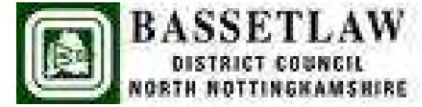


# Nottinghamshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment



Update April 2010



# Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment Update April 2010

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## Introduction and Summary Conclusions

### **Update on new coalition Government.**

The election of a new coalition Government in May 2010 has had and will continue to have an effect upon the provision of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation, and consequently the requirements of the Accommodation Assessment. The Government has revoked the Regional Strategies, for which the current GTAA figures were prepared, and on which this update of the assessment is based. In addition provisions for site funding have been removed. The removal of Regional bodies has also entailed the removal of the framework within which the GTAA figures were reported, although there is discussion on whether these can be used as a guide in assessing need.

This report serves as an update of progress on the assessment and current figures, and much of the content is still pertinent. As the full implications of the Government's intentions are unclear (see extract below), any further work on progressing the actions and recommendations will await clearer guidance.

One conclusion that is clear, however, is the need for provision to be made in Local Development Framework's, and the need for an Accommodation Assessment to be used as part of government thinking. Any future accommodation assessment of Gypsy and Traveller need would have to take into account the emerging government thinking on Localism and cross boundary working. Subject to the availability of commitment from the partner authorities, this should be prepared for.

Extract from letter of 6<sup>th</sup> July 2010 from Communities and Local Government to all local planning authorities.

#### **How do we determine the level of provision for travellers?**

Local councils are in the best place to assess the needs of travellers who live in their area. The abolition of regional strategies means that local authorities will be responsible for determining the right level of site provision, reflecting local need and historic demand, and for bringing forward land in development plan documents. They should continue to do this in line with current policy. *Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments* (GTAAs) have been undertaken by all local authorities and if local authorities decide to review the levels of provision in their Core Strategies these assessments will form a good starting point. However, local authorities are not bound by the methodology adopted by the Regional Planning Bodies in drawing up the GTAAs. We will review relevant regulations and guidance on this matter in due course.

## CHANGES TO PROVISION

The extra column from the original Summary (GTAA p.9) shows the pitches available as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2010, although these figures do not distinguish between occupied and vacant pitches. Significant changes in the provision have been in the private sector, with a total of 28 new private pitches developed. There has been no new public provision to date. There are still 102 pitches void which is a reduction from the original figure of 110 but there are still 148 pitches not available for use by the Gypsy and Traveller community for varying reasons. Even though there has been some new provision, the number of pitches available for Gypsy and Traveller use across the county has reduced although in some districts/boroughs provision has increased. This figure is more realistic one as some of the caravan sites included in the original count were mobile home parks not used by the Travelling community.

**Table 1: Summary of Authorised Provision**

District	Site	Pitches identified in GTAA <sup>1</sup>	Pitches available for G&T as of 31/01/2010	Explanation of the change/other notes
Ashfield	David St, Kirkby	4	7	
	Pond St, Kirkby	4	4	Showmens- 1 pitch vacant
	The Willows, Jubilee	0	4	Not identified in the Tribal study
	Hodgkinson Rd, Kirkby	7	7	
	Park Lane Kirkby	25	25	Showmen- was 19 pitches void but now only 9 not in use
Bassetlaw	Daneshill Lakes	15	15	New Age Travellers
	Stubbing Lane	25	25	
	Markham Moor	5	5	
	Cheapside, Worksop	0	5	New site granted planning permission. Ethnicity unknown.
Broxtowe	None	0	0	
Gedling	Sherwood House	4	4	Showmen
Mansfield	None	0	0	
Newark & Sherwood	Bowers Caravan Site, Tolney Lane, Newark	20	20	
	Ropewalk Farm, Tolney Lane, Newark	42	42	Originally stated 37 voids- now available
	Castle View, Tolney Lane, Newark	20	20	Plus 40 for general use.
	Church View, Tolney Lane, Newark	35	1	Currently 34 pitches vacant- awaiting redevelopment

<sup>1</sup> Figures for Bassetlaw were not included in the original GTAA as they were included in a separate assessment for the authority.



District	Site	Pitches identified in GTAA <sup>1</sup>	Pitches available for G&T as of 31/01/2010	Explanation of the change/other notes
	Riverside Park, Tolney Lane, Newark	23	23	Including 4 touring caravans- Not used by Gypsies and Travellers
	Sandhills, Tolney Lane, Newark	10	10	
	The Burrows, Tolney Lane, Newark	4	4	
	Land north of Ropewalk Farm, Tolney Lane, Newark	21	0	Not developed
	The Paddocks, Tolney Lane Newark	3	3	
	Land off Tolney Lane	0	3	New Planning permission
	The Shannon, Wellow Road, New Ollerton	38	25 +12 transit	1 residential van now PP for house. Planning permission granted Jan2010 for Gypsy and Traveller use of site 37 plots.
	Winters	1	1	
	Dunromin, Wellow Road, New Ollerton	8	8	Gypsy use only
	Greenwood site, Newark Road New Ollerton	0	2	Planning permission granted 2009 on appeal. Applicant can only reside on site 8 months of each calendar year therefore not counted as new pitch provision.
	The Paddock, Newark Road, Ollerton.	0	4	New planning permission
	Fairholme New Ollerton	29	0	See GTAA still not for G&T Use
	Sherwood Park Caravan Site, Walesby	38	0	See GTAA still not for G&T Use
	Barnby Crossing	1	0	Enforcement on unauthorised development
Nottingham City	The Relics	3	3	Show People
	Western Boulevard	12	12	Show People
	Blenheim Lane, Bulwell	6	6	Show People
	Moorbridge caravan Site Bestwood Road	23	25	Irish- new planning permission for 2 additional pitches

