs and aspirations are quite different from the gypsy population.
- 8.3 There is also one Travelling Showman's site in the District who was travelling at the time of the interviews whilst it is understood they do not have a need for additional pitches for the foreseeable future, interviews will be arranged on their return.

### Estimation of the current supply of pitches/plots in Horsham District

#### Local Authority sites

- 8.4 There are three Local Authority sites in the district, two of which Adversane and Cousins Copse are managed by West Sussex County Council. Whilst it is true to say that some of the households on the individual pitches are members of the same family, there are more than one family group living at these sites.

- 8.5 From information received at Cousins Copse we were able to ascertain that there are two younger members of one family who are currently on the County Council's waiting list for a plot. In addition the interview revealed that one of the occupiers at this site has recently applied to the Council for planning permission for a new site at The Caravan, Littleworth Lane, Partridge Green for two pitches to accommodate to households in their extended family.
- 8.6 At the site at Adversane we were able to ascertain that there is currently one vacant pitch and that another pitch may become vacant, because the occupiers were on the Council's Housing Register and were waiting for a bungalow to become available. We were also told that one of the occupier's sons currently living in bricks and mortar was seeking to move on to a pitch.
- 8.7 The site at Small Dole is owned and managed by Horsham District Council. There are particular difficulties relating to overcrowding at this site. Out of the 12 pitches, three currently are currently occupied by more than one household living in separate units. A relative of one of the occupants is currently living unlawfully on a piece of land immediately adjacent to the Small Dole site. Account has been taken of the overcrowding in assessing the need for additional pitches as clearly the existing provision on the site is insufficient to meet the need.

#### **Privately owned sites**

- 8.8 Interviews were conducted with the occupiers of 10 of the privately owned sites. The occupants of a further site have recently moved off and were therefore not interviewed.

There are commercial premises on another site and no evidence of gypsies or travellers present.

8.9 As a general rule each of the privately owned sites is occupied by a single family group comprising approximately two or three households. Another larger site has five pitches, all of which are authorised and occupied by one family which is particularly large. The family concerned also have a number of relatives on other sites within the District and other family members are in bricks and mortar accommodation. In all cases we were told by the occupants of all but one of the privately owned sites that they preferred to live as a small self-contained family unit. We were advised that the need for additional pitches is generated when the children reach their teenage years and form separate households. It was also pointed out by several families that culturally and traditionally their children marry at a much younger age than the settled population meaning that new households form sooner which impacts on the need for pitches. This is particularly true at one site where at least two of the grandchildren in the teens were engaged and would be married within the next two years.

8.10 Exceptionally the privately owned site at Hillside Park at Small Dole is not solely occupied by one family. This site is unauthorised and at the time of the survey was occupied by 12 households, some of which were members of the same family.

### **New Age Travellers**

### **Local Authority sites**

8.11 There are no New Age Travellers residing on any of the Local Authority sites.

### **Privately owned sites**

- 8.12 There is currently one encampment of New Age Travellers on land at The Hollow in Washington which is unauthorised. The site they occupy is privately owned. A visit to the site revealed that there were about 15 households currently living at the site, but there have been up to a maximum of 25 households occupying the site at any given time which is limited by its size.
- 8.13 Not all of the households were interviewed as some of the occupiers were reluctant to take part. In general terms the site is occupied by a variety of households across the age ranges. There was no evidence of households with children currently present, but there have been in the past and the situation could change on a regular basis due to the transient life style of New Age Travellers.
- 8.14 The accommodation need generated by New Age Travellers is difficult to quantify because members of this community actively travel and do not spend long periods in any one place. In addition it is difficult to gauge how reliant this group of travellers are on local services and facilities. A number of the group advised that they were registered with Doctors but not locally, others advised that they had difficulty registering with a Doctor. The group did not provide any information regarding education and attendance at local schools.
- 8.15 The group advised that the ideal “accommodation model” New Age Travellers are looking is for places to set up camp for short periods of time without fear of eviction. At the current time no such facility exists within Horsham district. Whilst there are a number of privately owned camp sites which could fulfil the Travellers needs, these sites are not

accessible due to their registration limitations. The Council therefore needs to consider how the accommodation needs of the New Age Travellers can be met in spatial planning terms.

