

Policy H12: Provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

Overview of Comments:

Support - 8

Neither support of object - 9

Object - 4

The changes to the supporting text and the Local Plan policies have not only been informed by the responses to the Regulation 18 consultation but they have also taken on board any additional feedback that has come out of discussions/meetings with statutory consultees and members in order to improve the clarity and understanding of the contents of the Local Plan.

Comments in support of H12 - Provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople		
Respondent number	Comment	Officer comment
ANON-KSAR-NK36-K	There needs to be a policy to ensure enforcement such that occupancy cannot exceed the services provided at the location (so plots cannot be subdivided).	The enforcement of planning consents or unauthorised development is beyond the scope of the Local Plan, but the Plan does include a policy relating to the intensification of existing sites (policy H14). Recommended response: No change
ANON-KSAR-NKF6-6	Support the policy but it needs to include reference to NE6 and NE17 and the importance of drainage and run off.	Support welcomed and comments noted, but various other Local Plan policies could be applicable so there should not be cross-referencing of the type suggested. It is important to read the LP as a whole. Recommended response: No change

Comments which neither support nor object to H12 - Provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

Respondent number	Comment	Officer comment
BHLF-KSAR-N86T-1 Hampshire County Council (Transport)	Support the specific reference to adequate provision for recycling and refuse at gypsy, traveller and traveling showpeople sites.	Support welcomed and comments noted. Recommended response: No change
BHLF-KSAR-N8TE-G East Hampshire District Council	<p>Support the attempt to meet accommodation needs. Note that the requirements relate to travellers that meet the Planning Policy for Travellers Sites definition of ‘travelling’, but there are also travellers that do not currently meet the definition or whose status is unknown. Given the recent High Court judgement about the definition in PPTS WCC may need to think again about those travellers that don't meet the definition.</p> <p>Also draw attention to avoiding implying or saying that permission for Traveller accommodation can only be granted where there is a need. If the need has been met, but a suitable site were to apply for planning permission, then it should be approved, just as for housing.</p>	<p>The Council has produced the <i>Gypsy and Traveller Topic Paper</i> which updates the position to reflect the High Court judgement mentioned and subsequent change to the definition of gypsies and travellers (in the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites). The Topic Paper looks at the needs of all ethnic travellers. As a result, policy H12 and the Plan’s explanatory text (paragraphs 9.77 – 9.85 should be updated to reflect the conclusions of the Topic Paper.</p> <p>Policies H14 and H15 provide for additional ‘windfall’ traveller pitches through the intensification of existing sites or development of new/expanded sites.</p> <p>Recommended Response: Amend first paragraph of Policy H12 as follows: ‘Planning permission will be granted for pitches to meet gypsy and traveller accommodation needs for the area covered by this Plan, estimated at approximately 91 gypsy traveller pitches and 35 travelling showpersons’ plots from April 2022 to March 2040, as identified by the most recently published Gypsy and</p>

		<p>Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA). Policies H14 – H17 are included within this Plan to facilitate adequate provision and consent will be granted for pitches and plots which accord with these and other relevant policies, subject to the following criteria:....’</p> <p>Amend final paragraph of Policy H12 as follows: ‘Proposals for transit sites and sites for non-nomadic travellers will be considered on an individual basis, taking account of evidence of need and the criteria above, as relevant.’</p> <p>Amend explanatory text (paragraphs 9.81 – 9.89) as detailed at the end of this document.</p>
<p>BHLF-KSAR-N8BV-F Fareham Borough Council</p>	<p>Welcomes the aspiration to meet the needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople within this Plan. WCC had previously notified Fareham Borough Council of its probable inability to meet needs within the Borough and requested whether Fareham Borough Council was able to provide any sites to help meet the need. This Council is unable to contribute any sites but notes that the Plan proposes to meet need through the intensification / expansion of existing sites, or exceptionally permitting new sites that meet the requirements. It would aid Winchester in delivery of the Policy if more detail was provided to demonstrate the likelihood of delivering the need through this policy, given that this is the greatest single contribution to the supply of sites.</p>	<p>The Gypsy and Traveller Topic Paper updates the position regarding traveller needs and considers all possible sources of supply, including neighbouring authorities. This provides the additional detail sought, but the conclusion remains that the City Council is unable to identify specific deliverable sites to meet all gypsy and traveller needs. All neighbouring Local Planning Authorities have been contacted to establish if they are able to assist with meeting the updated GTAA need, following advice from the Planning Inspector at a PINS Advisory visit.</p> <p>Recommended Response: No Change.</p>