District	Site	Pitches identified in GTAA <sup>1</sup>	Pitches available for G&T as of 31/01/2010	Explanation of the change/other notes
	Treetops Colwick Road Carlton	0	6	Not identified by Tribal in GTAA
	Rear of 137 Cinderhill Road	0	8	Planning permission granted for Irish Travellers.
Rushcliffe	Cedar Lodge caravan park, Nottingham Road	4	4	Irish( originally called The Paddocks)
	Landcroft Lane, Sutton Bonington	0	2	1 only temporary permission
Total		472	345	

**Table 2: Summary of Overall Authorised Provision**

District	Existing pitches occupied by Gypsy & Travellers <sup>2</sup>	Long term voids- not coming back into use	Current long term voids expected to come back into use	Pitches not available for Gypsy & Traveller use
Ashfield	47	0	10	0
Bassetlaw	50	0	0	0
Broxtowe	0	0	0	0
Gedling	4	0	0	0
Mansfield	0	0	0	0
Newark & Sherwood	178	21	34	148
Nottingham City	60	0	0	0
Rushcliffe	6	0	0	0
Total	345	21	44	148

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<sup>2</sup> This includes use by Showpeople.



## UPDATE ON INFORMATION SOURCES

### Bi-Annual Caravan Count

This is a count made on a specific date twice a year, in January and July, of all Gypsy and Traveller caravans and is carried out by all Local Authorities with a housing duty. The figures for the last five counts can be found in Appendix 1 at the end of this report. The total figures for the number of caravans in the whole of Nottinghamshire peaked at 287 in January 2009 and then fell slightly in July 2009, the traditional travelling time, to 250. The figures also highlight the fact that vast majority of caravans can be found on private authorised sites. Following consultation in November 2009 various changes were made effective from Jan 2010;

- sites with temporary planning permission will now be shown as opposed to tolerated unauthorised developments.
- ethnicity data is not now included but a decision in Nottinghamshire has been made to continue to note this where possible.
- average pitch rent is still to be included and there is no longer a need to make a separate record of additional dwellings.
- the definition of Gypsies and Travellers counted is to be extended to include Travelling Showpeople from July 2010.

### Unauthorised Encampments

This term is used to describe the use of land by Gypsies or Travellers for living on which they do not own. Local authorities and the police have a range of enforcement actions available to them to evict households in unauthorised encampments. Consequently, neither the council nor the households living there invest in any facilities and conditions are very basic (for instance no toilets or running water) and families tend not to stay more than a few hours, days or weeks.

This is the first year monitoring of unauthorised encampments has been collated centrally by the Accommodation Monitoring Group and the total figures for each District are shown below. The summer of 2009 has seen a marked increase in encampments compared to previous years and the Ethnicity Culture and Achievement Service continue to carry out Welfare assessments on any encampments on County Council land and when notified on other land also. The figures cover the year from January 2009 until the date this report was compiled, April 2010. The figures may not be a true representation of the total numbers of caravans and vehicles as it may include some who are travelling between the Districts- more detailed monitoring with caravan details and vehicle registration numbers may help give a more accurate picture.

District/Borough/City	Numbers of encampments	Total caravans	Total vehicles
Ashfield	7	40	
Bassetlaw	4	20	9
Broxtowe	4	106	41
Gedling	1	13	8
Mansfield	2	14	13
Newark & Sherwood	4		
Nottingham City	7	72	
Rushcliffe	15	131	28
TOTAL	44		



## **Unauthorised developments**

This term is used to describe developments that occur when Gypsies or Travellers buy a piece of land which does not have planning permission for a dwelling and proceed to place a chalet, trailer or caravan on it. Eviction can normally only be secured through the planning appeals system, and can be protracted.

The numbers of unauthorised developments are difficult to quantify but are usually identified in the bi- annual caravan count.

## **PLANNING UPDATE**

NB – The national and regional circumstances are subject to change owing to the (as yet undefined) plans of the coalition government, including the future revocation of Regional Strategies. This section outlines the situation as it stands prior to the new Government's plans being enacted.

### **National**

#### **Sub-National Review**

The Government is taking forward reform of Regional Planning announced under the Sub-National Review of Economic Development and Regeneration (SNR). The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction (LDEDC) Bill is enacting this.

A key element of the Bill is the creation of a new Single Regional Strategy (SRS) for each of the English regions. The Regional Strategy will replace Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies (RES and RSS), and will set out a vision for the region for the next 15 – 20 years. The Strategy will form part of the statutory development plan along with Local Development Frameworks. In April 2010 the current RSS and RES will together form the SRS for the East Midlands pending preparation of a new one. Policies regarding Gypsy and Traveller pitch provision will remain in place so there will be no policy vacuum.

A Joint Strategy Advisory Board (JSAB) will be established jointly to assist a Local Authority Leaders' Board and the EMDA Board in producing the Single Regional Strategy. The Local Authority Leaders' Boards will be the strategic decision making body for local authorities at the regional level.

### **Regional**

#### **Regional Plan**

The current Regional Spatial Strategy for the East Midlands was published in March 2009 as the East Midlands Regional Plan<sup>3</sup>.

