

## **Appendix 1**

### **Spelthorne Borough Council**

#### **Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Community Incursions**

##### **Question 1:**

Since 2016 there have been 34 unlawful incursions in the borough of Spelthorne. In 2016 this equated to 14, 2017 -17 and in 2018 we have currently had 3. The majority of these are in local authority parks and open spaces and affect the various communities in a variety of ways that impact on their quality of life and these are detailed below:

Anti- Social Behaviour in the form of noise generated from vehicles coming and going from site often late at night, motor cycles and quad bikes being used on the sites causing noise and danger, constant noise of electrical generators.

Occasionally, the use of laser pens to shine lights into residents' windows. As regards environmental issues there is frequent fly-tipping and littering on the sites, use of the land for human waste and health issues associated with this, setting of fires on the land, inadequate control of animals that become a danger to road users and members of the public walking their own dogs. There is evidence that local residents will avoid the area during an incursion. This therefore impacts on their ability to use the areas for their intended purpose. On one site, human faeces was smeared all the amenities within a children's playground.

##### **Question 2 (a) – (c):**

### **2016**

1. 11/04-19/04/2016 – Laleham Park, Abbey Drive, Laleham – 1 Caravan and 4 tipper vehicles, entry forced. Upon reclaiming the site it required cleaning and removal of fly-tipped green waste – large quantities of tree cuttings at a cost of £1000 to the Council and repair of the damage upon entry - £250

Process used S.77/78 CJ and PO Act 1994 Direction and then Order to leave the land.

2. 03/05-11/05/2016 – Dockett Eddy Lane then moved to The Towpath, Shepperton – Lone Caravan. In this instance no clear up issues but occupant volatile and violent with what was probably underlying Mental Health issues.

Process used as above S.77/78 CJ and PO Act 1994.

3. 09/05-13/05/2016 – Laleham Park, Abbey Drive, Laleham – 1<sup>st</sup> incursion 10 Caravans and 15 associated vehicles, entry forced onto park. Again, upon reclaiming the site the Council were faced with a huge bill for clearing fly-tipped waste (for this and 4-5 below). Several tonnes of fly-tipped green waste were removed at a cost of £3,000 and due to the level of human waste left a thorough clean was required by specialist cleaners at a cost of an additional £2,000. Repair to damage upon forcing entry was a further cost of £500. No Police assistance on 3-5 below

Process used as above S.77/78 CJ and PO Act 1994.

4. 11/05-18/05/2016 – Laleham Park, Abbey Drive, Laleham – 2<sup>nd</sup> incursion 10 Caravans and 10 associated vehicles.

Process used as above S.77/78 CJ and PO Act 1994.

5. 16/05-18/05/2016 – Laleham Park, Abbey Drive, Laleham – 3<sup>rd</sup> incursion 4 Caravans and associated vehicles.

Process used as above S.77/78 CJ and PO Act 1994

6. 13/05/2016 – Greenfield Park, Ashford Road, Laleham – caravans and vehicle from number 3 above, entry once again forced. On this occasion the Police on request of the Council used their powers under S.61 CJ and PO Act 1994 – Proximity to Children's playground and school. Cost to replace damaged padlocks £100.

7. 23/06-26/06/2016 – Hengrove Park, Ashford – one caravan and associated vehicle.

Process used as above S.77 CJ and PO Act 1994 – moved on direction to leave land but only as far as number 8 below.

8. 26/06-30/06/2016 – Fordbridge Open Space (Old Bathing Station), Fordbridge Road, Sunbury – vehicles as above, entry forced to area. Fly-tipped waste left at site cost to remove £500 and replace padlocks £50.

Process used as above S.77/78 CJ and PO Act 1994

9. 10/07-14/07/2016 – Littleton Green, Park Road, Littleton – 12 Caravans and associated vehicles, entry forced to Green. Travellers moved to 10 below.

Large amount of fly-tipped waste left – removal cost £1,000. Repair damage and replace gates - £1,500. Clear human waste an additional £1,200

Process used S.77/78 CJ and PO Act 1994.

10. 14/07-18/07/2016 – Woodthorpe Road open space, Woodthorpe Road, Ashford- vehicles as above No.9. Moved to Groveley Recreation Ground, Groveley Road, Sunbury. Once again costs incurred to remove fly-tipped waste -£1,000 and clear human waste £1,200.

Process used S.43 Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014- Community Protection Warning letter issued followed by Community Protection Notice. Both Ignored summons for Breach of CPN and convicted in absence and S.50 ASB Crime and Policing Act Seizure Order obtained from Court and served on travellers.