<p>BHLF-KSAR-N87J-R Micheldever Parish Council</p>	<p>This policy should ensure that occupancy cannot increase beyond the original allowance and the capacity of services. Mechanisms for enforcement need to be robust.</p>	<p>The enforcement of planning consents or unauthorised development is beyond the scope of the Local Plan, but the Plan does include a policy relating to the intensification of existing sites (policy H14). Recommended response: No change</p>
<p>ANON-KSAR-NKBJ-P Soberton Parish Council</p>	<p>H12 should include a reference to Policies NE6 and NE17.</p>	<p>Noted, but various other Local Plan policies could be applicable so there should not be cross-referencing of the type suggested. It is important to read the LP as a whole. Recommended response: No change</p>
<p>BHLF-KSAR-N8T1-V</p>	<p>The supply requirements for the plan-period should be stated within the policy itself not the supporting text/table, as required by the PPTS. Bullet 1 should refer to ‘existing settlements’ instead of ‘existing communities’ to be consistent with the PPTS.</p> <p>Bullet 2 should clarify what is meant by ‘accessible’ in the context of sites being ‘well related’. What are appropriate distances in the local context? Bullet 3 should refer to sites not being enclosed with so much hard landscaping that the occupants are deliberately isolated from the rest of the community.</p> <p>Bullet 5 refers to ‘acceptable standards’ but there are no standards for traveller sites following the withdrawal of the ‘Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites Good Practice Guide’. Bullet 6 refers to other policies, it would be helpful to elevate flood risk by cross-referencing the PPTS which confirms plans should not locate sites in areas at high risk of flooding, given the vulnerability of caravans.</p>	<p>It is agreed that the traveller pitch / plot requirements should be referred to in the policy. The Gypsy and Traveller Topic Paper reviews traveller needs and potential sources of supply and it is recommended that policy H12 be updated to reflect this.</p> <p>Reference to existing ‘settlements’ rather than ‘communities’ would support the aim of criterion ii, for development to be accessible to local facilities and services, which are mostly within settlements. It is agreed that the suggested change would improve the policy.</p> <p>It is not realistic to set out specific distances to measure ‘accessibility’, to all facilities. However, policy T1 expects planning applications to be supported by a travel assessment, which should explain how the need for travel by private car will be minimised.</p> <p>While the suggestions for bullet 3 reflect the content of the PPTS, it is not considered necessary to repeat the detail of Government policy within the Local Plan. This</p>