The figures for extra Gypsy and Traveller pitches in the draft RSS were updated in the adopted East Midlands Regional Plan. The updated figures incorporated increases in pitch provision requirements as a result of a variety of factors. The pitch requirements in Appendix 2 of the RSS were derived from completed GTAA's and amended to show provision only up to 2012. Other minor amendments were identified by benchmarking exercise undertaken by the Building and Social Housing Foundation. The policy of using the figures derived from the GTAA's has been retained.

The supporting text also highlights the need for future reviews of GTAA's to provide updated assessments of need and suggests that growth rates that should be used to take account of future household formation beyond 2012.

References to Travelling Showpeople were added to the policy and supporting text clarified their inclusion. The wording of the policy has been amended to enable Local Authorities to work together where joint or co-ordinated LDFs are being prepared. Whether this might include aligned DPDs on Gypsy and Traveller accommodation is unclear, but unlikely to be ruled out.

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.qos.gov.uk/497296/docs/229865/EMRP> - NB this is a large document file of 3.8Mb

The need to account for the revised site provision timescale (to 2012) and growth assumptions in the wording of policies that encompass the whole plan period should be accounted for. This might incorporate a GTAA review, or assumed levels in the event of no review.

As site provision now includes Travelling Showpeople this has implications for any review of the GTAA, and also the criteria for some sites (i.e. to accommodate significant vehicle/rides storage). The needs of Travelling Showpeople should be assessed separately with a dedicated requirement specified in a full review of the GTAA.

## **Local**

### Local Development Frameworks (LDFs)

LDFs are in preparation across the whole County, all of which will reach what is termed 'Core Strategy Preferred Option' stage at various stages throughout 2010. In the Nottingham Core HMA a Greater Nottingham aligned core strategy is in preparation, with a preferred option issued in March 2010. The Ashfield LDF is working to the same timetable. Bassetlaw, Mansfield and Newark & Sherwood local authorities intend to produce Core Strategy Preferred Options later in 2010. For more information please refer to Local Authority update section

## HOUSING UPDATE

### **National**

#### Progress Report on Gypsy and Traveller Policy

On 16<sup>th</sup> July 2009 CLG published the first annual Progress Report on Gypsy and Traveller Policy. It reinforces the need for local authorities to take a twin track approach that increases the identification of much needed authorised Gypsy and Traveller sites, in conjunction with more effective use of enforcement powers where appropriate. The current position on site delivery remains unsatisfactory. It is clear that local authorities need to increase the pace at which suitable locations are identified that can be used as Gypsy and Traveller sites. Although the Government recognises the difficulties that can arise, it considers that with strong leadership at the local level, local authorities can make rapid progress in addressing what is, in numerical and land-use terms, a relatively small level of need. The identification of suitable locations for authorised sites will help to reduce the number of unauthorised developments and encampments which can create tensions between Gypsies and Travellers and the settled population.

#### Gypsy and Traveller Site Management Good Practice Guide

CLG has also published the Gypsy and Traveller Site Management Good Practice Guide. This follows consideration of the responses received in a draft version. It provides good practice guidance on all facets of managing sites and is intended to help new and existing managers maintain well run and sustainable sites.

#### Gypsy and Traveller Sites Grant

Since the completion of the GTAA the management of the Gypsy and Traveller Sites Grant has moved from the CLG to the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA). This programme provides funding for local authorities and registered social landlords to create new sites and refurbish existing sites **for the following groups:**

- Ethnic Gypsies and Travellers
- New (age) Travellers
- Travelling Showpeople

One of the key aims of the HCA is to create homes that people can afford in places where they want to live. This includes providing sites for that section of the Gypsy and Traveller community who want to preserve their traditions and live in a caravan.

The aim of the grant programme is to increase the number and quality of authorised sites throughout England and a total of £97m of grants are available from 2008-11. The HCA is managing the Gypsy and Traveller Sites Grant programme for 2009/10 and 2010/11.

#### Mobile Homes Act

Gypsies and Travellers currently occupy pitches on Local Authority owned sites under licenses under the Caravan Sites Act 1968. Proposed changes under the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 will remove the exclusion that currently exists in the Mobile Homes Act 1983 relating to these pitches and it will apply to these sites. This will give Gypsies and Travellers the same



rights and responsibilities as residents living in similar accommodation such as park home sites and private Gypsy and Traveller Sites.

The final bill is currently still waiting to be tabled with Parliament and this is not expected now until the Autumn 2010. When the law changes, those who are current licensees or tenants will become "occupiers", they will have contracts called "pitch agreements", and those agreements will include "implied terms" (which are laid down by law, and cannot be left out of an agreement) and "express terms" (all other terms in the agreement, which need to be agreed between Council and occupiers).

## **Regional**

### East Midlands Regional Housing Strategy

Since the completion of the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment in 2007, the East Midlands Regional Housing Strategy 'Managing Growth, Managing Change' 2008-2016 has been published (November 2008). The development of the Strategy has been led by the East Midlands Regional Assembly Housing Group.

Within the list of Objectives, Objective 5 articulates the intention 'to develop a framework within which regional and local partners can develop sustainable and cohesive communities'.

From this, the 'Sustainable and Cohesive Communities' section of the Strategy outlines how this is intended to be achieved. Within this is reference to meeting the needs and requirements of the Gypsy and Traveller community throughout the East Midlands, with particular emphasis on Local Authorities identifying suitable sites for their use, as per the below extract;

The Regional Housing Group (RHG) considers that it is imperative that Local Authorities make immediate progress in site identification to meet the needs of Gypsies and Travellers and welcomes this approach. Housing associations can also become involved in site provision and management. The RHG wishes to particularly encourage progress towards new site provision. Resources for new pitch provision form part of the National Affordable Housing Programme.

