

Teignbridge Gypsy & Traveller Forum
Meeting held at 6 p.m, on Wednesday 16 May, 2012
Old Forde House, Newton Abbot

In attendance <i>(alphabetical order)</i>		
Celia Hadow	TDC (Improvement)	celia.hadow@teignbridge.gov.uk
Clare Beach	Teign Housing	clare.beach@teignhousing.co.uk
C Brownless	Romany	
Claire Penfold	Romany	
Cathryn Morgan-Richards	Sound Recordist	cpfa24@aol.com
Debbie Barney	Romany	
Elaine Gosling	Romany/Co-chair	
Emma Snow	Crime Prevention	Emma.SNOW@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk
Graham Davey	TDC (Housing)	graham.davey@teignbridge.gov.uk
Helen Bellamy	Romany	
Ian Perry	TDC (Planning)	ian.perry@teignbridge.gov.uk
JJ Brownless	Romany	
Jenny Rayner	Liaison Officer, DCC	jenny.rayner@devon.gov.uk
Marie Stainwright	TDC (Planning)	marie.stainwright@teignbridge.gov.uk
Michael Barney	Romany	
Penny Dane	(PDREC)	penny@devonrec.org
Richard Small	Romany	
Robert Kefford	Showman	
Arrived after start:		
Dave Harris	Romany	
Defiance Harris	Romany	
Apologies:		
Philip Vogel David Lillington Niknak Paul Parker Jeff Penfold	TDC (Cllr) Dartmoor National Pk Traveller & Co Chair Resident & Co Chair Romany	Philip.Vogel@Teignbridge.gov.uk dlillington@dartmoor-npa.gov.uk

G&T Forum Minutes (16th May, 2012)

		Actions
1	<p>Apologies, Welcome & Introductions. Robert Kefford, a member of the Showman's guild, was welcomed to the Forum</p>	
2	<p>Notes of last meeting 8 February 2012, agreed as correct.</p>	
3	<p><i>Matters arising from the notes of last meeting:</i></p> <p>The National Park Authority is inviting views on its <i>Development Management and Delivery Development Plan Document</i> (DMD) up until 4 July 2012. Material is available at (www.dartmoor.gov.uk) All the comments will go to the inspector conducting the DMD examination.</p> <p>An application has been submitted for seven permanent and seven transit pitches at Marley Head, Steve Bell, Director of Planning, is intending to deal with the application. It will be accessible on DNP website and will go out on an extensive public consultation. It will not go to Committee before July. All the relevant consultees will be notified.</p>	
4	<p><i>The value of holding Forum meetings</i> It was felt that Forum meetings are an education for officers and outside agencies as well as for G&Ts. Information gained by attending forum meetings is passed on by word of mouth and by notes sent out through PDREC to at least 30 + families.</p> <p>Officers understand that not everyone may want to attend meetings and wondered if there is any other way the Council could be engaging with them. It was hoped that all local G&Ts see the Forum as a group they can attend whenever they may want to.</p> <p>It helps that the Forum is attended by the same TDC officers who have built up a good understanding of the issues faced by G&Ts; a regular visit by an Environmental Health Officer would be welcomed. In the past G&Ts tended to see Teignbridge officers as a barrier, now they are more often seen as helpful and easy to talk to.</p>	CH
5	<p>A <i>New Planning Guide</i> has been designed with members of the Forum. It aims to help G&Ts who may be considering apply for planning permission. It will go on the website when finished. IP asked for any comments.</p>	IP

	<p>Costs involved in applications are not mentioned in the leaflet as they vary to such a degree (depending on surveys etc). It was suggested that the Guide should indicate that surveys may be necessary and the kind of costs that this may involve, (e.g. for contaminated land, ecology etc).</p> <p>IP agreed to send a copy direct to anyone who sends their details to him.</p>	IP
6	<p><i>New Planning policy/guidance from central government update on its implications (MS)</i> http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/planningpolicytravellers.</p> <p>MS advised that new planning policy had been introduced from central government that affects us all. This is in the form of the <i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> and the <i>Planning Policy for Traveller sites</i>.</p> <p>These documents replace most of the previous planning policy local authorities have been working with for the last few years. For example 1000s of pages have been reduced to 70 or so.</p> <p>This new planning guidance from central government will inform Teignbridge's new Core Strategy/Local Plan (<i>Plan Teignbridge</i>). It is about sustainable development (that is ensuring any development is in suitable locations and takes account of the environment, social and economic aspects) amongst other things.</p> <p>The planning policy for traveller sites has come into force as well and should be read with the main document. These documents supersede the previous Circulars for both Gypsies and Travellers and Showpeople.</p> <p>The planning policy for traveller sites requires local authorities to do a number of things, some of which are below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish its own evidence on need, that is to make their own assessment of what is required in their area. (Please see info on our waiting list (8) below) 2. Set pitch/plot targets 3. Look at a number of appropriate sites 4. Plan over a reasonable timescale 5. Promote more private sites but recognise that there will be those who cannot provide their own sites. <p>There are a number of other aspects in the guidance which can be found on the web link above.</p>	

