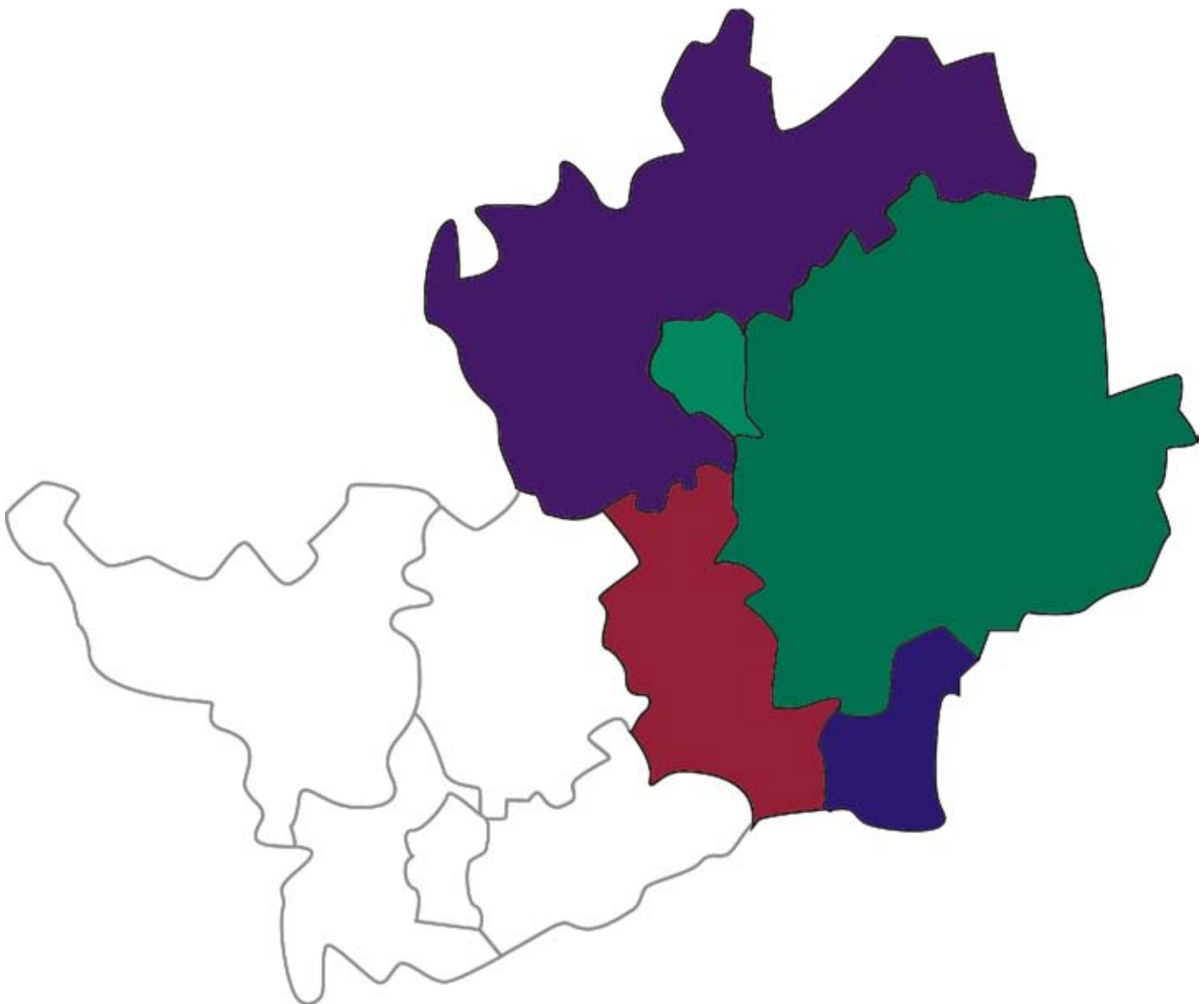


# **Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire: Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment**

Report for the Local Authorities of  
Broxbourne, East Hertfordshire, North Hertfordshire,  
Stevenage, Welwyn Hatfield and Hertfordshire County Council



Date of Issue: June 2006  
Opinion Research Services

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June 2006



**Opinion Research Services**

Spin-out Company of the  
University of Wales Swansea

# Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire: Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment

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# Executive Summary

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## Introduction

1. Opinion Research Services was commissioned by Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) and the local authorities of Broxbourne, East Hertfordshire, North Hertfordshire, Stevenage and Welwyn Hatfield to undertake a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment. The study area will henceforth be known as Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire.
2. The main objective of the survey was to identify the need for any extra authorised site provision in at least the next 5 years in the study area.
3. Other objectives of the survey were to analyse the needs of the existing population to assess if any extra service provision is required; and also to identify any issues in the emerging Government guidance on planning for Gypsy and Traveller sites that local authorities should act upon.
4. There were three stages to the research methodology. The first was a series of interviews with Council officers and Members to provide background information on the way Gypsy and Traveller related issues are currently handled.
5. The second stage of the research was a survey of the Gypsy and Traveller population – to assess needs among the current Gypsy and Traveller population and the likely rate of household formation, in order to provide evidence for future site provision needs.
6. The third stage of the results was to tie the previous two stages to existing sources of secondary data. These were the waiting list for public sites in Hertfordshire, the Hotline information on unauthorised developments and encampments in Hertfordshire and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) backed bi-annual caravan count to give an overall assessment of need among the Gypsy and Traveller population in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire.
7. When undertaking this study, two key pieces of guidance came into effect. Circular 1/06, released in January 2006 sets out guidance to local authorities on planning for Gypsy and Traveller caravan sites. The ODPM also released guidance on conducting 'Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments' in February 2006 and this study makes use of the methodology suggested in this guidance to calculate the overall need for future pitch provision.
8. It should be noted that this study only focused on Gypsies and Travellers living on existing sites in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire. The new ODPM draft guidance on conducting Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments from February 2006 recommends that local authorities should also consider the needs of Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar, but this assessment began before the publication of this draft guidance.
9. Gypsies and Travellers in bricks and mortar accommodation are very difficult to identify because few housing waiting and transfer lists identify them as a separate ethnic group. This includes the housing waiting lists of all the local authorities in the study area.
10. This Executive Summary will concentrate on the key results of the study. Readers seeking more information on any issue identified can find this in the main report.

## Profile of the Population

11. One of the major components of this study was a detailed survey of the Gypsy and Traveller population in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire. In total, 65 interviews were achieved with Gypsies and Traveller households in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire, which represents approximately two thirds of the 97 authorised pitches.
12. In total 223 people were contained within the 65 households which were interviewed. Nearly 50% of all household members were aged 16 years or under. Nearly half of all respondents were English Gypsies or Travellers. Around a quarter of respondents were Irish Gypsies or Travellers, and another quarter were Romany.
13. 71% of respondents had lived in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire for more than 5 years. The main factors which cause the population to remain in the area are to be near to their family, or because they had always lived in the area.
14. There was no evidence that many respondents were in the area because of lifestyle or economic factors. Only 3% of respondents were in the area because of work and 8% for the quality of life. This is supported by the employment status of household members aged over 16 years, which shows that 34% of household members were at home looking after their home/family. Another 14% were retired and 7% were long term-sick or disabled. Only 5% had a permanent job, another 9% had casual or temporary work and 1% worked seasonally.
15. Almost all the children who were aged 5-11 years attended school. However, among children aged 12-16 years the majority were home tutored. Evidence from the Traveller Education Project of HCC is that a key factor in this lack of attendance at secondary schools is parental choice. Gypsy and Traveller parents seem to expect their children to follow in their parent's footsteps. Female children were expected to look after their home and family and male children were expected to undertake manual work. Therefore, attending school beyond primary level appears not to be a high priority.
16. Given that the local authority must provide an education to all children, it is necessary to educate the Gypsy and Traveller children at home because they will not attend ordinary secondary schools. This situation will be likely to continue in to the future unless the attitudes of Gypsy and Traveller parents change.
17. 45% of respondents reported that their household contained at least one member with a long-term health problem. This is much higher than for households in Hertfordshire in general, where 28% had members with health problems during the 2001 Census.
18. In total 12% of respondents reported that their accommodation required adaptations because of these health problems, and 11% of respondents reported that at least one household member required some form of care because they were unable to fully support themselves. However, only one respondent felt that their current support needs were not being met.
19. 68% of respondents reported that they do not travel at all. 80% of those who do not travel have travelled in the past. 45% of those who have travelled in the past no longer do so because of a lack of stopping places. However, 39% also stopped travelling due to them wanting a more settled lifestyle, and 23% had stopped travelling due to their children's education needs. Therefore, the low rate of travelling is due to a combination of a lack of opportunities to travel elsewhere and a desire to settle in one place.

## **Current Site Provision and Needs**

20. The majority of respondents were satisfied with their sites. 77% of respondents expressed some form of satisfaction with their site. However, around 25% of respondents on public sites expressed dissatisfaction with them.
21. Only 20% of respondents felt that no improvements were required to their site and almost all of these resided on private sites. The washing and toilet facilities and the size of the pitches were identified by many as being a problem.
22. Many respondents felt that they have had difficulties accessing some key services. The largest single difficulty identified was that of access to public transport. This would suggest that many households lack access to transport of their own and that the level of public transport provided near their sites is not adequate. Many of the other difficulties such as access to a GP, shopping, hospital and pharmacy are also likely to be linked to the lack of adequate public transport.
23. Only one respondent reported that they wanted more storage space for business needs and no one requested better parking facilities. Therefore, there was no identified need to provide a significant amount of extra parking space or business facilities at existing sites.

## **Future Site Provision**

### Draft Guidance

24. The key objective of this study was to assess the need for any additional authorised Gypsy and Traveller site provision within Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire in at least the next 5 years. To make this assessment this study followed the ODPM draft guidance on conducting 'Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments' which indicates that to assess the need for extra pitch and site provision it is necessary to compare the amount of pitch provision which is likely to become vacant with the amount which is needed.

