

## **Appendix A: Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2018 Progress Update**

### **1. Opinion Research Services (ORS)**

- 1.1 In November 2017 we commissioned consultants ORS (Opinion Research Services) to undertake a new Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment to support the new Local Plan. ORS have already completed or are currently working on similar studies for over 100 other local authorities. Those in Surrey include Elmbridge, Mole Valley, Reigate & Banstead, Runnymede, Surrey Heath, Tandridge and Waverley plus a number of London Boroughs including Hillingdon and Hounslow. They have been undertaking the interviews throughout January and should have a draft report with us in February.

### **2. ORS Methodology**

- 2.1 As part of the GTAA for Elmbridge, Reigate & Banstead and Tandridge ORS prepared a Joint GTAA Methodology. This was then used to complete a GTAA in Waverley, Mole Valley, Runnymede and Surrey Heath. A slightly revised version of the same methodology is being used for the Spelthorne work. Some improvements have been made to the approach based on emerging legal advice and the outcomes of key examinations and appeals that have tested various aspects of the ORS approach.
- 2.2 The methodology includes a review of appropriate secondary, policy and administrative data including previous GTAAs; interviews with Gypsies and Travellers living on all sites (including unauthorised sites/encampments if present), and Travelling Showpeople yards; an assessment of each pitch or plot where an interview is not possible; interviews with bricks and mortar households; and engagement with key stakeholders and neighbouring local planning authorities.

### **3. Update from ORS**

- 3.1 ORs have completed first visits to all of the 58 pitches that we are aware of in the borough. Interviews have been successfully completed at 21 of the pitches (36%) and second visits are on-going.
- 3.2 Unfortunately the owner of the Ponderosa site on Leylands Lane of 8 permanent pitches and 15 transit pitches refused access to the site and was unpleasant to the interviewers. They have stated they do not feel safe to return. We are currently exploring other avenues such as contacts at Surrey CC and Surrey Gypsy Traveller Communities Forum and hope that some interviews can be completed on this site. If not the response rate will be seriously impacted.

### **4. North Surrey Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2007**

- 4.1 The previous study, the North Surrey Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) was published in April 2007 and looks at the accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople for the period 2006 – 2016. The assessment was undertaken by Anglia Ruskin University on behalf of Spelthorne Borough Council, together with, Elmbridge, Runnymede and Woking Borough Councils, in accordance with the Housing

Act 2004. It is available online:  
<https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/article/3210/Gypsies-travellers-and-travelling-showmen>

- 4.2 The study gave an overall need for the time period 2006 – 2016 but did not split this by individual Local Authority. This was to be determined by the Regional Spatial Strategy (South East Plan) review process and SEERA instructed each Local Authority to provide advice on the Gypsy and Traveller site provision within its area by the 15 October 2007. The four Councils provided joint advice to SEERA as part of the partial review of the SE Plan which included three options for distribution. Spelthorne pitch provision for gypsies and travellers was between 13 and 18 pitches over the period. The need for travelling showpeople was suggested to be between 24 and 32 pitches for the four north Surrey boroughs combined but SEERA were also asked to consider the possibility of meeting a proportion of the need elsewhere in the County or the Region to promote greater equity and choice for Show People and assist in enhancing the social inclusion of this minority group.
- 4.3 However, prior to the recommendations of an Independent Panel of Government Inspectors being published, which would have set out how many pitches each local Planning Authority in the south east would need to provide, the Coalition Government came to power and sought to revoke RSSs (i.e. the South East Plan) including the Partial Review of Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation.
- 4.4 As set out in the Planning Policy for traveller sites, it is now our responsibility to identify the number of travellers' pitches/plots that will be required based on local needs assessments. This is why we have commission ORS to undertake the work.

## 5. Authority Monitoring Report (AMR)

- 5.1 The Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) 2017 is available online confirms since 2006 no pitches have been lost and no new provision has been made.

**Table 20 Current Provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople**

	Existing pitches		New pitches	
	Permanent	Transit	Permanent	Transit
Gypsy & Travellers	23	15	0	0
Travelling Showpeople	10	0	0	0

Source: GTAA

- 5.2 Since the AMR monitoring period, on 7 June 2017, an appeal was allowed at The Paddocks, Rear of 237-245 Hithermoor Road, Stanwell Moor, Staines-upon-Thames, TW19 6AZ. A five-year temporary personal permission (retrospective) was granted to Mr Gavin Gates for the material change of use of the land to a mixed use comprising the stationing of a caravan for residential purposes and the keeping of horses.