## Travelling Showpeople

### Local Authority sites

8.16 There are no Travelling Showpeople residing on any of the Local Authority sites.

### Privately owned sites

8.17 There is one Travelling Showpeople family living in Horsham District who are living on an authorised site and do not currently generate a need for any additional accommodation.

8.18 The overall capacity of Gypsy and Traveller sites and Travelling Showpeople sites are shown in Tables 2&3 below.

**Table 2 – Site capacity Gypsies and Travellers**

Overall Capacity of Gypsy and Traveller Sites Identified in the study area through Local Authority Records and Interview Data		
Location	Number of occupied Gypsy/Traveller Pitches	Number of vacant pitches
Adversane Caravan Park	11	1
Cousins Copse, Five Oaks	12	0
Small Dole Caravan Park	8	0
Hillside Park, Small Dole	12	0
Lane Top, Nutborne	3	0
Oakdene, Blackgate Lane, Pullborough	1	0
Oaklands, Dial Post	3	0
Parsons Field, Pickhurst Lane, Pullborough	1	0
Southview, The Haven, Billingshurst	5	0

Greenfield Farm, Valewood Lane, Barnes Green	5	0
Burnt House Lane, Rusper	2	0
Deer Park Farm, Hampers Lane, Horsham	1	0
Kingfisher Farm,	11	0
<b>Total Combined</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>1</b>

**Table 3 – Site capacity Travelling Showpeople**

Overall Capacity of Travelling Showpeople Sites Identified in the study area through Local Authority Records and Interview Data		
Location	Number of occupied Travelling Showpeople Pitches	Number of vacant pitches
The Orchard, Ashington	4	0
<b>Total Combined</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>

**Unauthorised developments tolerated for more than 10 years**

8.19 There are two unauthorised sites Greenacres (Hillside Park) Caravan Park in Small Dole and Southview, The Haven, Billingshurst which have been in existence for more than 10 years. At the time of the site visit there were 12 mobile homes at Hillside Park, but records show that the number of pitches has varied over the years.

8.20 The site at The Haven, whilst unauthorised has an extensive planning history dating back to the early 1980's. The current owners bought the site in 1987 and live at the site together with their four children who each have their own mobile home.

**Number of unused/vacant local authority pitches/plots**

8.21 There is currently one vacant pitch on the site managed by West Sussex County Council at Adversane.

### **Number of unused/vacant private pitches/plots**

- 8.22 There are no vacant pitches on any of the privately owned sites. The planning permission for the new Gypsy site at Kingfisher Farm is currently being implemented. To date the 6 pitches have been sold to individuals moving into the District.

### **Number of existing pitches/plots expected to become vacant in the near future**

- 8.23 From the data received, we were advised that one elderly couple living on the WSCC site at Adversane are waiting to move off the site in to a bungalow, which would provide a vacant plot.

### **Number of households in site accommodation expressing a desire to live in bricks and mortar housing**

- 8.24 The Council's Housing Register does not provide information regarding whether individuals on the list are Travellers. The survey however revealed one family wishing to move into bricks and mortar and one individual who wished to move out of bricks and mortar on to a pitch. The mobile homes at Picketty Corner have now been replaced by permanent dwellings and are occupied by the original gypsy families. The occupants at the former Marringdean Lane site have moved into bricks and mortar accommodation in Billingshurst. There are a number of families known to be living in bricks and mortar accommodation which was collected indirectly through the evidence gathering process, however it is recognised that the precise numbers are unknown. The 2011 census should provide data about the number of people who regard themselves as Gypsies and Travellers. This data was not available before this study was finished but it is recommended that it should be used to inform the final policies that are developed.