The Strategy goes on to say that it is important that councils and housing associations ensure that their policies and practices are reviewed, updated and monitored to take account of the housing needs of Gypsies and Travellers. This recommendation is an adoption of a one of the main recommendations emanating from the Black and Minority Ethnic Communities East Midlands Housing Strategy (February 2008), which preceded the 'Managing Growth, Managing Change' Strategy.

Within the Black and Minority Ethnic Communities East Midlands Housing Strategy (February 2008) was also a recommendation that the National Housing Federation Black and Minority Ethnic Housing Group should develop a charter to take forward the recommendations and key actions, including those actions relating to Gypsy and Travellers. The East Midlands Housing Strategy endorsed this view, whilst at the same time advocating each relevant local authority and housing association still look to take a decisive leadership role.

## **LOCAL AUTHORITY UPDATE AND PROGRESSION TOWARDS MEETING PROVISION**

Government changes to the planning system since their election have stalled the Local Development Framework process within several local authorities. The text below therefore describes the situation in April 2010 and for the current status please refer to the relevant authority website.

### **Greater Nottingham Joint Working**

Ashfield (in part), Broxtowe, Gedling, Nottingham City and Rushcliffe (together with Erewash in Derbyshire) are currently working in partnership on an aligned Local Development Framework Core Strategy (the 'Greater Nottingham Aligned Core Strategies'). The 'Aligned Core Strategies' will include a policy providing guidance on where sites for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople should be located. (This is proposed Policy 9 in the 'Option for Consultation', February 2010.) A 'Core Strategy Preferred Option' document was published for consultation in March 2010.

The same authorities in the Nottingham Core Housing Market Area also completed a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) in 2006/07 in partnership and undertaken a needs update of this in 2009.

### **Ashfield**

#### **GTAA**

The Nottinghamshire GTAA (2007) identified a total of 40 existing pitches in Ashfield District, with no additional requirement needed up to 2011. These figures included pitches/plots for showpeople in addition to the rest of the Gypsy/traveller community. However, the East Midlands's Regional Plan (2009) revised the GTAA figure and Ashfield now has an additional requirement of 8 pitches for the period 2007-2012. In addition to this revision, it has become apparent that a site at Jubilee for 4 pitches was overlooked in the initial GTAA, and the David Street site was undercounted by 3 pitches. This has been amended in the revised supply tables, but it will not have any implications for the overall additional requirement.

New Provision- There has been no new provision in the period between the completion of the GTAA in 2007 and January 2010.

#### **LDF**

The Council's Local Development Framework is progressing. Consultation on the 'Core Strategy Issues and Options' report ended in July 2009 and subsequent 'Core Strategy Area Based Spatial Growth Options' ended in November 2009. The Council's planning team have taken all comments into account and a 'Core Strategy Preferred Option' document was published for consultation in March 2010.

Early consultation on the initial Issues and Options document highlighted a lack of focus on Gypsy and Traveller issues. This has been acknowledged and a policy addressing the needs of Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople will be included in the Preferred Option document. This includes recognition of the need to allocate additional pitches in accordance with the East Midlands Regional Plan and subsequent GTAA's.

## **Bassetlaw**

The Local Development Framework (LDF) is currently underway. The Core Strategy and Development Management Policy- Issues and Options document is expected to include a policy on steering where Gypsy and Traveller sites should be located. Work will begin on allocating specific sites next year as part of the Sites Allocation DPD. For more information on the timetable for the LDF, please visit:

[http://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/services/planning\\_building/planning\\_policy/local\\_development\\_framework/local\\_development\\_scheme.aspx](http://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/services/planning_building/planning_policy/local_development_framework/local_development_scheme.aspx)

## **Broxtowe**

Broxtowe will shortly be starting consultation on its 'Site Allocations' and 'Development Control Policies' Development Plan Documents, and it is very likely that these will make provision for sites.

## **Gedling**

The GTAA identified existing 13 pitches in Gedling, and concluded that 4 further pitches were needed by 2011 to meet the needs of emerging households. However, it has since become clear that 9 of these pitches (Poplar Meadows and Devon Street) were not accurately located in the GTAA and do not in fact exist in Gedling. They have been deleted from this update of the GTAA. This leaves only 4 pitches for showpeople (at Rigg Lane Ravenshead) and no known Gypsies and Travellers living in the borough. The need for new pitches has therefore been recalculated using Tribal's method and this equates to 0.92 pitches to be delivered by 2011. (for more on the calculation, contact Housing Strategy at Gedling Borough Council). Clearly, when dealing with such small figures, site provision would depend on the probability of a single new family being formed or not.

The Council does have an action in its Housing Strategy 2010-2014 to provide the 4 new pitches originally suggested by the GTAA. This could be taken forward through the site specific allocations process of the LDF in the coming years, unless a suitable site can be identified in the meantime. But in light of the information above, this action is subject to review and a decision about whether the need justifies provision of any new pitches.

## **Mansfield**

Whilst the local housing action plans contained within the strategy incorporate actions to respond to unique issues in smaller geographical areas, there are many things we will address through joint working including plans to respond to identified challenges for example, providing accommodation and services for our Gypsy and Traveller communities.