		<p>guidance also relates to the consideration of planning applications, not the content of local plan policy.</p> <p>The reference to ‘acceptable standards’ in bullet 5 may cover a variety of issues, including the aims of the PPTS and the matters listed in bullet point 5 itself.</p> <p>All of the matters in bullet 6 could be important and the Plan should not highlight only one of them. Flood risk is mentioned in bullet 6 and policy NE6 of the Plan specifically requires the sequential test to be followed.</p> <p>Recommended response: Amend Policy H12 first paragraph as follows: ‘Planning permission will be granted for pitches to meet gypsy and traveller accommodation needs for the area covered by this Plan, estimated at approximately 91 gypsy traveller pitches and 35 travelling showpersons’ plots from April 2022 to March 2040, as identified by the most recently published Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA). Policies H14 – H17 are included within this Plan to facilitate adequate provision and consent will be granted for pitches and plots which accord with these and other relevant policies, subject to the following criteria:....’</p> <p>Amend Policy H12 criterion i. as follows: ‘Sites should be well related to existing <u>settlements</u> communities to encourage social inclusion and sustainable patterns of living...’</p>
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ANON-KSAR-N8YF-P	When travellers arrive and park up on non-authorized sites and have to be escorted away, can they not be escorted to an authorised site more rapidly?	The enforcement of unauthorised development is beyond the scope of the Local Plan. Recommended response: No change
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Comments which object to H12 - Provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople		
Respondent number	Comment	Officer comment
ANON-KSAR-N8GP-E Denmead Parish Council	<p>For all development of more than 50 dwellings, one plot should be allocated for gypsy/travellers to ensure integration with the settled community.</p> <p>Paragraph 3.12 provides automatic permission for traveller settlements in the countryside. This is unacceptable and discriminatory.</p>	<p>The Gypsy and Traveller Topic Paper assesses the suitability of the suggested approach, which is similar to that adopted by some other authorities. These approaches generally relate to larger 'strategic sites' and have delivered little or no additional traveller pitches. There are a limited number of new allocations to which such a requirement could practically be applied and there is and no guarantee that travellers would want or could afford pitches on such sites. There is also the question of how such sites would be managed. Therefore this is not considered a realistic solution and is likely to generate few, if any, additional pitches.</p> <p>The Government requires local plans to make provision for the needs of the whole community which includes Gypsy and Travellers. The Plan does not give automatic permission to traveller sites, with Policy SP3 referring to policy H12 and other policies of the Plan</p>

		<p>which set appropriate requirements for traveller sites to be permitted.</p> <p>Recommended response: No change</p>
ANON-KSAR-N8GX-P	<p>Sites of 50 dwellings or more should, in addition to allocating 6% of serviced dwelling plots, provide one plot for gypsy/travellers. There would then be no requirement for plots in designated countryside.</p>	<p>The Gypsy and Traveller Topic Paper assesses the suitability of the suggested approach, which is similar to that adopted by some authorities. These approaches generally relate to larger ‘strategic sites’ and have delivered little or no additional traveller pitches. There are a limited number of new allocations to which such a requirement could practically be applied and there is and no guarantee that travellers would want or could afford pitches on such sites. There is also the question of how such sites would be managed. Therefore this is not considered a realistic solution and is likely to generate few, if any, additional pitches.</p> <p>Recommended response: No change</p>
ANON-KSAR-NKA3-X	<p>Sub para i. indicates that sites should be well related to existing communities - does this mean existing traveller communities or the general public? Is the policy indicating that new sites should be in existing settlements? It should be made clear whether new housing allocations are expected to accommodate further pitches/plots (Table H4 suggests not but clarification would be helpful).</p>	<p>It is proposed in response to a comment above that criterion i be amended to refer to existing ‘settlements’, so as to clarify that new pitches should be well related to settlements. It is not considered realistic to provide traveller pitches on housing allocations for the reasons mentioned above.</p> <p>Recommended response: Amend Policy H12 criterion i. as follows: Sites should be well related to existing <u>settlements</u> communities to encourage social inclusion and sustainable patterns of living...</p>
ANON-KSAR-NKX6-R	<p>Provision should only be given if there is historic connection to the close locality for which sites are requested by / for the travelling community.</p>	<p>The Government’s Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS) is clear that planning authorities ‘<i>should determine applications for sites from any travellers and not just those with local connections</i>’. Policies H14 and</p>

		H15 set out the criteria for new or expanded traveller sites. Recommended response: No change
ANON-KSAR-NKDH-P	Showpeople sites need to be rigidly adhered to, with residents only allowed to reside if they generate their income from operating as a showperson. Residents no longer gaining their income from such activity should be removed from the site.	Planning conditions are applied to consents for traveller sites so as to control occupancy. The enforcement of these is beyond the scope of the Local Plan. Recommended response: No change