### **Details of any planned local authority public traveller sites to be delivered in year 1**

- 8.25 There are no planned local authority sites proposed. West Sussex County Council plans to offer the management of the County owned sites to ***“suitably qualified organisations”*** on a long term lease basis at the beginning of 2013. From the information received the sites would be safeguarded for occupation by Gypsies and Travellers.

**Outstanding planning applications for private pitches/plots (including unauthorised sites) likely to gain permission in year 1 (how do we know that they will get pp?)**

- 8.26 There is one outstanding planning application for an extension to the existing traveller site at Oakdene, Blackgate Lane (DC/12/2093). Two planning applications for sites at Deer Park Farm, Horsham (DC/10/1974) and The Caravan, Littleworth Lane, Partridge Green (DC/12/0551) have recently been refused planning permission by the Council. Appeals have been lodged against these decisions and the outcomes are awaited.

**ESTIMATING THE CURRENT DEMAND FOR PITCHES IN THE AREA**

**Households seeking permanent site accommodation in the area**

- 8.27 The Council’s Housing Register does not hold information regarding the number of households in bricks and mortar who are seeking permanent site accommodation in the area. The County Council’s waiting list provided details regarding the number of households waiting for a permanent pitch.
- 8.28 As a result of the interviews we were advised that there are two sons of one of the occupiers of Cousins Copse who are currently on the County Council’s waiting list for a pitch and the former warden at Adversane advised that her son was seeking to move out of bricks and mortar on to a pitch.



- 8.29 The group of New Age Travellers at the Hollow, Washington expressed a desire for an authorised transit site within Horsham District where they could stay when they are not travelling.

#### **Currently Unauthorised Encampments definition?**

- 8.30 The New Age Travellers site at Washington is the only unauthorised encampment in the district because the occupiers do not own the land and the site does not have planning permission. Two sites at Hillside Park, Small Dole and Southview, The Haven and have a long planning history and are now “tolerated”. There is one additional unauthorised site at Small Dole.

#### **Current Unauthorised Developments for which permanent permission is not expected**

- 8.31 There are no sites in this category.

#### **Need arising from overcrowded pitches/plots and concealed households**

- 8.32 There are issues regarding overcrowding at the Small Dole site owned by Horsham District Council and this was confirmed at the site visit. Four of the eight pitches are currently occupied by more than one household and there is an additional unauthorised pitch immediately adjacent to this site. The site at Small Dole does not have the capacity to expand.
- 8.33 In terms of concealed households, the interviews revealed that across all the sites there are currently 15 pitches where there are individuals aged 18+ residing with relatives. One

concealed household is currently residing on an unauthorised site. The details are summarised in Table 4 below.

**Table 4 – 18+ Living with residents**

Residents 18 + Living with Relatives	
Sites	Occupants 18+ years living with relatives
Adversane, Caravan Park	1
Cousins Copse	4
Small Dole	1
Oakdene, Blackgate Lane	2
Oaklands, Dial Post	1
Greenfield Farm, Valewood Lane, Barnes Green	6
Deer Park Farm (unauthorised)	1
<b>Total Combined</b>	<b>15</b>

8.34 In total therefore there is a potential need for an additional 19 pitches arising from overcrowding and concealed households.

#### **Temporary planning permissions due to expire before 2017**

8.35 The site at Hazbec Stud, land south of Oaklands Farm, Hooklands Lane Ashington is occupied by a Gypsy family. The site has temporary planning permission for a 3 bed agricultural workers home which expires in January 2014. Temporary planning permission was recently granted for two pitches at Northside Farm, Burnthouse Lane expiring in 2014.

#### **Newly arising need/family formations**

8.36 The Surrey methodology the age of 18 has been used as a guide as to when travellers normally leave home to set up their own households. In addition to the 19 pitches generated by overcrowding and concealed households interviews revealed that there is an additional need for 10 pitches that will be generated by individuals currently living with relatives who will reach the age of 18 by 2017.