The Local Development Framework is currently underway in Mansfield. The Core Strategy Issues and Options document will examine the possibilities of providing a site for Gypsies and Travellers either by allocating a specific site in the core strategy or through identifying broad locations. For more details, please visit: [www.mansfield.gov.uk/cs](http://www.mansfield.gov.uk/cs)

## **Newark and Sherwood**

Newark and Sherwood District Council has recently adopted a local housing strategy. This is supplementary to the Sherwood Forest Housing Strategy, which is the Strategy formulated in conjunction with the Council's other housing market area local authority partners, Mansfield and



Ashfield. The local Strategy refers extensively to issues facing the Gypsy and Traveller community within the district and how the Council can work with partners to address these. The Housing Strategy will look to;

- Challenge negative perceptions of the Gypsy and Traveller community to support their integration into the area.
- Engage with the Gypsy and Traveller community to understand their accommodation needs and what types of services and amenities are required.
- Manage the impact of new pitches to ensure a positive and sustainable impact on the environment and on existing communities.

Details of existing work carried out in relation to the Gypsy and Traveller community by the Council and its partners are also contained within the Strategy. This is available to view on the council's website. [www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk](http://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk)

### Newark and Sherwood Local Development Framework

The Council's Local Development Framework is progressing. Consultation on the Core Strategy Options Report recently ended at the beginning of December 2009. The Council's planning team are currently considering responses.

Within the LDF Core Policies (Options) are several options concerning Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Show people. These include recognition of the need to allocate 84 pitches in accordance with the East Midlands Plan and options on where new sites should be situated around the District. Also, contained within the LDF Options are suggested principals that will guide the allocation of sites through site specific land allocations and Development Plan Documents.

### **Nottingham City**

#### New provision

Since the completion of the GTAA in 2006/07 10 additional pitches for Gypsies and Travellers have been provided in Nottingham through private sector developments. Planning permission for 10 additional pitches has now been granted and completed, with 8 pitches on a private site near Cinderhill Road and permission for a further two pitches at the Moorbridge site.

### **Rushcliffe**

#### Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) and Housing Strategy

In the recently published Housing Strategy 2009-2016 Rushcliffe's aim is for every household to have a real choice and to enjoy living in a good quality home that meets their needs'. Rushcliffe interprets household and home to mean further than bricks and mortar, including accommodation for Gypsy and Traveller use. The strategy also includes an action to identify suitable sites for additional Gypsy and Traveller pitches.

#### Local Development Framework

It is proposed that work on allocating sites for Gypsies and Travellers will be progressed through the production of a Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document, production of which is due to commence in the middle of 2010.



## **WORK OF THE GROUP UPDATE**

### **Turnover on private sites**

Exploration on how to gain an accurate picture of turnover on private sites has proved difficult and this is an issue the group will pursue further with individual site owners.

### **Ethnicity info on housing/homelessness sheets**

All of the local authorities confirmed that there is the facility on housing and homelessness forms to record Gypsy and Traveller status in their ethnic monitoring. However the accuracy of these figures was questioned as there is a tendency for the Travelling community not to self identify for fear of any negative treatment. A suggestion for those working directly with the Travelling community is to increase awareness of the importance of this monitoring and try and encourage accurate completion. The ethnic status of Gypsy and Traveller will be recognised officially in the 2011 Census.

### **Changes to the caravan count**

The Accommodation Monitoring Group members contributed to the Review of the Caravan Count in October 2009- please see Appendix for this contribution. Following the consultation various changes were implemented with effect from the January 2010 Caravan Count.

### **Caravan count workshop**

Following a need identified at the Accommodation Monitoring Group an informal Workshop/Training session took place in June 2009 and this was attended by nine officers representing six local authorities including the City of Nottingham and also members from the specific Floating Support Service "Travelling Together". Discussion included how the Caravan Count is undertaken in each authority area with identified good practice to be shared. A look at the forms used in the Caravan Count confirmed that everyone understands the various site definitions, but there was a consensus that the input of the data onto the system is not an easy task with several officers routinely contacting the office responsible for help.

A decision to collate details of all unauthorised encampments was made as this will give a better picture of the encampments across the county and not just as a snapshot twice a year. A commitment to produce and complete a simple spreadsheet detailing the unauthorised encampments and Developments was made by each local authority. The forms will be completed and backdated to April 2009 and a further discussion was held about also including Nottinghamshire County Council, Ethnicity, Culture and Achievement Service (previously Traveller Education), the Floating Support Service and Health contacts. This highlighted potential confidentiality issues but also the need to build up a full picture using all information available.

## **INFORMATION UPDATE**

### **BSHF report**

The Building and Social Housing Foundation (BSHF) were commissioned to review the GTAA's covering the East Midlands to assist GOEM in preparing the final RSS in March 2009. Its review highlighted certain aspects of definition and methodology that had implications for the final RSS as mentioned above. The relevant conclusions are shown in appendix 2.