<p>There is a section on decision-taking, part of this includes one stating that, ‘local authorities should strictly limit new traveller development in the open countryside that is away from existing settlements or outside areas allocated in the development plan.’ We are still assessing the full implications of this but it does not appear to be a total restriction. We will keep you informed.</p> <p>There is a section on Green Belts and restrictions that relate to these. Teignbridge does not have any green belt designations; it does have other landscape designations such as Areas of Great Landscape Value.</p> <p>There is also a section on rural exception sites, for small rural communities – this is to enable, where appropriate, local authorities to allow sites solely for affordable traveller sites, much like the affordable housing exceptions that it has.</p> <p>The planning policy includes definitions of gypsies and travellers and travelling showpeople for the purposes of planning. These are as below</p> <p>For the purposes of this planning policy “gypsies and travellers” means:</p> <p><i>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 showpeople or circus people travelling together as such.</i></p> <p>For the purposes of this planning policy, “travelling showpeople” means:</p> <p><i>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 above</i></p> <p>Teignbridge is now considering how this document affects the policies it has written in the Core Strategy/Local Plan (<i>Plan Teignbridge</i>) and what needs amending.</p> <p>MS advised if anyone would like to talk to her about the document, they could contact her.</p>	
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7	<p>Plan Teignbridge</p> <p>MS updated on the progress of the Core Strategy/Local Plan (<i>Plan Teignbridge</i>). This is the Plan that sets out the policies, proposals and actions for Teignbridge District for the next 20 years. The consultation finished in March and work is progressing on the next stage. Details can be found at: www.teignbridge.gov.uk/planteignbridge (chapters 4, 6 & 7 are particularly relevant).</p> <p>About 7000 representations were received; comments were both long and short on all aspects of the plan.</p> <p>The forum responded to the Core Strategy/Local Plan and these have been recorded with others.</p> <p>Comments received are being considered and further work carried out which will inform the next version of the plan. It is hoped that this will be ready by July/August. It will be a 'proposed submission' and is likely to be called a Local Plan due to government changes in planning policy.</p> <p>Following this next stage, the plan will be submitted to the Government along with any new comments. The Government will then send an independent Inspector to examine/inspect the Plan.</p>	
8	<p>A new waiting list for both Gypsies and New Travellers now exists to help Teignbridge set targets and support plans (see 6 & 7 above). It will update the survey carried out by DCC in 2006 which indicated the need for 65 permanent pitches and 25 transit pitches, (out of which 33 permanent and 2 temporary pitches are complete, along with 10 transit pitches). Teignbridge will use the waiting list to demonstrate present and future need for sites.</p> <p>So far the waiting list includes: 27 expressions of interest from New Travellers of which 15/27 hope to be offered at the new site at Haldon, and 19 Romany & Irish Gypsy households.</p> <p>The information on the need for sites has to be accurate and robust as it is evidence to support and justify any policies that will be in the new Local Plan. The Government Inspector is likely to examine any evidence relating to policies in the plan and it is probable that we will be questioned on it.</p> <p>It would be beneficial to know how old any children are, because this will help understand our future need. They may not need sites immediately but it helps us understand the likely future need of the area and how to plan for it. It would also be</p>	

	<p>useful to know whether those who have said there is a need are in one family, extended family or are individuals. Spatial Planning and Housing are putting a report together which will form the evidence base for G&T provision. This would benefit from DCC and DREC endorsement.</p> <p>New arrivals will not be able to jump the queue as people are added to the list according to need, local connection and length of time on the waiting list takes priority.</p> <p>Teignbridge is happy for people to put no fixed abode c/o PDREC (this has been approx 50% so far).</p> <p>GD offered more forms for anyone to take.</p> <p>JR reminded the forum that anyone can buy land & apply for planning for travellers, but cannot live there themselves, only rent to G&Ts.</p>	PD & JR
9	<p>Next caravan count will be on Thursday 19 July 2012. Caravan counts are much better now since the forum requested that the officer show himself, he now leaves a card to explain his presence.</p>	
10	<p><i>Unauthorised Encampment Policy</i> - <i>consideration of a draft to update the Council's existing policy for dealing with unauthorised encampments on land within its ownership.</i> When travellers pull in off the road, the Council needs to decide on a protocol of how to behave. The need for an updated policy demonstrates the necessity for transit sites to be developed in the area.</p> <p>Teignbridge has completed a first draft of what will be the Council's toleration policy for unauthorised park-ups. JR & PD will send in comments, on behalf of DCC and PDREC; Teignbridge also needs general views from Forum members.</p> <p>It was thought that on the whole the tone of the proposed document was unnecessarily negative, (particularly in view of there being no transit sites available in the area), and too much jargon. It needs to be called 'Draft' at this stage.</p> <p>It was suggested that consideration was given to Devon's protocol which has a forward which gives context.</p> <p>GD to send draft (after initial changes) to PC Kevin Mason.</p> <p>What about a policy for unauthorised encampments on land not owned by the Council?</p>	<p>Comments to be sent to GD by end of July</p> <p>JR/PD</p> <p>GD</p> <p>GD</p> <p>GD</p> <p>GD/DM</p>