### Available Space

25. It is this study's view that very little space will become available on existing sites in the foreseeable future. The main reasons for this are that all sites are currently full, no new sites are about to open, and only one household in the survey intends to leave a site soon for either another site elsewhere or for bricks and mortar accommodation. There are also very few households which will completely dissolve in the foreseeable future. Therefore, any new households who require extra pitches will have to have this met through new site provision.

### Existing Site Replacements

26. Indications are that the existing public site in Broxbourne may have to close to make way for a new road. If this site is to close then it should be a priority for the District Council to identify an alternative site of a similar size. This would not represent additional sites or pitches, but simply be a replacement of existing capacity.

### Waiting List

27. The ODPM guidance on assessing the need for pitch provision recommends identifying households who are living elsewhere while seeking permanent site accommodation in order to include them in the calculation of the need for residential pitches in the area.



28. Waiting list information for public sites in Hertfordshire indicates that there are 29 households currently not residing in Hertfordshire who would like a pitch on a public site in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire. Of these, 16 would like to come specifically to sites in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire.
29. This would indicate that Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire requires around 20 more pitches on public sites to accommodate households who wish to move to the area and are currently waiting for places on public sites, along with some of those who would more generally like to move to Hertfordshire.

#### In-migration from other sources

30. Past experience has shown that the study area attracts only a very small number of applications for private sites, but private sites still form around 30% of all the pitch provision in the area. We do not envisage the number of applications rising in the near future, but we do anticipate that the authorities in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire will receive the occasional application for private sites.

#### Overcrowded Households

31. The ODPM guidance recommends that households that are overcrowded, and on pitches too small to accommodate another caravan or trailer, should be considered as needing an additional pitch.
32. However, for households needing more caravans or trailers there are two possibilities. Either the extra caravans or trailers could be accommodated on the existing pitch; or, if this is not possible, a new larger pitch may be required.
33. If the household moves to a larger pitch they will leave behind an existing pitch, which can be filled by another household that has been identified separately as being in need – so, in these circumstances, only one extra pitch is required to accommodate a household in need and a household that is overcrowded. Therefore, counting households who require to move to new pitches to alleviate their overcrowding as requiring extra pitches is likely to lead to an overestimate of the total need for new pitches.
34. However, it should be recognised that 7 of the 65 households surveyed included 6 or more persons. Therefore, when developing new sites some larger pitches should be included to accommodate larger Gypsy and Traveller families who require more than two caravans for their household.

#### New Household Formation

35. The survey of the Gypsy and Traveller population in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire found that nearly 50% of all people in households were children. This would imply that if current population trends continue the population will double in 20-25 years.
36. Therefore, this would imply that over the next five years the area covered by Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire will need at least 15 more pitches due to household formation. This also implies that, assuming the current population structure is maintained, over the next 25 years it is likely that the number of pitches in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire will have to double from 97 to around 200 simply due to household formation among the existing Gypsy and Traveller population.

### Brick and Mortar Households

37. This study found no respondent had left bricks and mortar accommodation in the last three years. Using this as a trend it can be predicted that there will be few people leaving this form of accommodation to move to Gypsy and Traveller sites soon. However, while there is currently no evidence available to support the desire of any Gypsy and Traveller households in the study area to leave bricks and mortar accommodation, future Housing Needs Surveys may indicate otherwise.

### Transit Site Provision

38. All 97 authorised pitches in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire are for residential use. Therefore, there is no transit site or emergency stopping place provision for those who are visiting relatives in the area, or simply passing through.
39. The Hotline data provided by HCC Gypsy and Traveller Unit shows that there have been 265 unauthorised developments or encampments in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire since 1997. In some cases groups moved from one location to another within the same district or moved from one district to another, and would have been counted more than once. However, even with known multiple counting cases removed, the results still indicate that there have been over 200 unauthorised developments and encampments since 1997.
40. A transit site or emergency stopping place would allow short-term legal stays in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire, and therefore would prevent much of the need to involve the police and courts in moving groups on.
41. The Hotline data indicates that the average number of families at unauthorised encampments or developments since 2003 has been 10. It is noteworthy that in almost all cases the number of families estimated to be on the unauthorised development or encampment was the same as the number of caravans. Therefore the results are based on one caravan per family.
42. Very few encampments in the last 3 years have contained as many as 10 families, so one 10-pitch transit/emergency stopping site would be sufficient to meet the needs of those who do not want to reside in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire, but who do want to travel through it. The fact that each household contains only one caravan may imply that the pitches on this site could be smaller than on residential sites.

### Overall

43. The estimated extra site provision that is required for the next 5 years in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire is therefore 45 pitches. 35 of these pitches would be on residential sites and 10 on a transit site. The key groups who require extra site provision are those who currently live outside the area, but are on the waiting list for public sites, and also the emerging households from young adults in the area. There is also a clear need for a transit site or emergency stopping place in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire.

### **Public/Private Site Provision**

44. The evidence of this study is that very little of the pitch provision which is needed will be on private sites. Past experience has shown that Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire only attracts a very small number of applications for private sites. Very few respondents reported that any member of their household had permanent jobs, and the HCC Gypsy and Traveller Unit report that for most households on public sites their rent is at least part paid for by Housing Benefit.

This suggests there will be issues of affordability for the development of private sites among the existing population.

45. For this study we undertook an internet search of land prices in Hertfordshire. The conclusions show that the price of land varies enormously depending upon whether it is likely to be granted planning permission. Agricultural land is available in Hertfordshire for less than £10,000 per acre in areas where planning permission for housing is not likely to be granted. However, agricultural land which is in areas where planning permission is more likely to be granted, such as the west of Stevenage, often sells for the equivalent of £250,000 - £500,000 per acre. Land which already has planning permission in urban areas often sells for £1 - £2 million.
46. These results imply that Gypsies and Travellers may be able to afford to purchase agricultural land upon which it is unlikely they will be granted planning permission, but cannot compete for land where planning permission is likely to be granted.
47. Local authorities are allowed to operate a Rural Exceptions Policy. This will allow, under exceptional circumstances, the allocation of planning for Gypsy and Traveller sites where planning for settled housing would not normally be granted. This may increase the number of private sites which are developed, but this study still concludes that much of the extra pitch provision needed will have to be on public sites.

### **Location of Site Provision**

48. This study has identified a need that ought to be planned for somewhere in the study area. However, it found no clear evidence that sites need to be provided in one district over any other. In light of the identified need for provision in the study area, the partnering districts should work towards the division of this allocation, which should be reflected in policy.
49. One factor which may be considered in allocating this need is that of equity. East Hertfordshire and North Hertfordshire do not currently provide public sites, while the remaining three local authorities do. In this sense, equity seems to be an appropriate and relevant factor to take into account in deciding the location of the site need identified by this study; but it should be noted that there is no specific demand from the survey for sites in these two districts.
50. It is likely that the continuing provision of extra sites will be required beyond the first five years. If current trends continue it is likely that around 15-20 extra pitches will be needed every 5 years due to household formation among the existing population.

### **Current Local Authority Planning Policies**

51. The needs identified in this study are likely to require some adjustment of the policies of many of the local authorities. However, in many cases the local authorities have good guides upon which they can build upon.
52. For example, Broxbourne has a very positive statement that their public site will not be allowed to close without acceptable alternative accommodation being provided (Policy BFC7). Stevenage District Council has also stated that the loss of its public site at Dyes Lane will not be permitted unless alternative provision in an acceptable location is made.
53. This study recommends that Welwyn Hatfield should make a similar public commitment to replace its existing public sites if they close for any reason. If the authority is able to make this commitment then it would ensure that the pitch capacity in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire is not reduced from its current level by the closure of existing public sites.

54. We would also recommend that all the local authorities accept that there is likely to be an on-going need to provide further Gypsy and Travellers sites for the foreseeable future, and that much of this provision will need to be on public sites. As an example, authorities such as Milton Keynes have set aside three areas of land within their Local Development Plan which could be developed as public Gypsy and Traveller sites in the next 15 years, and this is something which should be considered in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire.
55. Welwyn Hatfield District Council provides a very good example for the operation of the policies on Gypsy and Traveller sites suggested by Circular 1/06. This requires local authorities to set out the criteria under which they will grant planning permission for Gypsy and Traveller sites. It indicates that they should also offer positive guidance which focuses on the criteria under which a Gypsy and Traveller site will be granted planning permission. Welwyn Hatfield District Council's Policy H13 on Gypsy Sites set out very clear criteria under which sites will be granted.
56. A similar clear policy has been developed by East Hertfordshire in HSG16 of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Review Local Plan.
57. For the remaining three local authorities their existing guidance on planning permission for Gypsy and Traveller sites is consistent with the guidance set out in Circular 1/94, but is not consistent with the new guidance outlined by Circular 1/06. Therefore, this study recommends that they should adopt clear statements – along the lines of those adopted by Welwyn Hatfield and East Hertfordshire, under which Gypsy and Traveller sites will be granted planning permission in their local authorities.

# 1. Project Overview

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## The Survey

- 1.1 Opinion Research Services (ORS) was commissioned by Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) and the local authorities of Broxbourne, East Hertfordshire, North Hertfordshire, Stevenage and Welwyn Hatfield to undertake a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment. The area under consideration will henceforth be known as Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire.
- 1.2 The main objective of this study was to assess the need for any additional authorised Gypsy and Traveller site provision within Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire in at least the next 5 years. This required an identification of the broad location of where any additional sites should be located, including any recommendations relating to separate partnering authorities clearly defined. It also required the identification of whether any extra site provision should be on public or private sites, and whether or not any of the local authorities need to plan for the provision of transit sites or emergency stopping places.
- 1.3 A secondary objective was to assess the needs of people living on existing sites in terms of any extra service provision that may be required. The study also seeks to highlight how emerging Government planning guidance for Gypsy and Traveller sites will impact upon the planning and housing strategies employed by the local authorities. This study seeks to provide a review of the current housing and planning policies of each of the authorities to assess if they are sufficiently developed to accommodate, plan for, and respond to the needs identified in this study.
- 1.4 This study also highlights the results of a similar study, 'An Assessment of the Accommodation Needs of Gypsies and Travellers in South and West Hertfordshire'<sup>1</sup>, undertaken by the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies at Birmingham University on behalf of the local authorities in the South and West of Hertfordshire.