8.37 A planning application was also recently refused by the Council for a new site at Littleworth Lane, Partridge Lane. This application was generated by the need to provide accommodation for the former wife and children of one of the occupants at Cousins Copse Caravan Site.

8.38 A summary of other outstanding need is set out in Table 5 below.

**Table 5 – Summary of Outstanding Need**

Outstanding Need		
Sites	Concealed Households 18+	Need generated by newly formed households by 2017
Adversane Caravan Site	1	1
Cousins Copse, Caravan Park	4	2
Small Dole, Hillside Lane	4	0
Oakdene, Blackgate Lane, Pullborough	2	0
Oaklands, Dial Post	1	0
Greenfield Farm, Valewood Lane, Barns Green	4	6
Northside Farm, Burnthouse Lane, Rusper	2	0
Deer Park Farm, Hampers Lane	1	1
<b>Total Combined</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>10</b>

## 9.0 SUMMARY OF CURRENT SUPPLY AND DEMAND

9.1 The summary of current supply and demand is set out in Table 6 below.

**Table 6 – Summary of Need**

	Pitches (Gypsies & Travellers)	Plots (Travelling Showpeople)
<b>Current Residential Supply:</b>		
A. Current supply of occupied local authority residential site pitches/plots in local authority area	32	0
B. Current supply of authorised and occupied privately owned site pitches/plots in local authority area	27	4
C. Unauthorised pitches/plots tolerated for more than 10 years	16	0
<b>Total Households</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Projected supply:</b>		
D. Number of unused/vacant local authority pitches/plots	1	0
E. Number of unused/vacant authorised privately owned pitches/plots	0	0
F. Number of existing pitches/plots expected to become vacant in the near future	0	0
G. Number of households in site pitch/plot accommodation expressing a desire to live in bricks and mortar housing (in next five years)	1	0
H. New local authority pitches/plots planned during year 1	0	0
I. Existing applications for private pitches/plots (including unauthorised sites) likely to gain planning permission during year 1	0	0
<b>Total pitch capacity</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Current backlog of need:</b>		
J. Households seeking permanent site accommodation in the area	5	0
K. On unauthorised encampments expressing a need to reside in the Borough/District	4	0
L. Currently on unauthorised developments for which planning permission is not expected as there is a presumption against development in these areas *	15	0
M. Currently overcrowded or doubled up and concealed households	19	0
N. Temporary planning permissions due to expire before 2017	3	0
<b>Current shortfall</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Future need:</b>		
O. Future need: New family formations expected to arise from existing borough households 2012-2017	10	0
<b>Total current residential demand for pitches/plots (2-46)</b>	<b>-44</b>	
<b>Demand for extra pitches/plots 2012-2017 (44 + 10)</b>	<b>54</b>	

\* This figure is generated by the unauthorised New Age Travellers encampment at Washington

9.2 The total current residential demand figure is currently showing as a negative figure of 40 pitches. However this figure includes 15 pitches generated by the current New Age Traveller encampment. From the interviews conducted with the travelling communities, it is clear that the Pitch requirements of the Gypsy community are different from the requirements of the New Age Travellers. The Gypsy community require individual pitch provision whereas the New Age Travellers require less formal pitch arrangements.

9.3 It is recommended therefore that the Council considers adjusting the current residential demand figure by 15 pitches to exclude the New Age Travellers as set out below:

***Current pitch demand (-44) pitches – New Age Travellers pitch demand 15 pitches  
= (-29) pitches***

***Adjusted figure demand for extra pitches/plots 2012-2017 (29+10) = 39 pitches***

9.4 Notwithstanding the above, the Council needs to consider how the accommodation needs of the New Age Travellers can be best met if they the revised figures are to be carried progressed.