	Recommendations	Officer response
Comments from SA	None.	NA
Comments from HRA	None.	NA

Policy H12: Provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

Amendments to Policy H12

Planning permission will be granted for pitches to meet gypsy and traveller accommodation needs for the area covered by this Plan, **estimated at approximately 91 gypsy traveller pitches and 35 travelling showpersons' plots from April 2022 to March 2040**, as identified by the most recently published Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA). Policies **H14 – H17** are included within this Plan to facilitate adequate provision and consent will **be** granted for pitches and plots which accord with these **and other relevant** policies, subject to the following criteria:

- i. Sites should be well related to existing **settlements** ~~communities~~ to encourage social inclusion and sustainable patterns of living, while being located so as to minimise tension with the settled community and avoiding sites being over concentrated in any one location or disproportionate in size to nearby communities. Harmful impacts on nearby residential properties by noise and light, vehicle movements and other activities should be avoided;

- ii. Sites should be accessible to local services such as schools, health and community services by public transport, on foot or by cycle, but avoid placing an unreasonable burden on local facilities and services;
- iii. Sites should be clearly defined by physical features, where possible, and not unduly intrusive. Additional landscaping should be provided as necessary to screen views into/out of the site and provide privacy for occupiers. This and any security measures should respect the character of the site and local landscape.
- iv. Sites and the layout proposed should avoid harm to the significance or setting of heritage assets or biodiversity interests;
- v. Sites should be capable of accommodating the proposed uses to acceptable standards and provide facilities appropriate to the type and size of the site, including:
 - Water supply, foul water drainage and recycling/waste management. Details should be provided of wastewater infrastructure, including a foul drainage assessment and surface water drainage, incorporating SUDS where possible. Waste should be stored appropriately for disposal and able to be collected in an efficient manner;
 - Open space within the site for safe children's play, located to avoid conflict with vehicles on the site;
 - Safe vehicular access from the public highway and adequate provision for parking, turning and safe manoeuvring of vehicles within the site (taking account of site size and impact). No vehicle over 3.5 tonnes should be stationed, parked or stored on site, unless necessary for the use of a travelling showpersons site;
 - In rural locations, any permanent built structures should be restricted to essential facilities such as a small amenity block;
 - No commercial activities should take place on the land, including the storage and sorting of materials, other than as necessary for a site's use as a travelling showpersons site;
 - Minimise external lighting to avoid a detrimental impact on the surrounding locality;
 - Plots for travelling showpersons should have adequate space for the storage and maintenance of equipment and be laid out to avoid conflict between vehicles and residents.
- vi. Proposals should be consistent with other policies such as on design, flood risk, contamination, protection of the natural and built environment or agricultural land quality and protect areas designated for their local, national or international importance, such as Gaps and the South Downs National Park.

Proposals for transit sites and ~~sites for non-nomadic travellers~~ will be considered on an individual basis, taking account of evidence of need and the criteria above, as relevant.

Amendments to supporting text

9.81The GTAA assesseds the need for pitches and plots based on current and future needs **at the time**, taking account of the results of the interviews and expected household formation. The needs are broken down into those arising from gypsies and travellers and from travelling showpeople, and those relating to travellers that ~~met~~meet the Government’s **previous** definition of ‘travelling’ (Planning Policy for Travellers Sites – PPTS 2015)....

9.83 **There have been some important changes since the GTAA was published, including to the definition of travellers and the needs identified. These are detailed in the Gypsy and Traveller Topic Paper 2024, which updates traveller needs and considers potential source of pitch / plot supply.** This results in the following **updated** pitch and plot needs for the Local Plan period to ~~2040~~2039, broken into gypsy and travellers pitches and travelling showpersons’ plots (excluding South Downs National Park needs). The requirements in Table H3 relate to the needs of **all ethnic** travellers, **regardless of whether they** that meet the Planning Policy for Travellers Sites **updated** definition of ‘travelling’, ~~but there are also a considerable number of travellers that do not currently meet the definition (non-nomadic’ travellers) or whose status is unknown.~~