## Research Methodology

- 1.5 The research methodology adopted in this report followed a three phase process. Firstly, ORS conducted structured interviews with a number of officers from the 5 local authorities and HCC, who in the course of their jobs work with Gypsies and Travellers. Interviews were also conducted with Council Members, whose constituencies contain Gypsy and Traveller sites, who had portfolios for planning and housing, or who headed planning committees. In total 21 Council officers, from a list of 31, and 10 Council Members, from a list of 19, were interviewed. The majority of interviews took place in August and September 2005, with 2 interviews being completed in March 2006. Interviews were obtained with Council officers and with Council Members in all five local authorities. Interviews were also conducted with a representative of Hertfordshire County Constabulary and the Primary Care Trust.
- 1.6 The aim of these interviews was to provide background information on local authority thinking about the provision of sites for Gypsies and Travellers, and to understand how site provision operates at the present time within current and emerging national, regional and local policy frameworks.

- 1.7 The second stage of the research process was a census of Gypsy and Traveller households in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire. This took place in the week commencing September 19<sup>th</sup> 2005. Interviews were attempted with every Gypsy and Traveller household in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire, and 65 interviews were achieved in total. In each local authority over 50% of Gypsy and Traveller households were successfully interviewed.
- 1.8 This survey had a number of objectives. One objective was to analyse the provision of services on existing sites to assess if more, or improved, service provision was required within the existing sites. Another main objective was to view travelling patterns and likely future household formation to analyse the future need for extra site provision.
- 1.9 The survey focused on Gypsies and Travellers living on existing sites in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire. The survey did not seek to include Gypsies and Travellers in bricks and mortar accommodation. The new ODPM draft guidance on conducting Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments from February 2006 recommends that local authorities do consider the needs of Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar, but this assessment began before the publication of this draft guidance.
- 1.10 This group is very difficult to identify because few housing waiting and transfer lists identify Gypsies and Travellers as a separate ethnic group. This includes the housing waiting lists of all the local authorities in the study area. In our experience the only cost effective and statistically reliable way to consult with Gypsies and Travellers in bricks and mortar housing is via in depth interviews within a Housing Needs Survey.
- 1.11 ORS's experience with Housing Needs Surveys indicates that Gypsies and Travellers typically account for around 0.5%-1% of all households in the South and East of England. For example, a recent survey for Redbridge Borough Council in East London found 10 of the 2,023 respondents identified themselves as being from a Gypsy and Traveller background. Meanwhile, a survey of 5,279 households for Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk District Councils in Norfolk found 33 households who identified themselves as being Gypsies and Travellers.
- 1.12 The third strand of the research methodology was to tie the evidence of any accommodation need identified from the interviews with Gypsies and Travellers to available sources of secondary data on the trends in the Gypsy and Traveller population of Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire.
- 1.13 One of these sources is the waiting list information for sites in Hertfordshire, which was supplied by the Gypsy and Traveller Unit of HCC. The Gypsy and Traveller Unit also supplied details of their Hotline information which contains details of all unauthorised encampments and developments which have occurred in each of the local authorities since 1997. The final main source of data comes from the bi-annual Gypsy and Traveller caravan count conducted by local authorities. This count dates back to 1979 and therefore gives a picture of historic trends in Gypsy and Traveller populations. The caravan count has been known to contain inaccuracies, but is useful as a guide to trends because it also highlights the number of Gypsies and Travellers living in other areas.

### **Summary of Key Points**

- Opinion Research Services was commissioned by Hertfordshire County Council and the local authorities of Broxbourne, East Hertfordshire, North Hertfordshire, Stevenage and Welwyn Hatfield to undertake a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment;
- The main objective of the survey was to identify the need for any extra authorised site provision in at least the next 5 years in the local authorities concerned;
- Other objectives of the survey were to analyse the needs of the existing population to assess if any extra service provision was required, and to identify any issues in the emerging Government guidance on planning for Gypsy and Traveller sites which local authorities should act upon;
- There were three stages to the research methodology. The first was a series of interviews with Council officers and Members to provide background information on the way Gypsy and Traveller related issues are currently handled;
- The second stage of the research was a survey of the Gypsy and Traveller population. This had the objectives of assessing needs among the current Gypsy and Traveller population and also to assess the likely rate of household formation to provide evidence for future site provision needs; and
- The third stage of the results was to tie the previous two stages to existing sources of secondary data. These were the waiting list for public sites in Hertfordshire, the Hotline information on unauthorised developments and encampments in Hertfordshire and the ODPM backed bi-annual caravan count to give an overall assessment of need among the Gypsy and Traveller population in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire.

## 2. Gypsy and Traveller Sites and Population

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### Sites in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire

- 2.1 A mainstream Housing Needs Survey typically focuses upon the number of dwellings required in an area, and how many of these should each be provided by the public and private sector. The central aim of this study was to follow a similar format for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation requirements.
- 2.2 The main consideration of this study is the provision of pitches and sites. A pitch is an area which is large enough for one household to occupy and typically contains enough space for two caravans. A site is a collection of pitches which form a development exclusively for Gypsies and Travellers. Throughout this study the main focus is upon how many extra pitches are required in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire in at least the next 5 years, and across how many different sites these pitches should be provided.
- 2.3 The public and private provision of mainstream housing is also largely mirrored when considering Gypsy and Traveller accommodation. One common form of Gypsy and Traveller site is the publicly-provided residential site, which is provided and run by the local authority, County Council or by a registered social landlord. Places on public sites can be obtained through a waiting list, and the costs of running the sites are met from the rent paid by tenants. Therefore, public sites are a direct equivalent of social housing among bricks and mortar tenants.
- 2.4 The alternative to public residential sites are private residential sites. These result from individuals or families buying areas of land and then obtaining planning permission to live on them. Households can also rent pitches on existing private sites. Therefore, these two forms of accommodation are the equivalent to private ownership and renting for those who live in bricks and mortar housing.
- 2.5 The Gypsy and Traveller population also has other forms of sites due to its mobile nature. Transit sites tend to contain many of the same facilities as a residential site, except that there is a maximum period of residence of around 3 months. An alternative is an emergency stopping place. This type of site also has restrictions on the length of time for which someone can stay on it, but has much more limited facilities. Both of these two types of site are designed to accommodate Gypsies and Travellers whilst they travel.
- 2.6 A further issue in the Gypsy and Traveller population are unauthorised developments and encampments. Unauthorised developments occur on land which is owned by the Gypsies and Travellers, but for which they do not have planning permission to use them as a campsite. Unauthorised encampments occur on land which is not owned by the Gypsies and Travellers.



2.7 Figure 1 shows the Gypsy and Traveller sites, and the number of pitches, which were to be found in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire in September 2005. The area contained 3 authorised public residential sites, which were operated by HCC, in Broxbourne, Stevenage and Welwyn Hatfield. These have a combined capacity of 68 pitches. There were also 8 authorised private sites with a combined capacity of 29 pitches. There was also one unauthorised encampment in Broxbourne. There was no provision of any transit site, or emergency stopping place within the study area.

Local authority	No of authorised public sites	No of families/pitches	No of authorised private sites	No of families/pitches	No of unauthorised sites	No of families/pitches
Broxbourne	1	15	2	7	1	2
East Herts	0	0	3	3	0	0
North Herts	0	0	1	8	0	0
Stevenage	1	14	0	0	0	0
Welwyn Hatfield	1	39	2	11	0	0
Total	3	68	8	29	1	2

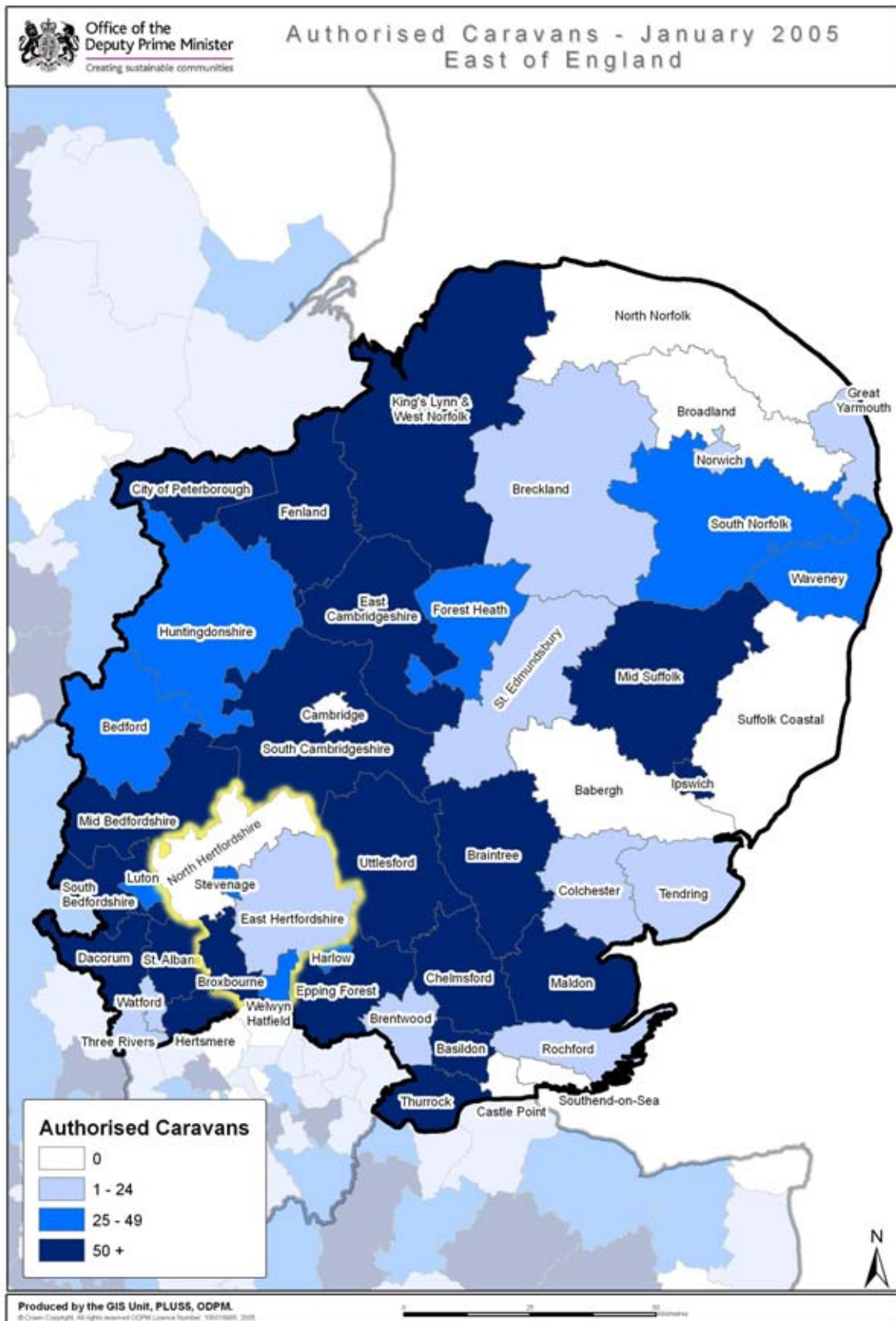
**Figure 1: Site Provision in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire in September 2005**

