

FOI number: **HBC_FOI_2019018**
Date FOI Received: **08/01/2019**
Department: **Environmental Health**
Title: **Gypsy and Traveller encampments**
Description: **The number of unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller encampments, the number of new authorised pitches and total as well as the costs incurred clearing pitches compared to creating pitches 2015-2018.**

Request: *(As Redacted sent by requestor)*

Please find below a submission under the Freedom of Information Act.
I ask that if there are any questions you cannot answer that you leave them blank and answer the remainder that you CAN answer.

A note to clarify the terminology I have used:

- A Gypsy or Traveller 'pitch' is where one family or individual might live.
- A Gypsy or Traveller 'site' is where there are a number of pitches in one location.
- A Gypsy or Traveller 'unauthorised encampment' is when a family or individual has stopped on land that isn't their own.

1. How many Gypsy and Traveller unauthorised encampments have you cleared from the local authority in:

- i) 2015
- ii) 2016
- iii) 2017
- iv) 2018

(if possible please name them)

2. In relation to the cleared encampments listed in question one, how many pitches were in each cleared encampment.

(If you do not know, please state whether, to the best of your knowledge, there were any individuals or families living in the cleared encampments.)

3. How many NEW authorised Gypsy and Traveller pitches were created by your local authority in:

- i) 2015
- ii) 2016
- iii) 2017
- iv) 2018

(if possible please name them)

4. How many authorised Gypsy and Traveller pitches are there currently in your local authority?

5. What were the full evictions costs to your council for all cleared unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller encampments in:

- i) 2015
- ii) 2016
- iii) 2017
- iv) 2018

(These costs should include staff costs and resources, any contractor costs, court costs and legal fees, clear up costs as well as any other costs relating to evictions from unauthorised encampments.)

6. How much money was spent in the creation of authorised Gypsy and Traveller pitches and sites in:

- i) 2015
- ii) 2016
- iii) 2017
- iv) 2018

7. Are you considering or are there any plans in place to seek a court injunction against unauthorised

Gypsy and Traveller encampments sites in your local authority? If you already have an injunction or already have an application in please state.

8. When was the last time you undertook a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Need Assessment?

9. What was the need identified by your authority's most recent Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Need Assessment for new pitches, and what period does this GTANA cover?

Response: (Response as Redacted sent by service)

1. How many Gypsy and Traveller unauthorised encampments have you cleared from the local authority in:

i) 2015

Records not kept

ii) 2016

Records not kept

iii) 2017

1 – Oakmere Park, Potters Bar – 22 June 2017

2 – Ripon Park, Borehamwood – 20 July 2017

3 – Land opposite Golf Close, Bushey – 11 August 2017

4 – Meadow Park, Borehamwood – 12 August 2017

5 – Brook Meadow Recreation Ground, Borehamwood – 18 August 2017

6 – Composers Park, Elstree, 9 September 2017

iv) 2018

1 - Land opposite Golf Close, Bushey - 24 May 2018

2 – King George Recreation Ground, Bushey – 1 June 2018

3 – Little Bushey Lane, Bushey – 7 June 2018

4 – Parkfield, Billy Lows Lane, Potters Bar – 8 June 2018

5 – Ripon Park, Ripon way, Borehamwood – 27 June 2018

6 – Brook Meadow Recreation Ground, Belford Road, Borehamwood – 4 July 2018

7 – Meadow Park, Broughinge Road, Borehamwood – 11 July 2018

8 – Potterswood Park, Denham Way, Borehamwood – 17 July 2018

9 - Ripon Park, Ripon way, Borehamwood – 4 August 2018

10 - Brook Meadow Recreation Ground, Belford Road, Borehamwood – 20 August 2018

11 - Ripon Park, Ripon way, Borehamwood – 28 August 2018

12 – Kenilworth Park, Kenilworth Drive, Borehamwood – 28 August 2018

13 - Ripon Park, Ripon way, Borehamwood – 28 August 2018

14 - Brook Meadow Recreation Ground, Belford Road, Borehamwood – 6 September 2018

15 - Ripon Park, Ripon way, Borehamwood – 11 September 2018

16 – Ripon Park, Ripon Way, Borehamwood – 20 September 2018

17 – Ripon Park, Ripon Way, Borehamwood – 12 October 2018

18 – Venue Car Park, Borehamwood – 21 November 2018

2. In relation to the cleared encampments listed in question one, how many pitches were in each cleared encampment.

(If you do not know, please state whether, to the best of your knowledge, there were any individuals or families living in the cleared encampments.)

In the order stated above for 2017: 1, 6, 9, 10, 10, 15

In the order stated above for 2018: 8, 9, 13, 12, 3, 3, 2, 3, 6, 5, 6, 6, 7, 14, 14, 5, 14, 3

3. How many NEW authorised Gypsy and Traveller pitches were created by your local authority in:

i) 2015

ii) 2016

iii) 2017

iv) 2018

(if possible please name them)

Not known

4. How many authorised Gypsy and Traveller pitches are there currently in your local authority?

8 (includes the two county Council sites)

5. What were the full evictions costs to your council for all cleared unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller encampments in:

- i) 2015
- ii) 2016
- iii) 2017
- iv) 2018

(These costs should include staff costs and resources, any contractor costs, court costs and legal fees, clear up costs as well as any other costs relating to evictions from unauthorised encampments.)

	2015	2016	2017	2018
	£	£	£	£
Unauthorised Encampments	0	0	6,110	46,738

Note: Costs included officer time which has been estimated for the purpose of this FOI

6. How much money was spent in the creation of authorised Gypsy and Traveller pitches and sites in:

- i) 2015
- ii) 2016
- iii) 2017
- iv) 2018
- Not known

7. Are you considering or are there any plans in place to seek a court injunction against unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller encampments sites in your local authority? If you already have an injunction or already have an application in please state.

Yes

8. When was the last time you undertook a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Need Assessment? The most recent G+T Accommodation Needs Study was dated September 2017. It is on the website on this page: <https://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/Planning--Building-Control/Planning-Policy/Local-Plan/Supporting-Studies.aspx> so the info requestor can find out the answer to Q9 there

9. What was the need identified by your authority's most recent Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Need Assessment for new pitches, and what period does this GTANA cover?

If you have any queries about the processing of your request then please do not hesitate to contact me. Further information explaining the Council's process for responding to information requests together with a complaints/appeals procedure is available in our reception or via our website at:

<https://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/Your-Council/Official-Publications--Guides--Policies/Access-to-Information.aspx>

The Information Commissioner oversees the application of the Freedom of Information Act. You may contact the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioners Office

Wycliffe House, Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire SK9 5AF

Telephone: 01625 545700

Website: www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Please include the above reference number on all correspondence related to this request.

Thank you for your request.

Kind regards

Information Services