#### *Implications*

1. Further study, possibly using national research, the 2001 Census or local survey might establish the nature of need arising from 'bricks and mortar' Gypsies and Travellers. (see appendix 2 point c)
2. Conclusions from data on unauthorised developments and encampments need to be supported by further information including about movement intentions. (see appendix 2 point d)

### **Travelling Showpeople**

Travelling Showpeople have been increasingly active in promoting the need for suitable sites. When the original GTAA was completed the sites for showmen were specified alongside those for Gypsies and Travellers, although the numbers of extra pitch provision identified per district did not specify needs separately. A report by the Derby's, Nottinghamshire, Mid and South Lincolnshire Section of the Showmen's Guild of Great Britain in 2009 highlighted the need for more permanent sites for members of the Guild. As previously stated the needs of Travelling Showpeople should be assessed separately with a dedicated requirement specified in a full review of the GTAA.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE WAY FORWARD**

### **Summary of provision table needed**

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>EMRP Pitch requirement 2007-2012</b>	<b>Pitches Gained 2007-jan 2010</b>	<b>Pitches Lost 2007-jan 2010</b>	<b>RSS Pitch requirement 2009</b>
Ashfield	8	0	0	8
Bassetlaw	25 (and 18 transit)	5	0	20 (and 18 transit)
Mansfield	5	0	0	5
Newark and Sherwood	84	32	0	51
Nottingham	10	8	0	2
Broxtowe	2	0	0	2
Rushcliffe	9	1	0	8
Gedling	4	0	0	4

Although some pitches and sites have been developed in Nottinghamshire since the GTAA was completed there is still some way to go before the target is reached. Disappointingly no new public provision has been made with the pitches gained being private family sites, although the large number in Newark and Sherwood is a privately owned site that was previously used by Gypsies and Travellers but did not have specific planning permission.

The removal of Regional bodies has also entailed the removal of the framework within which the GTAA figures were reported, although there is discussion on whether these can be used as a guide in assessing need.

One conclusion that is clear, however, is the need for provision to be made in Local Development Framework's, and the need for an Accommodation Assessment to be used as part of government thinking. Any future accommodation assessment of Gypsy and Traveller need would have to take into account the emerging government thinking on Localism and cross boundary working. Subject to the availability of commitment from the partner authorities, this should be prepared for.

## Action plan

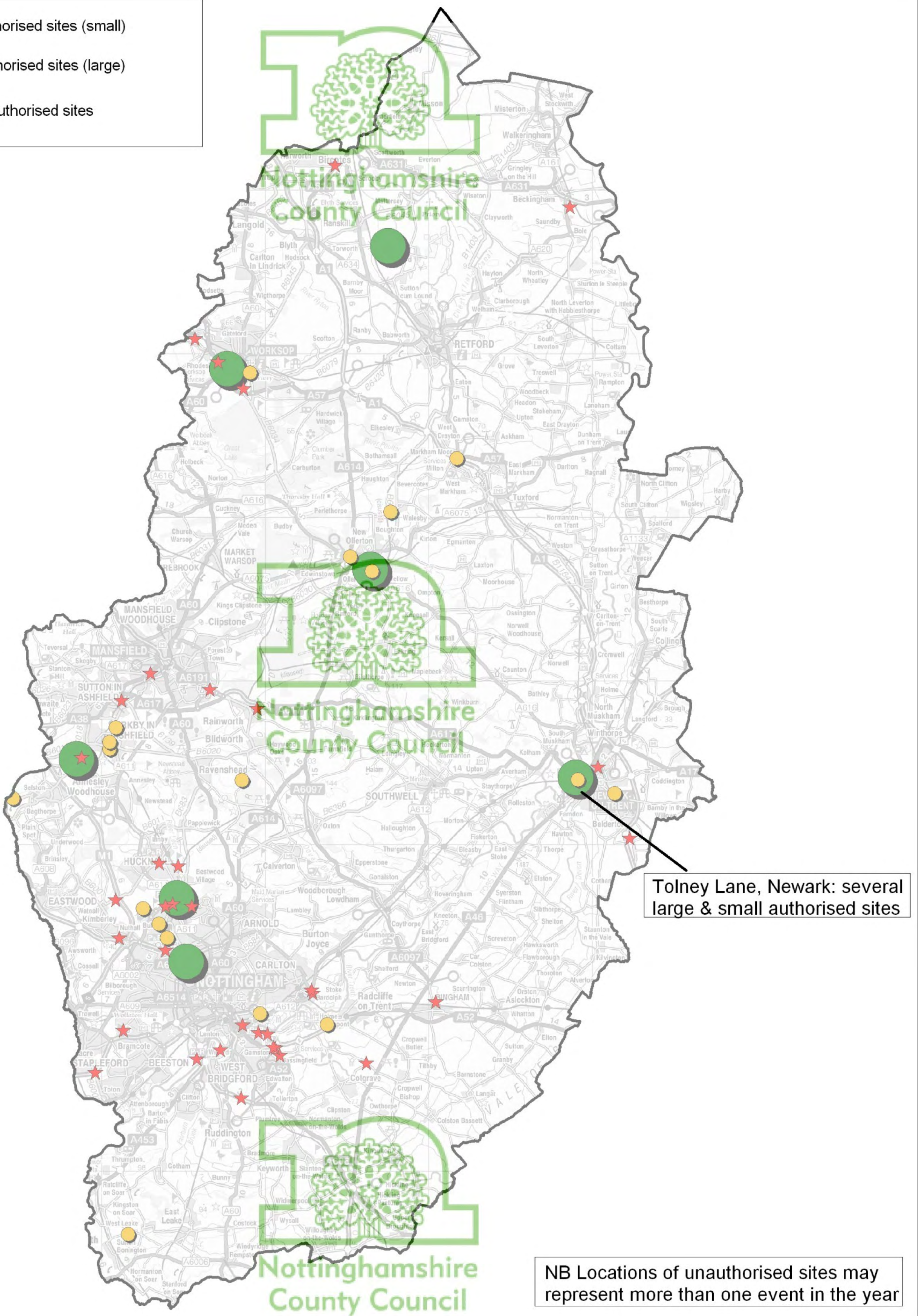
The Monitoring Group prepared an Action plan in March 2009 to focus their work and the following are some of the main points;

No.	Action/Task	Expected Achievement Date
1.	Undertake an Annual Review of the GTAA including Bassetlaw.;	September 2010
2	Monitor accurately unauthorised encampments and the turnover on authorised sites.	End August 2010
3	Check ethnic monitoring within housing/homelessness departments.	July 2010
4	Establish nature of the Private Caravan Site Licence and its jurisdiction- check with environmental health dept.	Oct 09 & Ongoing
5	Review funding opportunities for relevant projects & research on G&T need	Ongoing/ long term
6.	Monitor planning applications including new sites and change of use	Ongoing
7.	Explore other data being collected	September 2010
8.	Ensure G&T Community and relevant Agencies are kept up to date with work of the Group& send out review.	September 2010

A new action plan for April 2011 onwards will be prepared by the group.