Source: Project Brief and Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population

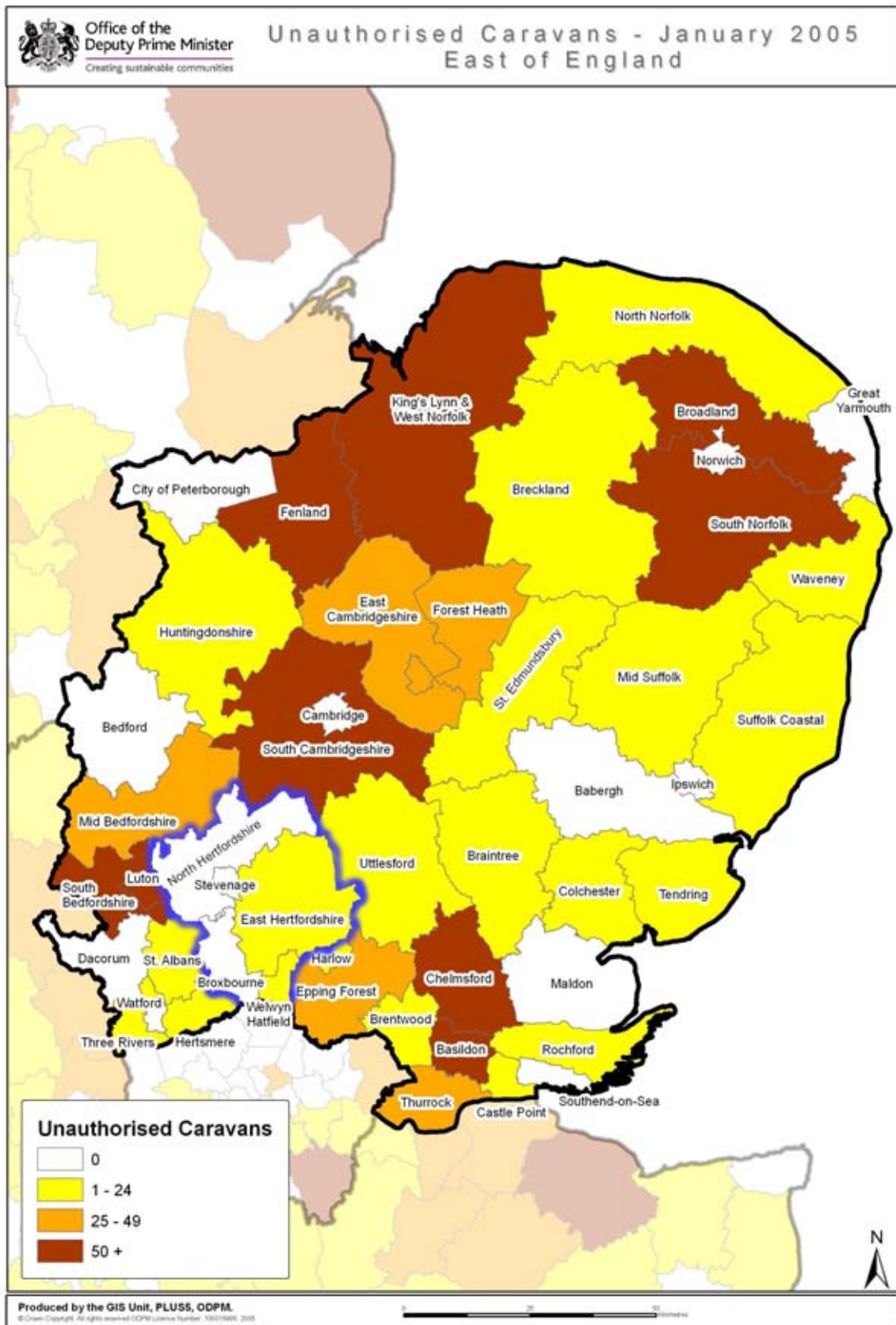
## Regional Gypsy and Traveller Population

- 2.8 Statistical information for the Gypsy and Traveller population is limited. The UK Census of Population 2001 is the best available source of information on Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups in the UK. However, the 2001 Census did not distinguish Gypsies and Travellers as a separate ethnic group.
- 2.9 Whilst information is available for those living in caravans or other temporary structures, this group cannot be reconciled with the Gypsy and Traveller community. The vast majority of people living in this form of accommodation do not regard themselves as being Gypsies and Travellers.
- 2.10 The most regular data collection on the number of Gypsies and Travellers comes from the bi-annual caravan count conducted by local authorities, the results of which are submitted to the ODPM. This has been known to contain inaccuracies, but does show the overall trends in the Gypsy and Traveller population. This count is of caravans, rather than pitches, which are located on authorised and unauthorised sites.
- 2.11 At the most recent count, in July 2005, there were 15,711 Gypsy and Traveller caravans across the whole of England. It is estimated that this represents around 45,000 - 50,000 people living on Gypsy and Traveller sites<sup>2</sup>. In January 1979, there were 8,300 caravans in the count which represents a rise of 89% in the number of caravans in 26 years. It is also estimated that there are nearly twice as many Gypsies and Travellers who live in social housing as live in caravans<sup>3</sup>.

- 2.12 The East of England region, which contains Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire, has a significant Gypsy and Traveller population. In the July 2005 count there were 3,983 caravans present compared with 1,607 caravans present during the January 1979 survey. It should be noted that both of these figures relate to the current geographical area of the East of England region. This change since 1979 represents a 148% rise in the number of caravans, clearly well above the average for England as a whole.
- 2.13 The counties which have mainly experienced this rise in the number of caravans in the East of England are Essex and Cambridgeshire. The number of caravans in Essex has risen from 335 in January 1979 to 1159 in July 2005. Similarly, the number of caravans in Cambridgeshire has risen from 414 in January 1979 to 1174 in July 2005. Therefore, the Gypsy and Traveller caravan count of Essex and Cambridgeshire has trebled in 25 years.
- 2.14 Figure 2, overleaf, shows the picture for caravans on authorised sites for each of the local authorities in the East of England. We are grateful to the ODPM for supplying us with this map and allowing its publication. The area of Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire is highlighted by the yellow boundary line. The area of Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire under consideration is noteworthy for containing a relatively low number of caravans on authorised sites in the January 2005 count. However, it is surrounded by other authorities that have many more authorised caravans within them.
- 2.15 A further point of note is that North Hertfordshire is shown as having no caravans present in January 2005, but evidence from their Council officers indicates that they believe that there were caravans present at this time. The chart was supplied by the ODPM based upon the recorded caravan count, and therefore this can be taken as evidence that the published caravan count is not always accurate for each local authority. However, the trends in the Gypsy and Traveller population are still clear from the caravan count.
- 2.16 Figure 3 shows the number of caravans on unauthorised sites in each local authority in January 2005. Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire is highlighted inside the blue boundary line. In January 1979 there were 998 unauthorised caravans in the East of England and by July 2005 this had risen by approximately 20% to 1,201 caravans. Meanwhile, the number of caravans on authorised sites had risen from 609 in January 1979 to 2,782 in July 2005.
- 2.17 Again, it is noteworthy that the Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire area contains a low level of unauthorised caravans. However, many of the surrounding local authorities in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Essex contain many unauthorised sites. Enforcement action in any of these local authorities may potentially cause a rise in unauthorised encampments in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire.