## **10.0 FINALISING THE TAA – THE 15 YEAR PROJECTION**

- 10.1 The national guidance “Planning Policy for traveller sites” requires local authorities to identify a continuous supply of sites for the travelling community for a 15 year period which is difficult to forecast accurately. Paragraph 8.49 sets out the methodology for calculating the additional supply requirement and is based on the approach set out in the CLG “Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments Needs Guidance” and this has been applied here.
- 10.2 For the gypsy population, the above table shows that there is a need for an additional 56 pitches up to the period to 2017, based on the backlog of existing need (46 pitches) and the formation of new households in the next 5 years (10 pitches). However the number of pitches has been reduced by 2 to take account of the one vacant pitch and another which is expected to become vacant in the next 5 years. By 2017 therefore it is estimated that a total number of households will be 129 (75+46+10-2).
- 10.3 To calculate the estimated future supply for the period 2017 – 2027, the total number of households has been multiplied by a family formation rate of 3% as set out in the CLG Guidance. These percentages have been applied as a compound growth per annum.
- 10.4 In the case of the Travelling Showpeople, there is no current backlog of provision and no details of likely additional household formation for the period 2012-2017 therefore the projected supply has been calculated using the baseline figure of 4 households and applying a 1.5% family formation compound growth rate in accordance with the CLG Guidance. The results are set out in Tables 7 & 7A below.

**Table 7 – Projected need (including New Age Travellers)**

Pitch Requirements	Gypsy	Travelling Showpeople
a) Existing number of households (baseline)	92	4
b) Existing at 2017	129	4
c) Projected to 2022	149	4 (4.3)
d) Projected to 2027	172	5 (4.6)
Extra pitches required	43	1

10.5 The adjusted projections to exclude the 15 pitches generated by the New Age Travellers as per the reasoning in paragraphs 9.2 and 9.3 are set out in Table 7A below:

**Table 7A – Projected need (excluding New Age Travellers)**

Pitch Requirements	Gypsy	Travelling Showpeople
a) Existing number of households (baseline)	77	4
b) Existing at 2017	114	4
c) Projected to 2022	132	4 (4.3)
d) Projected to 2027	153	5 (4.6)
Extra pitches required	39	1

10.6 Based upon the Surrey Methodology the number of additional pitches that will be required by 2027 is:

- 43 additional Gypsy/Traveller pitches and 1 additional Travelling Showpeople pitches including the requirement for New Age Travellers.
- 39 additional Gypsy/Traveller pitches and 1 additional Travelling Showpeople pitches excluding the requirement for New Age Travellers.

- 10.7 The Council may wish to consider adjusting the projected figure for the Gypsy/Traveller community to take account of the additional pitch requirement generated by the New Age Travellers.
- 10.8 The assumption that a new household will form once a gypsy or traveller reaches the age of 18 may need to be considered and monitored over the time period to take account of changes in lifestyle. The household formation may also be reduced given that the population marry within their race and therefore only one not two new households may be formed.



## **11.0 TRANSIT SITES**

- 11.1 The Planning policy for traveller sites (April 2011) sets out the Government's approach to providing transit sites to facilitate the travel undertaken by travellers to maintain their traditional way of life.
- 11.2 Contained within Policy A of the draft PPS is the requirement for local planning authorities to co-operate with travellers, their representative bodies and local support groups, other local authorities and relevant interest groups to prepare and maintain an up-to-date understanding of the likely permanent and transit accommodation needs of their areas over the lifespan of their development plan in light of historical demand. Policy B also makes reference to the need for local planning authorities to set pitch and plot targets which address the likely permanent and transit site accommodation needs of travellers in light of historical demand.
- 11.3 In the majority of cases the Romany Gypsy families living in the District did not feel that there was any need to provide transit sites. In general most of the resident population do not rely on travelling as a way of life or a means to find employment. They prefer to live on small family sites so that they can have access local services such as education and health care. Constant travelling does not generally occurs except for short trips on a seasonal basis such as to the annual Appleby Fair etc.
- 11.4 The views expressed by the group of New Age Travellers at Washington was however different. They rely on travelling as a way of life often only stopping for 3 or 4 months in one place. Often when landowners were happy to accommodate the group, pressure was brought to bear to evict them from the land. Camp site operators would also refuse to provide accommodation because of their arrangements with the big camping and caravan organisations. The group felt strongly that there was a lack of sites where they could stop

on a short term basis, without fear of eviction. The Council therefore need to consider how to best meet the accommodation needs of the New Age Travellers and it is recommended that further engagement is conducted with the group.