-  Authorised sites (small)
-  Authorised sites (large)
-  Unauthorised sites



Tolney Lane, Newark: several large & small authorised sites

NB Locations of unauthorised sites may represent more than one event in the year



**Nottinghamshire  
County Council**

## GYPSY & TRAVELLER SITES IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 2009

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Scale 1cm : 330,000 cm approx  
Produced by: J Hall  
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## Appendix 2: Nottinghamshire Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count

Region	Count	Authorised sites (with planning permission)		Unauthorised sites (without planning permission)				Total All Caravans
		No. of Caravans Socially Rented <sup>2</sup>	No. of Caravans Private	No. of Caravans on Sites on Gypsies own land		No. of Caravans on Sites on land not owned by Gypsies		
				"Tolerated"	"Not tolerated"	"Tolerated"	"Not tolerated"	
Nottingham City UA	Jan 2010	0	28	0	0	2	0	30
	Jul 2009	0	26	6	0	0	0	32
	Jan 2009	0	25	3	0	0	0	28
	Jul 2008	0	25	0	5	0	0	30
	Jan 2008	0	31	0	0	0	0	31
Nottinghamshire	Jan 2010	21	200	15	13	4	6	259
	Jul 2009	26	179	8	7	11	19	250
	Jan 2009	26	228	15	15	0	3	287
	Jul 2008	32	168	13	15	4	0	232
	Jan 2008	3	205	15	8	8	14	253
Ashfield	Jan 2010	0	2	0	13	0	0	15
	Jul 2009	0	2	2	2	0	0	6
	Jan 2009	0	12	0	13	0	0	25
	Jul 2008	0	11	0	6	0	0	17
	Jan 2008	0	7	0	0	0	0	7
Bassetlaw	Jan 2010	21	42	4	0	0	0	67
	Jul 2009	26	36	2	0	4	5	73
	Jan 2009	26	49	3	2	0	3	83
	Jul 2008	32	42	6	9	0	0	89
	Jan 2008	3	49	0	8	0	4	64

<b>Broxtowe</b>	Jan 2010	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Jul 2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Jan 2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Jul 2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Jan 2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Gedling</b>	Jan 2010	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Jul 2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Jan 2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Jul 2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Jan 2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Mansfield</b>	Jan 2010	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Jul 2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Jan 2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Jul 2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Jan 2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10
<b>Newark and Sherwood</b>	Jan 2010	0	149	11	0	4	5	169	
	Jul 2009	0	132	4	5	7	7	155	
	Jan 2009	0	162	12	0	0	0	174	
	Jul 2008	0	109	7	0	3	0	119	
	Jan 2008	0	143	15	0	2	0	160	
<b>Rushcliffe</b>	Jan 2010	0	7	0	0	0	1	8	
	Jul 2009	0	9	0	0	0	7	16	
	Jan 2009	0	5	0	0	0	0	5	
	Jul 2008	0	6	0	0	1	0	7	
	Jan 2008	0	6	0	0	6	0	12	



### Appendix 3: Extract of the conclusions from BSHF Regional Report

In brief the relevant conclusions were:

- a. Nottinghamshire GTAA: Estimation of baseline population and tailored questionnaires are examples of good practice that suggest the methodology is basically sound. However, pitch requirements from unauthorised encampments may be overestimated. Reduce GTAA estimation of need by 4 per cent.
- b. Bassetlaw: Generally robust methodology although this might have been affected by lack of information in certain areas like future intentions and Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar accommodation. No adjustment needed.
- c. There is a distinct lack of information on the size of the Gypsy and Traveller population. This is particularly evident when estimating the numbers of Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar accommodation. The 2011 Census could furnish further information.
- d. Care should be taken when estimating the residential pitch requirements arising from unauthorised developments and encampments. Some GTAAs assumed that all those on unauthorised developments and encampments would require residential pitches and in the case of the Nottinghamshire GTAA this was contrary to the data collected in the survey. Those GTAAs which appear to be the most robust made adjustments relating to future movement intentions and whether households on unauthorised encampments desired a residential pitch.
- e. Nottinghamshire: All unauthorised developments were treated as residential need with allowances made for any sites that were expected to be granted planning permission. This discounted need is a reasonable approach, but planning permission on those sites must not count towards meeting the pitch allocations, and must be added onto the assessed need should they subsequently fail to get the expected planning permission.
- f. It was unclear in some GTAAs whether a distinction was being made between unauthorised developments and unauthorised encampments, or whether they were simply using a general category of unauthorised sites.
- g. Some GTAAs were lacking in clarity as to how and why figures used in the calculation were arrived at.
- h. There are several grey areas relating to cross-boundary issues. It is evident that it is difficult to make assumptions about migration into the area which would impact upon the residential pitch requirements. It is clearly easier, from survey responses, to make an assessment of the proportion of residents who are considering leaving an area than to make an assessment of how many people outside the area would like to move in; naturally if every GTAA across the country considered those leaving but not those entering there would be a considerable pool of hidden need.
- i. GTAAs employed different methods to calculate the future supply of residential pitches. Some used survey data to indicate the number of expected vacancies while others used average pitch turnover rates from recent years to calculate a percentage of pitches expected to become vacant in the future. It is impossible to judge from this benchmarking process which approach is 'best'.