**Figure 2: Gypsy and Traveller Caravans on Authorised Sites for East of England - January 2005**  
Source: Reprinted with permission from the ODPM

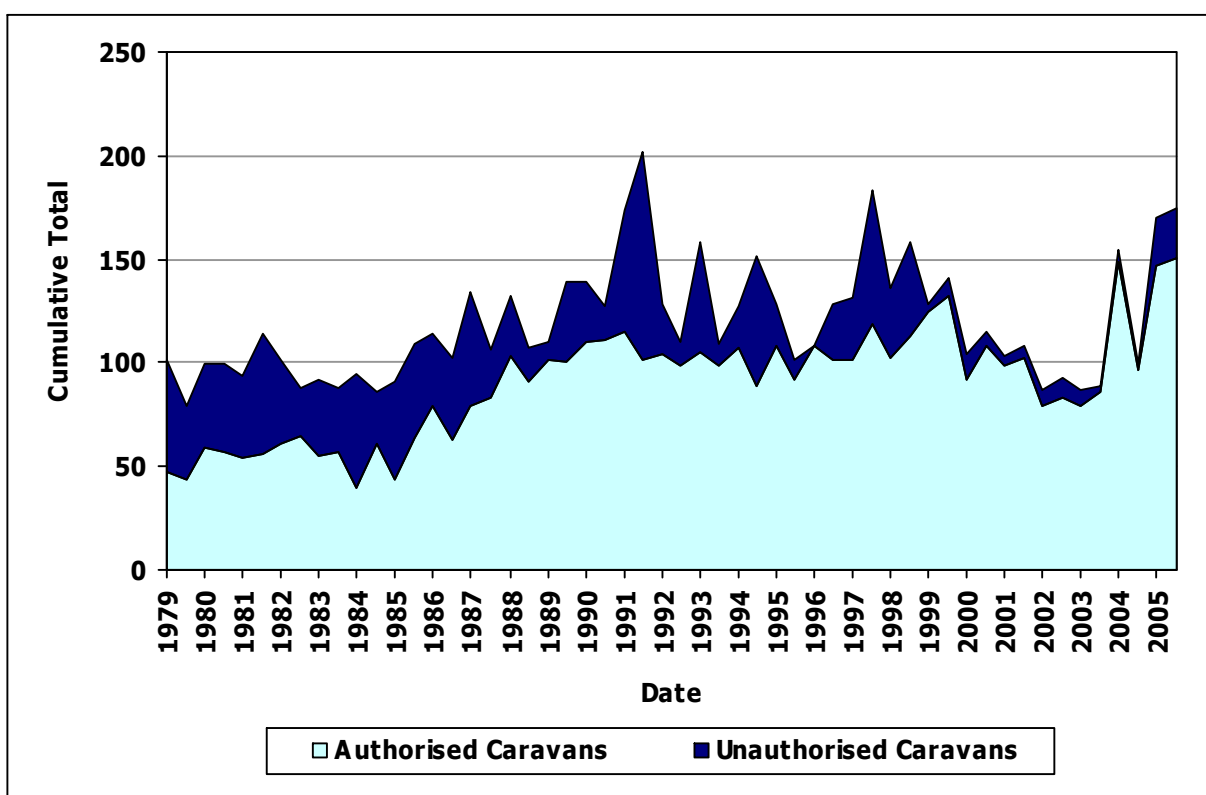


**Figure 3: Gypsy and Traveller Caravans on Unauthorised Sites for East of England - January 2005**

Source: Reprinted with permission from the ODPM

## Trends in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire

- 2.18 Figure 4 shows that during the most recent caravan count in July 2005 there were 175 caravans across the whole of Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire. This compares with 101 caravans during the January 1979 count, giving a rise of 73% in the 26 years. It should be noted that Figure 4 shows the cumulative total for the caravan count, so that in July 2005 there were 151 caravans on authorised sites and 24 on unauthorised sites.
- 2.19 For the whole of Hertfordshire, there were 444 caravans recorded in July 2005. Consistently, there have been more caravans, and more unauthorised caravans, in South and West Hertfordshire than in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire.
- 2.20 The 175 caravans recorded in the July 2005 count is much higher than for many counts in recent years. However, the figures from previous years may be misleading. In some years the number of caravans recorded was much lower due to a combination of whole groups of residents being away at the time of the count, and occasional omissions and inaccuracies in the count data.
- 2.21 The key feature that has changed since the 1980s and 1990s is the much larger number of caravans that are to be found on authorised sites. In January 1979 only 47 caravans were present on authorised sites. This rose to 110 by January 1990 and in the most recent counts around 150 caravans were to be found on authorised sites. Therefore, the provision of authorised sites has been increased in recent years.

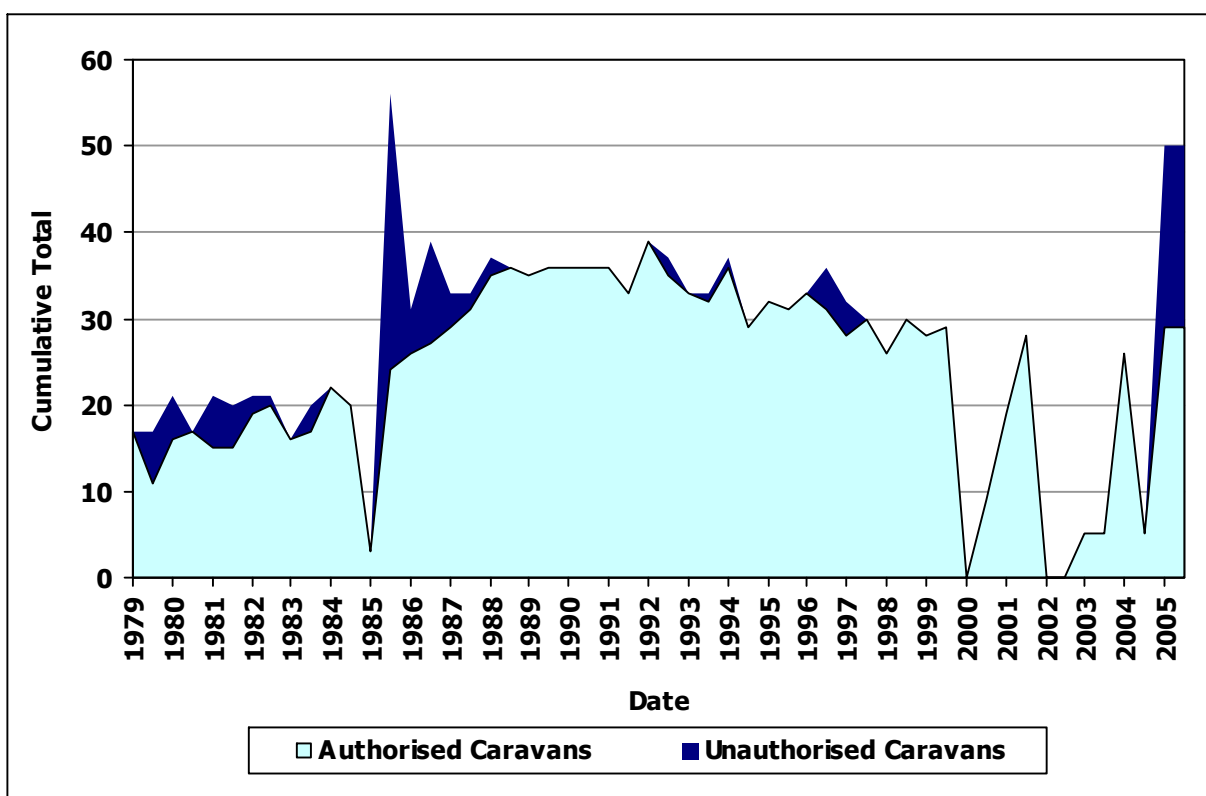


**Figure 4: Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count for Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire January 1979 – July 2005**

Source: Bi-annual Local Authority Caravan Count

## Broxbourne

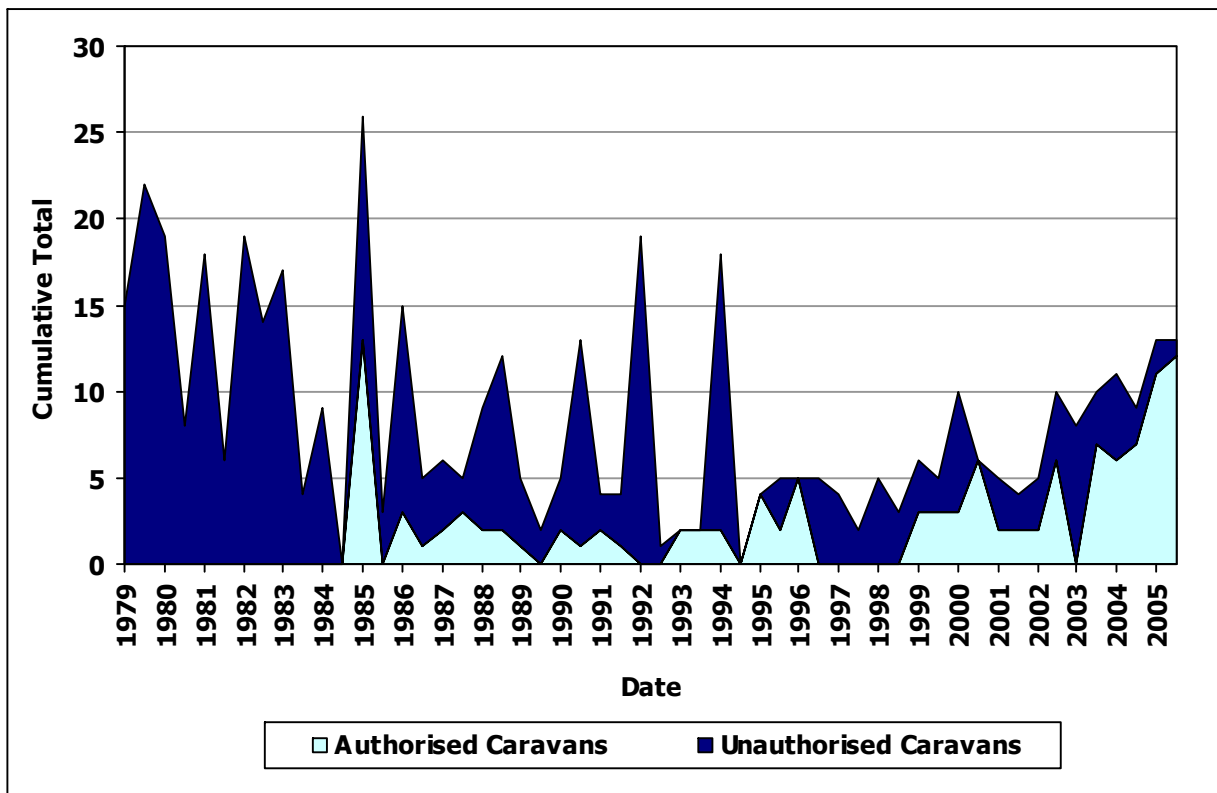
- 2.22 Broxbourne has an authorised public site at Halfhide Lane which contains 15 pitches and has enough space for 30 caravans. Information from HCC Gypsy and Traveller Unit indicates that the site is occupied by a settled English Gypsy population. Broxbourne also has two private sites at Goffs Oak and Hoddesdon with 7 pitches between them.
- 2.23 At the time of the July 2005 caravan count it also had an unauthorised development at Wormley which contained 11 families with 21 caravans. The Hotline data supplied by the HCC Gypsy and Traveller Unit for unauthorised developments and encampments shows that Broxbourne has experienced 35 unauthorised developments or encampments since 1997, but only 3 since 2003.



