

Traveller Local Plan - Issues and Options

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

September 2023



www.enfield.gov.uk

1. Who are Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople?

Gypsies are Romany ethnic groups who have lived in Britain for around 600 years. Their ancestors originate from northern India. Irish Travellers are a nomadic group with a distinctive way of life who have been part of Irish and British society since ancient times. The courts have confirmed that Gypsies and Irish Travellers are distinct ethnic groups and are therefore protected under equality laws; this includes their right to a nomadic lifestyle.

Travelling Showpeople are people who own and operate the fairs, circuses and shows that travel around the country; they require permanent quarters to store equipment and live during the winter months.

2. What difficulties are faced by the travelling community? Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople face a number of difficulties including:

- Limited access to appropriate places to live
- Limited access to services and facilities
- Poorer health outcomes
- Poorer educational achievement
- Lower employment rates and levels of economic activity
- Racist abuse and discrimination

3. Why do the Council have to make provision?

The Housing Act (2004), and national planning guidance issued in 2015, require us to assess the need for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation and then ensure that these needs are met. An accommodation assessment for Gypsies and Travellers has been undertaken by Enfield Council to understand the local need for the Borough.

4. What will happen if sites are not provided?

The Council would be in breach of planning guidance and could be taken to court. It would also increase the chances of unauthorised encampments which could have a significant impact on local residents and the environment, and be inappropriate or unsafe for the Gypsies and Travellers themselves. Most importantly it would mean that some of our residents are not having their basic needs met.

5. Why do Gypsies and Travellers need a permanent site?

Many Gypsies and Travellers now live in settled accommodation and do not travel all year, but nonetheless consider travelling to be part of their identity. However, a number would prefer to live on a site which allows them to have a settled base but the ability to travel when desired.

6. What are the Council doing?

Enfield Council are preparing a Local Plan to set out planning policies and allocate a number of sites for use by Gypsies and Travellers further to the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTANA 2020) which sets out the evidence base. In addition, a Site Selection Methodology (SSM) has been published and updated, which sets out how sites will be assessed in due course.

7. What is the current consultation about?

The Traveller Local Plan (TLP) consultation document explores the issues and options relating to the provision of sites to meet the needs of the Traveller communities in the Borough. The Traveller communities, the wider public and other stakeholders are now invited to submit comments on the content of the document as well as the supporting documentation.

As part of the TLP plan making process the Council is undertaking a further 'Call for Sites' inviting anyone with an interest in land, potential sites and broad locations for Traveller development to submit these to us for consideration. We are especially interested in sites within the built-up urban areas of Enfield. Anyone wishing to submit a site is invited to do so, by completing a submission form which can be found in Appendix 2 of the TLP, or on our website at <https://www.enfield.gov.uk/services/planning/emerging-plans#traveller-local-plan>

8. Will you take account of objections from local residents?

When taking any planning decisions we always take account of the views of local residents where these relate to valid planning grounds. A balance will need to be struck between meeting the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers, and the impacts on the wider community.

9. What will happen next?

Following the consultation, the Council will review the comments made and consider the best approach to take to ensure that the need is met. Before any final decisions are made there will be a further rounds of public consultation on any of the options selected, and potential site allocations. An indicative timetable based on current Local Plan programme is set out at the end of this FAQ document.

10. How do I get in touch?

You can respond to the consultation in several different ways:

- By downloading the response form from our website at <https://www.enfield.gov.uk/services/planning/emerging-plans#traveller-local-plan> completing it and returning it by email to travellerlocalplan@enfield.gov.uk
- By sending comments to us by email (using the above address) or
- By sending comments to us by post to Plan Making Team, Enfield Council, Civic Centre, Silver Street, Enfield, EN1 3XA

If you are able to respond electronically, rather than by post, that would be preferred. Thank you.

Hard copies of the TLP will be available to view in the borough's libraries. Library locations and opening hours can be found here:

<https://new.enfield.gov.uk/services/libraries/contact-information-and-opening-hours/>

If you have any queries regarding this Issues and Options document please contact a member of the Plan Making team on 020 8379 3866.

AUTUMN 2023
Issues and Options Consultation (Regulation 18)



SPRING 2024
Draft Plan Consultation (Regulation 18)



AUTUMN / WINTER 2024
Publication of Proposed Submission Plan (Regulation 19)



2025
Submission (Regulation 22)



2025
Examination (Regulations 23 25)



2026
Adoption