11. 18/07-20/07/2016 – Groveley Recreation Ground, Groveley Road, Sunbury- vehicles as above in number 10, moved onto new area not realising that above order covers all areas in Spelthorne Borough Council area. Process continued as above and repeated below. Once again cost to replace damaged locks £100 and remove human waste £1,200

Process used S.43 Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014- Community Protection Warning letter issued followed by Community Protection Notice. Both Ignored summons for Breach of CPN and convicted in absence and S.50 ASB Crime and Policing Act Seizure Order obtained from Court and served on travellers.

12. 27/07-28/07/2016 – Dumsey Meadow, Chertsey Bridge Road, Laleham – 8 Caravans and 15 associated vehicles forced entry onto land. This area is the subject of specific scientific interest and on this occasion the Police again used their powers to remove travellers under S.61 CJ and PO Act 1994. These then moved on to number 13 below.

In the short time that on site large quantity of fly-tipped waste dumped cost to remove £2,000. Repair to damaged fencing and locks a further £300.

13. 28/07-29/07/2016 – Knowle Green open space, Knowle Green, Staines – 8 Caravans and 15 vehicles as above.

Process used S.43 Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014- Community Protection Warning letter issued followed by Community Protection Notice. Both Ignored, S.51 ASB Crime and Policing Act warrant

obtained from Court and served on travellers. Again moved prior to seizure – Bailiffs employed – Costs in relation to Bailiffs - £3,800

14. 11/08-17/08/2016 – Littleton Green, Park Road, Littleton – 3 Caravans and associated vehicles entry forced to green. Once again large quantities of fly-tipped waste cost to remove £2,000, cost to remove human waste £1,200 and to repair damage fencing a further £1,000. Green also left fire damaged.

Process used as above S.43 ASB C and P Act 2014, Warning letter followed by notice both moved prior to the issue of summons.

## **2017**

1. 27/04-01/05/2017 – Windmill Green, Walton Bridge Road, Shepperton- 2 caravans and 5 associated vehicles. Costs to remove fly-tipped waste £500 and human waste £1,200. Green area left fire damaged.

Process used as above S.43 ASB C and P Act 2014, Warning letter followed by notice both ignored summons issued but travellers left prior to court hearing.

2. 15/05/2017 – Bishop Duppas Park, Russell Road, Shepperton – vehicles as in 1 above. Previous issued a Community Protection Notice as above which was still valid for entire borough. CPN reserved and travellers leave same day.

3. 18/06-19/06/2017 – Feltham Hill Recreation Ground, Feltham Hill Road, Ashford – 2 caravans and 3 associated vehicles. Entry forced to park. Replace locks £50.

Process used as above S.43 ASB C and P Act 2014, Warning letter followed by notice both moved prior to the issue of summons but only as far as number 4.

4. 19/06-20/06/2017 – Alexandra Recreation Ground, Alexandra Road, Sunbury vehicles as above. Entry forced onto recreation ground. Remove fly-tipped waste £500 and repair fencing £750.

Process used as above S.43 ASB C and P Act 2014, CPN re-served vehicles moved prior to the issue of summons.

5. 29/06-02/07/2017 – Windmill Green, Walton Bridge Road, Shepperton – 2 Caravans and 5 associated vehicles. Remove litter and fly-tipped waste £500. More fire damage to green.

Process used as above S.43 ASB C and P Act 2014, Warning letter followed by notice both ignored summons issued but travellers left prior to court hearing.

6. 12/07-13/07/2017 – Woodthorpe open space, Woodthorpe Road, Ashford – 12 caravans and 20 associated vehicles. Some of the vehicles previously subject to a CPN so reserved and all vehicles moved on without further ado.
7. 22/07-25/07/2017 – Bishop Duppas Park, Russell Road, Shepperton – 2 caravans and two vans. Large amount of fly-tipped waste cost to remove £1,500.

Process used S.43 Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014- Community Protection Warning letter issued followed by Community Protection Notice. Travellers left prior to the service of a summons or S.51 warrant obtained.

8. 03/08-07/08/2017 – Thames Meadow, Shepperton – 9 Caravans and 15 associated vehicles, entry forced to meadow. Damage caused upon entry cost to repair £500, large amount of fly-tipped waste £2,000 and once again cost to remove human waste £2,000

Process used as above S.43 ASB C and P Act 2014, Warning letter followed by notice all moved prior to the issue of summons.

9. 07/08-10/08/2017 – Knowle Green open space, Knowle Green, Staines – 10 caravans and 15 associated vehicles.