**Figure 5: Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count for Broxbourne January 1979 – July 2005**  
 Source: Bi-annual Local Authority Caravan Count

## East Hertfordshire

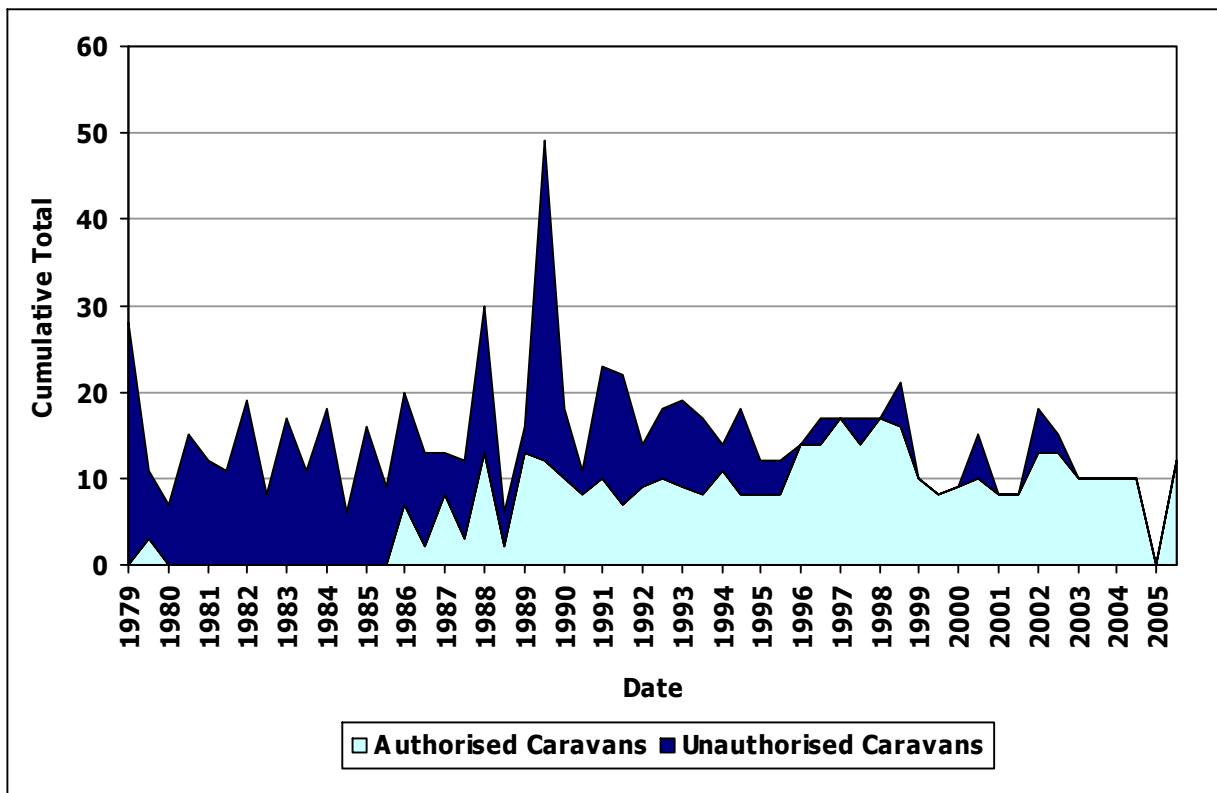
- 2.24 In recent years East Hertfordshire has had a very limited number of Gypsy and Traveller residents. It has only three small private sites at High Cross, Bayfordbury and Levens Green. All of these sites were initially unauthorised developments, which subsequently were granted planning permission after they were already being used as Gypsy and Traveller sites.
- 2.25 The Hotline data indicates that there have been 80 unauthorised encampments or developments in East Hertfordshire since 1997, and that 18 of these have occurred in the last 3 years. The district has a very limited amount of provision for Gypsy and Traveller sites, but it does have a quite significant history of short-term unauthorised developments and encampments.



**Figure 6: Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count for East Hertfordshire January 1979 – July 2005**  
Source: Bi-annual Local Authority Caravan Count

## North Hertfordshire

- 2.26 North Hertfordshire is another local authority which has a limited Gypsy and Traveller population. It has only one authorised private site at Codicote which contains 8 pitches and has recently had around 10 caravans present. Figure 7 shows that no caravans were present in January 2005, but it is believed by Council officers from North Hertfordshire that there were caravans present at this time. This therefore illustrates that errors can occur in the caravan count data and great care should be taken when using it.
- 2.27 The Hotline data shows that there have been a total of 54 unauthorised developments and encampments in the district since 1997, but only 3 of these have occurred in the last 3 years.



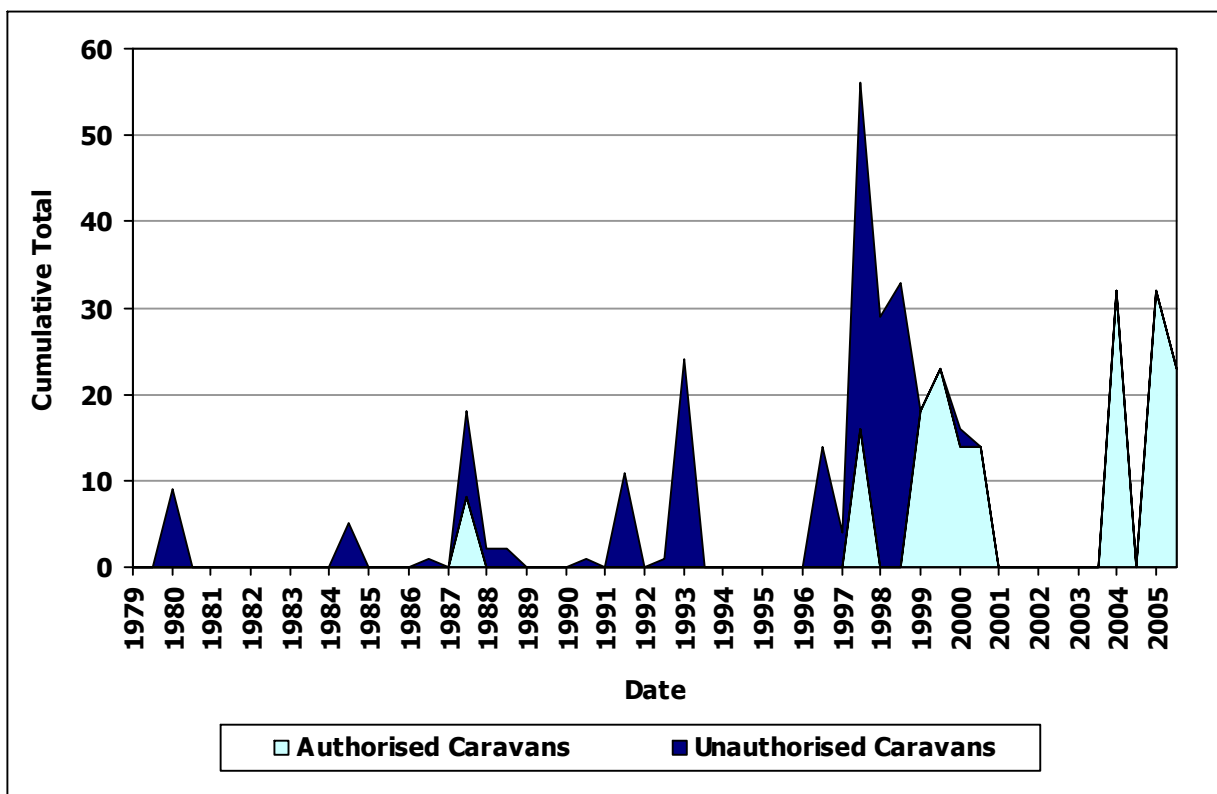
**Figure 7: Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count for North Hertfordshire January 1979 – July 2005**

Source: Bi-annual Local Authority Caravan Count



## Stevenage

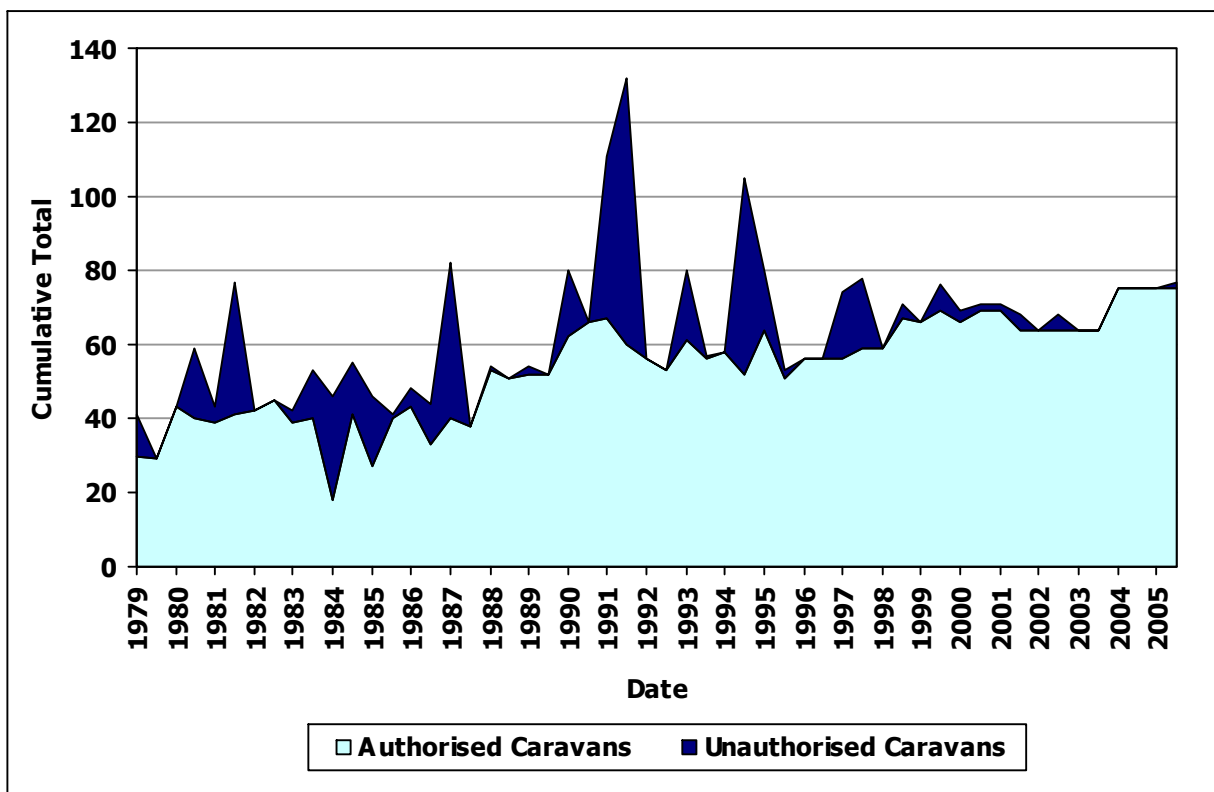
- 2.28 Stevenage is another local authority with only one Gypsy and Traveller site. In this case it is a public site at Dyes Lane which contains 14 pitches with space for 28 caravans. Some recent caravan counts indicate that this capacity has been slightly exceeded with 32 caravans being present.
- 2.29 Other recent caravan counts indicate that no caravans were present at this site. Evidence from the HCC Gypsy and Traveller Unit indicates that this was due to all residents of this site travelling simultaneously, rather than the data not being recorded. The public site in Stevenage is the only one in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire which contains a Gypsy and Traveller population who regularly travel.
- 2.30 The Hotline data indicates that there have been 68 unauthorised developments or encampments in the authority since 1997, but only 1 of these has occurred in the last 3 years.