Table H3 – Traveller Pitch / Plot Needs by 4-Year Period

Pitches / Plots Needed By 5-Year Period					Total
	2022-2026	2027-2031	2032-2036	2037- 2040 39 *	2024 2040 39
Gypsy and Traveller Pitches					
	5179	1514	1715	87	91115
Travelling Showpersons’ Plots					
	2224	42	53	41	3527

Source: Gypsy and Traveller Topic Paper, WCC 2024

* ~~Extrapolated to 2039 as GTAA covers the period to 2038~~

9.84 The majority of the need for additional gypsy and traveller pitches arises in the first **54**-year period, due particularly to short-term needs arising from ~~unauthorised developments or concealed and doubled-up households.~~ In particular, ~~u~~Unauthorised development at Carousel Park (Micheldever) and the Firgrove Lane area (North Boarhunt) **accounteds** for much of the short-term pitch need **at the time of the GTAA. The position in these areas has since been regularised through enforcement action,**

~~resulting in a substantial reduction in unauthorised pitches and, therefore, short-term needs. Many of the unauthorised pitches on these sites appear to be occupied by people that are not travellers, or who do not meet the Government definition of ‘travelling’ and whose needs are, therefore, covered by the general housing policies of this Plan. The Council is in the process of taking enforcement action to regularise the situation on these sites, and other unauthorised developments.~~

9.85 The medium and long-term needs for gypsy and traveller pitches tend to arise primarily from the future needs of teenage children on existing sites, who will be establishing their own households over the Plan period, and from other new household ~~formation provision~~. The GTAA included ~~s~~ an assessment of the scope to meet these needs by delivering additional pitches through the intensification or expansion of existing traveller sites **(the Gypsy and Traveller Pitch Delivery Assessment)**. **This has been supplemented by additional work in the Gypsy and Traveller Topic Paper which** concludes that there ~~is~~ **may be** scope to meet the need for about ~~6820~~ additional **gypsy traveller** pitches in this way and policies H14 and H15 provide for site intensification or expansion respectively. In addition, the Council is seeking to bring the former public site at Tynefield (Whiteley) back into use and to expand the number of pitches provided to about 30 (policy H18) **and there is scope to achieve about 30 additional pitches, if needed, through windfall provision.**

9.87 The need for plots for travelling showpeople is much more modest and there are no existing unauthorised sites. Most future needs are from teenage children on existing sites and other new household provision. The pitch deliverability assessment **and subsequent work** ~~that is included in the GTAA~~ concludes that there is ~~very limited~~ scope to meet **about half of** showpersons’ needs in this way, amounting to about ~~175~~ additional plots. Policies H14 and H15 provide for site intensification or expansion respectively and policies H13, ~~H16~~ and ~~H167~~ seek to safeguard existing sites and achieve/maintain full travelling showpersons’ use of sites at The Nurseries, Shedfield ~~and Carousel Park, Micheldever.~~

9.88• Specific site allocation policies for larger or more complex sites (policies H16, H17, ~~H18~~);....

Table H4 – Delivery of Traveller Pitches / Plots

Expected source of sites	Gypsy & Traveller Pitches	Travelling Showperson’s Plots
Sites identified in GTAA Pitch Deliverability Assessment and Gypsy	6820	170

and Traveller Topic Paper (policies H14 and H15)		
Supply from site allocations (policies H16, H17, H18)	30	010
Supply from windfall and site intensification/ expansion (policies H14 and H15)	3065	017
Total	128115	1727

9.89 Policy H12 sets out the criteria that will be applied to applications for gypsy and traveller pitches or plots. Such applications may be permitted in accordance with policies H13 – H17~~8~~ and the criteria of policy H12 will be applied in addition to any specific requirements of those policies. Policy H12 applies to all **ethnic** travellers but ~~prioritises those meeting the definition of ‘travelling’ (Planning Policy for Traveller Sites 2015).~~