Process used S.43 Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014- Community Protection Warning letter issued followed by Community Protection Notice. Both Ignored, S.51 ASB Crime and Policing Act warrant obtained from Court and served on travellers. Again moved prior to seizure.

10. 11/08-17/08/2017 – Knowle Green open space, Knowle Green, Staines – 23 Caravans and 37 associated vehicles. Numbers 11-14 same core group of travellers.
- Process used S.43 Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014- Community Protection Warning letter issued followed by Community Protection Notice. Both Ignored, S.51 ASB Crime and Policing Act warrant obtained from Court and served on travellers. Bailiffs employed – warrant stayed by High Court – travellers left of own free will, but only as far as number 11. Cost of bailiffs £3,800, fly-tipped waste removal £1,000, removal of human waste £1,200. Part of green left fire damaged.
11. 17/08-02/09/2017 – Woodthorpe Road open space, Woodthorpe Road, Ashford – As above vehicles. Once again cost to remove litter and fly-tipped waste £1,000, cost to remove human waste £1,200 and use of bailiffs £3,000.
- Travellers threatening to Council Employees tasked with green maintenance at site.
- Process used S.77/78 CJ and PO Act 1994 – Bailiffs employed
12. 07/09-12/09/2017 – Hadfield Road Village Park, Stanwell – part same vehicles as above 13 caravans and 18 associated vehicles. Associated costs as above remove human waste £1,200, bailiffs £2,800
- Process used S.77/78 CJ and PO Act 1994 – Bailiffs employed.
13. 12/09/2017- Fordbridge Park, Kingston Road, Ashford – exactly the same vehicles as 12 above.
- Police agreed to use their powers under S.61 CJ and PO Act 1994 –Due to community concerns and proximity to Mental Health Facility. Moved on after 3 hours.
14. 12/09-19/09/2017 – Bishop Duppas Park, Russell Road, Shepperton – 11 caravans and 20 associated vehicles as above. Cost to clear site of rubbish £750.
- Process used S.77/78 CJ and PO Act 1994.
15. 22/08-24/08/2017 – Bishop Duppas Park, Russell Road, Shepperton – 19 caravans and 23 associated vehicles, entry force to park. Large amount of damage caused to park, pavilion by children and field by use of motor bikes, worrying of horses by travellers in neighbouring fields. To replace damage

fencing in excess of £3,000, to clear fly-tipping and remove dumped caravan £2,000 and to clear human waste a further £2,000. These particular travellers were very aggressive and threatening with no regard for anyone or anything.

The entrance and damage caused to post and rail fencing at the location was caught on CCTV and supplied by a local resident to the Council. The Council requested that the Police use their powers under S.61- clear evidence of damage. Request declined as the damage was deemed to be Anti-Social Behaviour

Process used S.77/78 CJ and PO Act 1994

16. 13/10-18/10/2017 – Groveley Recreation Ground, Groveley Road, Sunbury – 14 caravans and 25 associated vehicles, damage caused forcing entry to park. To clear fly-tipped waste £1,500 and specialist cleaning of playground equipment to remove smeared human waste and remove human waste from remainder of park a further £2,000

Process used S.43 Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014- Community Protection Warning letter issued followed by Community Protection Notice. Travellers left after the service of the Community Protection Notice.

17. 11/12-13/12/2018 – Spelthorne Leisure Centre car park, Knowle Green, Staines – 3 caravans and 4 associated vehicles. Specialist clean to remove human waste £1,200. Incursion damaging to Leisure Centre business.

Process used S.77 CJ and Public Order Act 1994.

## **2018**

1. 15/01-19/01/2018 – Spelthorne Leisure Centre car park, Knowle Green, Staines – 7 caravans, 1 motor home and 8 associated vehicles. Once again specialist clean to remove human waste £1,200. Incursion damaging to Leisure Centre Business.

Process used S.77/78 CJ and Public Order Act 1994.

2. 12/04-16/04/2018 – Spelthorne Leisure Centre car park, Knowle Green, Staines – 5 caravans and 5 associated vehicles. Again Incursion damaging to leisure centre business and again required a specialist clean to remove human waste £1,200.

Process used S.77/78 CJ and Public Order Act 1994.

3. 16/04-20/04/2018 – Pocket Park, the Beeches, Staines – same caravans and vehicles as above incursion. Entry forced onto site causing damage to fencing estimate repair costs £800.

Process used S.77/78 CJ and Public Order Act 1994.

Of the number of Incursions dealt with, on six occasions the GRTC moved to a second site within the borough and had to be dealt with all over again. On one occasion this involved three sites and in one particular case last year (2017) five sites.

June 2018