#### **Appendix 4. Nottinghamshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Monitoring Group response to the proposed changes to the bi- annual Gypsy and Traveller caravan count.**

Please find below the Nottinghamshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Monitoring Group response to the bi-annual caravan count. The group consists of: East Notts. Traveller Association, Planning, Housing, and Environmental Health Officers from County, District and Borough Councils in Nottinghamshire and the City of Nottingham, Nottinghamshire County Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer, Nottinghamshire County and Nottingham City Supporting People Officers and Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire.

#### **Data that needs to be collected from January 2010**

##### **Travelling Showpeople**

The group feel that it is valuable to start collecting Travelling Showpeople details as there is a national shortage of appropriate accommodation/ pitches for this group and they were included in the Nottinghamshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment. However, the group believe that a number of provisions should be included:

- Travelling Showpeople need to be identified separately in the count as their needs are very different to other Gypsy and Traveller groups
- Travelling Showpeople should only be counted at show/ event sites
- The capacity of the show/ event site should be included as well as the number of caravans on the site.

##### **Sites with temporary planning permission only**

The proposal to provide data on sites with temporary planning permission seems logical. However, the group feels that further clarification is needed on this- what is temporary etc? There should also be an option to write comments on the planning permission status alongside the count data.

#### **Data that no longer needs to be collected from January 2010**

##### **Ethnicity data**

The group recognises the issues raised with collecting ethnicity data from Gypsy and Traveller groups. However, this information would still be vitally important to the Local Authorities, particularly when identifying new and appropriate site provision and it is therefore proposed that local authorities across Nottinghamshire will still record this data (if possible) when undertaking the bi- annual caravan counts.

##### **Average rent**

The group agrees that this data no longer needs to be collected.

##### **Separate record of additional dwelling units**

The group agrees that it is no longer necessary for a separate report of additional dwellings. However, the count should still record various accommodation types: tents, benders, yurts and vehicles such as buses that are accommodating Gypsy and Traveller groups, as this is vital in understanding needs and providing appropriate provision.

## **Appendix 5 Glossary of Terms (from original GTAA report)**

**Authorised developments** – Essentially these are sites that have planning permission for use by Gypsies and Travellers. This includes permitted sites that are not the subject of Gypsy and Traveller occupancy conditions as well as permitted sites which are. Local authorities, housing associations and private individuals all provide sites on which Gypsies and Travellers may park their trailer or caravan. In the study area all of the provision is on private sites. The household rents or, in the case of private sites may own, a pitch. Facilities often include a private amenity unit containing toilet, bathroom and, in some cases, a kitchen. Access to hot and cold water supply, drainage facilities and electricity will normally be provided.

**CLG** – the Department for Communities and Local Government

**Concealed households** – a household currently living within an existing household but in need of separate accommodation

**ECAS**- Ethnicity Culture and Achievement Service (includes the previously named Traveller Education Service)

**Emergency stopping places** - Relates to temporary pitches. Emergency stopping places are authorised developments intended for very short use; overnight with a maximum of 28 days. The facilities at such places would normally be minimal.

**EMRA** – East Midlands Regional Assembly

**GOEM** – The Government Office for the East Midlands

**GPS** – Global Positioning System – a device that uses satellites to identify the co-ordinates of an exact location

**Gypsy and Traveller** – The definition used by the current guidance encompasses all Gypsies and Travellers as well as Travelling Showpeople,

“Persons of a nomadic habit of life whatever their race or origin, including such persons who on grounds of their own or their family’s or dependent’s educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, and all other persons with a cultural tradition of nomadism and/or caravan dwelling”.

**Housing** – This refers to ‘bricks and mortar’ housing. There is no specific housing reserved for Gypsies and Travellers in the Nottinghamshire region and so for those unable or unwilling to take up site accommodation, access to normal housing stock is the only alternative. There have been some cases outside the region (particularly in Northern Ireland) of ‘grouped’ housing being developed which enables family groups of Gypsies or Travellers to live together in housing.

**ODPM** – The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, the former name of the CLG

**RSS** – Regional Spatial Strategy

**Transit sites**- Relates to temporary pitches. Transit sites are authorised developments intended to meet the needs of those families moving around particularly during the summer



months. Transit sites have basic facilities; less than one would expect on a permanent authorised development but more than that found on an emergency stopping place.

**Unauthorised developments** – This term is used to describe developments that occur when Gypsies or Travellers buy a piece of land which does not have planning permission for a dwelling and proceed to place a chalet, trailer or caravan on it. Eviction can normally only be secured through the planning appeals system, and can be protracted.

**Unauthorised encampments** – This term is used to describe the use of land by Gypsies or Travellers for living on which they do not own. Local authorities and the police have a range of enforcement actions available to them to evict households in unauthorised encampments and can do so relatively quickly if they wish. Consequently, neither the council nor the households living there invest in any facilities and conditions are very basic (for instance no toilets or running water) and families tend not to stay more than a few hours, days or weeks.