

Gypsy & Traveller pitch and Travelling Showpeople plot supply statement (September 2023)

Introduction

The Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS) 2015, in conjunction with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2023, requires local planning authorities to identify and annually update specific deliverable sites suitable for Gypsies and Traveller pitches and Travelling Showpeople plots.

Paragraph 10 of PPTS states that local planning authorities (LPAs) should identify and update annually a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide five years' worth of sites against their locally set targets. PPTS defines a Traveller for planning purposes (PPTS, Annex 1: Glossary), which should be read alongside the Court of Appeal judgement: 'Lisa Smith -v- The Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Others' 2022.

The need for new Gypsy and Traveller pitches in the borough is based on the evidence from the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) 2021, which also provides the basis for determining pitch requirements to be met through the emerging Local Plan.

This Statement provides a summary of the current level of need for new pitches and the five-year supply position of deliverable Gypsy and Traveller sites and Travelling Showpeople within the Borough for the period from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2028. It will be used to inform the consideration of planning decisions relating to Gypsy and Traveller sites/pitches. The supply figure will be kept up to date should circumstances change.

The 5 year supply

Tables 1 and 2 represent the Borough's gypsy, traveller and travelling showpeople need that meets the planning definition.

Table 1 indicates the pitch numbers required in order to meet Gypsy and Traveller needs in five year periods. The total need is 44 pitches over the period 2020-2036 with 34 pitches needed within the first five-year period of the GTAA.

Table 2 indicates the plot numbers required for meeting the need of Travelling Showpeople in five year periods. The total need is 25 plots over the period 2020-2036 with 20 plots needed within the first five-year period of the GTAA.

For the purposes of the five year calculation a site is included within the supply when it has planning permission and there is a reasonable expectation that the site will be delivered in that five year period. This approach is consistent with PPTS (para 10 and footnote 4) and with how the Council calculates its housing (bricks and mortar) land supply.

APPENDIX A

No account of need from outside Test Valley is included in the calculations. Whether the Council decides to accommodate any need arising from outside of the Borough will be a matter for the local plan.

Table 1: Pitches for Gypsy & Traveller

| Years | 0-5 | 6-10 | 11-15 | 16 | total |
|-------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| | 2020-24 | 2025-29 | 2030-34 | 2035-36 | |
| | 34 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 44* |

*in addition to the 44 pitches there are 3 pitches that are needed to meet undetermined need i.e. those unable to interview through the GTAA so an allowance is provided for in the total need figures.

Table 2: Plots for Travelling Showpeople

| Years | 0-5 | 6-10 | 11-15 | 16 | total |
|-------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| | 2020-24 | 2025-29 | 2030-34 | 2035-36 | |
| | 20 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 25 |

Table 3: Five Year Supply for Gypsy and Traveller (2023-2028)

| Gypsy and Travellers | Number of pitches | Notes | Year | Permissions No Pitches (annual total) |
|--|-------------------|--|-------|---------------------------------------|
| GTAA Known Need 2020 - 2024 | 34 | The Council did not meet any need between 2020 and 2023 and therefore the need for 2020 to 2023 is carried forward to next 5 years | 22/23 | 6 |
| GTAA Known Need 2025 - 2029 | 4 | | 21/22 | 2 |
| GTAA Known Need for each year between 2025 to 2029 | 0.8 | Known need of 4 pitches divided by five year period | 20/21 | 0 |
| | 2.4 | 0.8 x 3 years (2025 - 2028) | | |
| Total 5 Year Requirement 2023 – 2028 | 36.4 | 34 + 2.4 | | |
| Total Supply 2023-2028 | 8 | See adjoining table and annex A | | |
| Supply Position | 1.1 | 36.4 (five year requirement) divided by 5 years = 7.28 8 pitches (supply) divided by 7.28 (requirement) = 1.1 years | | |

APPENDIX A

The list of planning permissions which form the supply are set out in annex A

Table 4: Five Year Supply for Travelling Showpeople (2023 – 2028)

| Travelling Showpeople | Number of pitches | Notes | Year | Permissions No Plots |
|--|-------------------|---|-------|----------------------|
| GTAA Known Need 2020 - 2024 | 20 | The Council did not meet any need between 2020 and 2023 and therefore the need is carried forward to next 5 years | 22/23 | 0 |
| GTAA Known Need 2025 - 2029 | 2 | | 21/22 | 0 |
| GTAA Known Need for each year between 2025 to 2029 | 0.4 | | 20/21 | 0 |
| | 1.2 | 0.4 x 3 years (2025-2028) | | |
| Total 5 Year Requirement 2023 - 2028 | 21.2 | 20+1.2 | | |
| Total Supply 2023-2028 | 0 | | | |
| Supply Position | 0 | | | |

The PPTS states (para 24) that the existing level of local provision and need for sites and the availability (or lack) of alternative accommodation will be issues to be considered when determining applications amongst other matters. The GTAA recommends the application of the criteria based policy to determine applications to meet undetermined need.

Based on the evidence of need and monitoring of supply Table 3 and 4 both demonstrate that the Council does not have a five year supply respectively. This is a material consideration which will need to be afforded a corresponding and appropriate level of weight in the decision making process. Such weight will be balanced against all other material factors before a decision is reached.

Next steps

Whilst it is acknowledged that there is currently not a 5-year supply of pitches or plots, through the emerging Local Plan, and the options available to the Council, the Council will aim to meet its requirement.

Publishing the evidence at this stage and outlining the Council's approach provides both guidance for determining planning applications and a direction of travel of how the Council will meet its unmet need.

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The GTAA recommends that needs could be met through a combination of ways including intensification of pitches within or expanding existing permitted sites. For future need (post 6 years) a natural turnover of pitches will help to address some need. The ability to meet the Borough's need (both in terms of approach and supply) is being investigated and is a matter which will be released in line with the review and consultation on the Local Plan.

The approaches that the Council will explore to meet this need includes:

- Capacity and site deliverability assessment of permanent sites. This method intends to identify whether there are any planning constraints on existing sites that would prevent intensification linked with the need arising from each site. This study engages with site owners, and site residents to understand the appetite and deliverability for intensification where there is sufficient space for the further pitches.
- Linked to the capacity and site deliverability assessment is the investigation of whether existing sites could have small scale extensions to the existing permission whilst balancing any pertinent planning constraints.
- To consider those sites that have been promoted through the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment for gypsy, traveller and travelling showpeople.
- To consider those sites with existing planning permission and review whether that permission has been implemented and whether that site is being used to its full extent for which that permission permits.
- Draft a criterion based policy for inclusion within the forthcoming Local Plan in order to assess relevant planning applications.

Annex A - List of planning permissions

| Planning Application Reference | Location | Proposal | Parish | Date decision issued | No of caravans | No. pitches |
|--------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------|-------------|
| 2021/22 | | | | | | |
| 18/02007/ FULLS | Land South Of Wellow Way, Scallows Lane, West Wellow | Change use of land to residential caravan site with four caravans, two ancillary utility buildings, hardstanding and sewage treatment plant | Wellow | 15/10/2021 | 4 | 2 |
| 2022/23 | | | | | | |
| 19/01765/ FULLS | Land to south of Hazelwood Farm, Flowers Lane, Plaitford, SO51 6HH | Change of use of land to single gypsy plot | Melchet Park & Plaitford | 07/02/2023 | 2 | 1 |
| 20/02997/ FULLN | The Firs, Sarson Lane, Weyhill, Andover | Use of land for 6 gypsy traveller plots | Amport | 05/08/2022 | 6 | 5 (net) |