**Figure 8: Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count for Stevenage January 1979 – July 2005**  
Source: Bi-annual Local Authority Caravan Count

## Welwyn Hatfield

- 2.31 Nearly half of the Gypsy and Traveller population in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire reside in Welwyn Hatfield. The main public-operated site in Holwell has 39 pitches with space for 78 caravans. The HCC Gypsy and Traveller Unit indicate that this site is occupied by a mixture of English and Irish Gypsies and Travellers who are predominately settled. The district also contains two authorised private sites which have 11 pitches between them. Therefore, the district contains more than 50% of all pitches in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire.
- 2.32 Interestingly, very few unauthorised developments and encampments were recorded by the caravan count for Welwyn Hatfield. However, the Hotline data indicates that there have been more unauthorised developments or encampments in Welwyn Hatfield than there have been in any other local authority in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire. The Hotline data indicates there have been 90 unauthorised developments or encampments since 1997, and 24 of these have occurred since 2003 in the authority.
- 2.33 The explanation for this is that the caravan count only takes place on two specific days of the year and if there are no unauthorised caravans present at this time it will record unauthorised caravans as being zero. A key benefit of the Hotline data is that it shows all unauthorised developments and encampments which take place. Without this information it may be thought that Welwyn Hatfield experiences very few unauthorised developments or encampments, but the Hotline data shows that this is not the case.



**Figure 9: Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count for Welwyn Hatfield January 1979 – July 2005**

Source: Bi-annual Local Authority Caravan Count

## Legislation and Guidance for Gypsies and Travellers

2.34 Decision making for policy concerning Gypsies and Travellers sits within a complex legislative and national policy framework and this study must be viewed in the context of this legislation and guidance. For example, the following pieces of legislation and guidance are relevant when constructing policies relating to Gypsies and Travellers:

- PPG3, which advises local authorities to consider the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers when assessing housing needs;
- PPG18 on enforcement;
- Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Sites 2004: ODPM consultation paper December 2004;
- Environmental Protection Act 1990 for statutory nuisance provisions;
- The Human Rights Act 1998, when making decisions and welfare assessments;
- The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as subsequently amended);
- Homeless Legislation and Allocation Policies;
- The local authority development plan and emerging Local Development Frameworks;
- Circular 1/94;
- Circular 1/06 Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites;
- Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments: ODPM Draft Practice Guidance January 2006;
- Criminal Justice and Public Disorder Act 1994 (sections 61, 62);
- Anti-social behaviour Act 2003;
- Race Relations Act 1976 (Amended 2000);
- National Guidance issued by ODPM – Managing Unauthorised Encampments, Gypsy and Traveller counts and Disabled Facilities Grants as well as legislation on the regulatory reform order;
- Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004;
- Housing Act 2004 which requires local housing authorities to assess the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers as part of their housing needs assessments;
- Housing Act 1996 in respect of homelessness

- 2.35 The Criminal Justice and Public Disorder Act 1994 (Sections 61, 62) is particularly important with regard to the issue of planning for Gypsy and Traveller site provision. This repealed the duty of local authorities to provide appropriate accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers. However, Circular 1/94 did support maintaining existing sites and stated that appropriate future site provision should be considered.
- 2.36 The current Government has implicitly accepted the findings of a 2001 study of Gypsy and Traveller site provision in England, which was commissioned by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) from the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies at Birmingham University<sup>4</sup>. This study identified a lack of authorised sites as a key factor which has helped to contribute to the large number of unauthorised encampments. This study estimated that 1000-2000 additional residential pitches and 2000-2500 transit pitches were required nationwide for the existing Gypsy and Traveller population.
- 2.37 Current Government guidance focuses on increasing site provision for Gypsies and Traveller and encouraging local authorities to have a more inclusive approach to Gypsies and Travellers within their housing needs plans. The Housing Act 2004 required local authorities to identify the need for Gypsy and Traveller sites, alongside the need for other types of housing, when conducting Housing Needs Surveys. Therefore all local authorities are required to undertake accommodation assessments for Gypsies and Travellers either as a separate study such as this one, or as part of their main Housing Needs Assessment.
- 2.38 Local authorities are currently being encouraged rather than compelled to provide new Gypsy and Traveller sites by central government. Circular 1/06 'Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites' released by the ODPM in January 2006 replaces Circular 1/94 and suggests that the provision of authorised sites should be encouraged so that the number of unauthorised sites is reduced<sup>5</sup>.
- 2.39 One strand of this encouragement to provide more sites is that grants have been made available to local authorities who wish to provide more public sites. Another strand is that local authorities are being encouraged to be proactive in site planning, rather than waiting for unauthorised developments to take place.
- 2.40 Circular 1/06 indicates that local authorities should set fair, reasonable, realistic and effective criteria for allowing the development of Gypsy and Traveller sites. In particular, they should also offer positive guidance which focuses on the criteria under which a private Gypsy and Traveller site will be granted planning permission.
- 2.41 Local authorities should also look at vacant or surplus local authority land as potential places for site development. Therefore, the guidance would seek to minimise the number of cases such as those in East Hertfordshire where an unauthorised development subsequently became an authorised private site by ensuring that the local authority actively engages with potential site developers to ensure planning permission is gained before the site is occupied.
- 2.42 The criteria for authorising sites should include an analysis of the impact of the site on the local infrastructure. The site should also not dominate the nearest settled community. Sites should not be developed on Green Belt land unless exceptional circumstances can be shown. The land should not be contaminated, but other sites such as near a motorway or power lines are acceptable provided they would also be considered for settled housing. Sites should be located near to existing settlements to allow for access to services. Discreet use of tree screening, rather than fencing, to make the site appear less intrusive should also be considered.

- 2.43 Local need does not have to be proven for private sites. All private site applications should be judged by the same criteria. At all stages the Gypsy and Traveller population should be involved and those wishing to apply for planning permission should be encouraged to engage in pre-planning discussions with the local authority.
- 2.44 Other important pieces of legislation for handling Gypsy and Travellers issues are the Race Relations Act (RRA) 1976, subsequently amended in 2000, and the Human Rights Act (HRA) 1998. Both Gypsies and Irish Travellers are recognised as separate ethnic groups, despite not being recognised as such by the 2001 Census, and therefore the local authority must be careful to prevent any unlawful discrimination.
- 2.45 The RRA has particular consequences with how evictions and unauthorised developments are dealt with. In particular, it must be shown that no disproportionate action is taken when evicting someone. Consultation is also required with ethnic groups on policies that are likely to affect them.

### **South and West Hertfordshire Study**

- 2.46 As noted much of the recent central government guidance is based upon findings of the ODPM backed 2001 study of Gypsy and Traveller site provision in England which saw the need of a large increase in Gypsy and Traveller site provision.
- 2.47 The partners' consultant is aware of other Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments and in particular that undertaken by the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies (CURS) at Birmingham University, entitled 'An Assessment of the Accommodation Needs of Gypsies and Travellers in South and West Hertfordshire' for the local authorities of Dacorum, Hertsmere, St Albans, Three Rivers and Watford, along with HCC. This report was published in May 2005.
- 2.48 This study involved 38 interviews with key policy stakeholders and a questionnaire survey of 68 Gypsies and Travellers on 11 sites across the authorities.
- 2.49 South and West Hertfordshire has a relatively high Gypsy and Traveller population, and has experienced above average growth in caravan numbers in the last decade. At the time of the study there were 110 pitches across 7 public residential sites, 15 pitches on a public transit site, 36 pitches on authorised private sites and 37 families on unauthorised private sites without planning permission.
- 2.50 The key findings of this survey were: that with one site exception, the Gypsies and Travellers were satisfied with their sites; they were also more settled than in the past with fewer planning to travel for extended periods of time.
- 2.51 The study estimates that there will be around 140 families with a housing need in the next five years within the area. This was based on a combination of overcrowding, health needs, facilities and conditions, waiting lists and intended movements.
- 2.52 The study estimates that 90 additional pitches will be needed on residential sites now, with around 35 more pitches needed to accommodate future family formation. These were expected to be provided as: one third on Council sites; and two thirds on private sites. The study favoured small sites with between 8-15 new sites being required and a limited extension of existing sites being considered.