## **12.0 CONCLUSIONS**

- 12.1 The results of the assessment indicate that there are three groups of Travellers currently living within the District each with a specific accommodation need. In terms of the traditional Romany Gypsy population, this group are settled in the District and do not rely upon a permanent travelling life style any more. There is an existing shortfall of 46 pitches emulating from existing households with a projected need of an additional 10 households formulating in the next 5 years to 2017. When the figures are adjusted to allow for vacant pitches the results show a projected need for an additional 43 pitches by 2027, which is reduced to 39 pitches when the New Age Travellers are excluded.
- 12.2 There is one Travelling Showpeople site in the District and due to the circumstances of the family, this site is not expected to generate any additional need in the foreseeable future, but future projections have been carried out resulting in the need for an additional 1 pitch by 2027.
- 12.3 There are approximately 15 households within the unauthorised encampment currently within the District. Due to their travelling life style, New Age Travellers do not require pitches, but sites where they can camp on a temporary basis and this needs to be addressed by the Council.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

<b>Bricks and mortar</b>	Permanent mainstream housing.
<b>Caravan</b>	Mobile living vehicles also referred to as trailers or touring caravans.
<b>Concealed households</b>	Someone living within a household but wanting to move to their own accommodation to form a separate household (e.g. adult children living at home). Sometimes referred to as suppressed households.
<b>Gypsy</b>	Person from an ethnic group with a nomadic or travelling way of life.
<b>Gypsies and Travellers</b>	Persons of nomadic habit of life whatever their race or origin, including such persons who on grounds only of their own or their family's or dependants' educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, but excluding members of an organised group of travelling show people or circus people travelling together as such. <sup>1</sup>
<b>Household</b>	One person or a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address and sharing at least one meal a day and housekeeping costs.
<b>Mobile Home</b>	Legally a caravan but not normally capable of being moved by towing.
<b>Pitch</b>	A piece of land which generally accommodates one static and one touring Gypsy caravan, amenity and storage space, amenity building and parking.
<b>Plot</b>	A piece of land of unspecified size which accommodates Travelling Showpeople's caravans, trailers, mobile homes and sometimes equipment.
<b>Transit site</b>	A permanent site intended for short-term temporary use by Gypsy and Traveller on the move.
<b>Travelling Showpeople</b>	Members of a group organised for the purposes of holding fairs, circuses or shows (whether or not travelling together as such). This includes such persons who on the grounds of their own or their family's or dependants' more localised pattern of trading, educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, but excludes Gypsies and Travellers as defined in Circular 01/2006. <sup>2</sup>
<b>Traveller</b>	Term often used to refer to the ethnic group of Irish Travellers with a heritage of travelling.
<b>Travellers</b>	Term covering Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in the Draft PPS on Planning for traveller sites. A non-ethnic description for the purposes of planning to encompass all those of a travelling way of life whatever their race or origin. <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Planning Policy for Traveller sites 23 March 2012

<sup>2</sup> Planning Policy for Traveller sites 23 March 2012

<sup>3</sup> Term taken from Annex 1 of the planning policy for traveller sites (23<sup>rd</sup> March 2012)

<b>Unauthorised development</b>	Land owned by Gypsies and Travellers but without the benefit of planning permission.
<b>Unauthorised encampment</b>	Land occupied by Gypsies and Travellers and their homes but without the benefit of planning permission or the permission of the land owner. Can include land at the side of the road.