2.53 The study also favoured the creation of 3 more transit sites with around 10 pitches on each one. There was felt to be very limited demand for social housing from within the Gypsy and Traveller sector, with few people wishing to move out of their trailers into permanent housing. CURS recommended that the partnering authorities should act more pro-actively with regard to Gypsies' housing needs, rather than react to applications when they come in.

### **Summary of Key Points**

- In February 2005 there were 3 authorised public sites in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire which contained a total of 68 pitches. There were also 8 private authorised sites with a total of 29 pitches and one unauthorised development in Broxbourne;
- The most regularly collected source of statistical information on the Gypsy and Traveller population in England comes from the bi-annual caravan count. This shows that there has been a sharp rise in the last 25 years in Gypsy and Traveller caravans in both England and in the East of England. In the East of England much of the rise in caravans has been accommodated by a rise in the number of authorised pitches available, but the number of caravans on unauthorised pitches has still increased from 998 in January 1979 to 1,201 in July 2005;
- Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire has a relatively low number of caravans, with the 5 local authorities having a total of 175 caravans on all sites at the time of the July 2005 count. However, this was still a 73% rise since 1979. The rise in the number of caravans in the area has been accommodated by a rise in authorised sites;
- HCC Hotline data indicates that all the local authorities have had many unauthorised developments and encampments since 1997;
- A key piece of National Planning guidance relating to Gypsies and Travellers is Circular 1/06 'Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites'. This seeks to encourage local authorities to provide more authorised Gypsy and Traveller sites, in order to discourage unauthorised developments and encampments. It also encourages local authorities to actively engage with the Gypsy and Traveller community in planning sites, and local authorities should seek to provide clear and fair criteria under which private sites will be authorised; and
- A similar Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment for South and West Hertfordshire recommended the provision of 8-15 more residential sites with a total of 125 more residential pitches, and 3 more transit sites with a total of 30 more pitches.

## 3. Consultation Findings

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### Interviews

- 3.1 ORS conducted structured interviews with Council officers from East Hertfordshire, North Hertfordshire, Welwyn Hatfield, Stevenage Borough, Broxbourne Borough and HCC who, in the course of their jobs, have had involvement with Gypsy and Traveller issues. Council Members whose constituencies contain Gypsy and Traveller sites, who have portfolios for planning and housing, or who head planning committees, were also nominated for interview.
- 3.2 Project Co-ordinators from each of the Districts nominated members of staff from their District Council (working in a range of departments) to participate in the study. Contact details for 31 officers were obtained. Each officer was sent an introductory letter notifying them of this important research, plus a copy of the questions, before attempting to make interview appointments. Telephone interviews were successfully carried out with 21 officers which included representatives of Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust and Hertfordshire County Constabulary. The Traveller Education Project and the Gypsy and Traveller Unit of HCC were not interviewed, but additional information they provided is used later in this study.
- 3.3 The majority of the telephone interviews were undertaken over a period of four weeks from August to September 2005. Two interviews were added in March 2006 to ensure that all interested parties had been represented by the interviews. Typically, interviews lasted between 20 to 30 minutes. The majority of officers interviewed work in Planning, Environmental Health, Enforcement or Housing.
- 3.4 Project Co-ordinators also gave contact details for 19 Council Members. ORS contacted each of these members in the same manner as the Council officers. 10 Members agreed to be interviewed.
- 3.5 The aim of interviewing Council officers and Members was to provide background information on the policy framework within which they operate, and on the perceptions of the Gypsy and Traveller community within each of the Councils. It did not seek to directly ask the views of Council officers and Members on extra site provision, but rather to highlight how matters relating to Gypsies and Travellers were currently handled and perceived within Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire.
- 3.6 The views expressed in this section of the report represent a balanced summary of the views expressed by officers and Members. In all cases they reflect the views of the individual concerned, rather than the official policy of their Council, and not all officers and Members held the same views. Where only one person from an organisation was interviewed, such as for Hertfordshire County Constabulary or the Primary Care Trust, their views have been subsumed into the Council officer's section to maintain their anonymity.



Local Authority	Interviews	
	Number of Officer Interviews	Number of Member Interviews
Broxbourne	2	2
East Hertfordshire	7	2
North Hertfordshire	3	1
Stevenage	4	4
Welwyn Hatfield	3	1
Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust	1	0
Hertfordshire Constabulary	1	0
Total	21	10

**Figure 10: Number of Completed Telephone Interviews with Officers and Members**

### Council Officers

- 3.7 Many of the interviewees remarked that they did not have direct nor regular day-to-day contact with Gypsies and Travellers in the course of their job. There was however an appreciation and acknowledgement by all that Gypsy and Traveller needs are increasingly featured on the national political agenda. Many officers did not have working knowledge of the specific policy tools used in relation to such issues. People's awareness of policies, legislation and guidance varied depending on the interviewees' role and for which District Council they worked.
- 3.8 Whilst many officers were unaware of official records kept, other than the bi-annual count for the ODPM, some of the officers were able to estimate the number of Gypsies and Travellers who are residing in the district and/or an indication of the number of illegal encampments in their district.
- 3.9 In the main, and across the board, in each of the five districts there were few specific 'issues' or 'problems' mentioned in relation to Gypsies and Travellers. Many felt this was down to the small Gypsy/Traveller population in most districts and sporadic movements in each area. Those who did quote examples of problems were more likely to recall environmental problems such as fly-tipping, rather than community relations difficulties. Partly this was because many of the sites, at least the permanent sites, are not bounded by densely populated areas and have been established for many years – in some cases over 25 years – and were described as reasonably well run.
- 3.10 There was a degree of local concern and 'bad feeling' reported in some districts. For example, the site in East Hertfordshire which has recently been granted planning permission following an appeal was regarded as having upset local residents. Communication with local settled residents on such matters was considered to be crucial.
- 3.11 Specific issues of concern to settled residents were untidy Gypsy and Traveller sites and landowners having to fence off land to prevent illegal occupation.

- 3.12 Enforcement officers cited difficulties in establishing correct IDs when taking enforcement action. Some Gypsies and Travellers use different names for registering vehicles which can complicate the process.
- 3.13 Overall, officers stated that the number of public sites and private sites (with and without planning permission) throughout each of the districts is relatively small when compared with districts outside of Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire. Whilst there is an acknowledgement that there must be provision for Gypsies and Travellers, many did not feel that there was any significant demand in their district to warrant any increase in provision.

### **Illegal Encampments**

- 3.14 In terms of illegal encampments, many of the officers were not aware of any existing illegal encampments in their District at the moment nor could they recall if they regularly arise. Many felt unable to comment on this issue as they do not have regular day-to-day dealings with Gypsies and Travellers. Officers' lack of awareness may not, however, necessarily denote that there are no illegal encampments in the area.
- 3.15 Many officers stated that it is more common for Gypsies and Travellers to be '*passing through the area from time to time*', hence illegal occupation is not usually for significant periods of time and according to the officers often relates to specific occasions such as weddings, funerals or employment. Indeed, a small number of the interviewees had noticed occasional periodic roadside congregations. One of the officers recalled how a few years ago there was a major illegal site at Rush Green. However, incidences of this nature have decreased in recent years and according to the officers this is because of preventative action by all the District Councils.
- 3.16 Where possible preventative measures have been taken in the form of soft and hard landscaping, trees, and in some cases gates or fences have been erected to avert future encampments on 'popular verges'. Officers also stated that they thought that the lack of permanent sites, and transit sites to some extent, causes illegal encampments, which is further compounded by the rural nature of some districts, notably East Hertfordshire and North Hertfordshire. Officers stated that due to a large proportion of Green Belt land, it has been difficult to find suitable sites for Gypsies and Travellers.
- 3.17 Not all of the officers interviewed felt that they were best placed to comment on policies and/or procedures that their Council have for managing illegal encampments. However, officers with responsibility for Planning and Environmental Health were more aware of the relevant policies.
- 3.18 The following policy and procedure sources were cited:
- The Homeless Person Legislation and Code of Guidance;
  - Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to take enforcement action against illegal encampments;
  - One person also stated that there is a protocol in place whereby local authorities contact each other to alert when Gypsies are Travellers 'are on the move';

- Environmental Health Departments co-ordinate and establish where the Gypsies and Travellers are located, ownership of the land, then report the encampment to legal systems;
- Contact and get Police Liaison Officers involved.

## **Trends**

- 3.19 Many of the officers remarked that there have been no noticeable increases of Gypsies and Travellers in their district. However, some did suggest that certain existing sites have increased in size in the last two years or so. One person thought that this could be attributed to the problems in the neighbouring area of Epping Forest where there had been a large illegal site until very recently, resulting in the possible displacement of Gypsies and Travellers to surrounding areas.
- 3.20 The level of planning applications has remained low in all districts, too low in fact to detect any trends. Reference was made by a few officers to the recent success of one site that had gained planning approval following an appeal decision.
- 3.21 There was a suggestion made that Gypsies and Travellers now have a greater appreciation and awareness of common law and in that sense enforcing planning regulations was expected to become more difficult.
- 3.22 In most districts, officers stated that the situation in relation to Gypsies and Travellers has been static in the last 10 years with a few isolated changes in some areas and occasional planning applications being submitted.
- 3.23 A few people also mentioned that they had heard rumours of Gypsies and Travellers buying land, although as yet in most cases this has not come to fruition, and that this had heightened local concern.
- 3.24 Few of the interviewees could provide any indication as to why Gypsies and Travellers are attracted to the area, other than closeness to main road networks (e.g. M25, A10 and A1(M)). In fact, most officers considered that Gypsies and Travellers are not attracted to, or have not chosen to settle in, the area in significantly large numbers, especially in comparison to neighbouring areas, for a number of reasons.
- 3.25 Officers surmised that Gypsies and Travellers are not attracted to the area because land is very expensive and therefore difficult to acquire.
- 3.26 Many of the Gypsies and Travellers in the area are deemed to be simply 'travelling through' (higher numbers are sometimes noticeable in the summer months). Their final destination is unknown – some speculated the Fens where they undertake jobs such as vegetable and fruit picking, while others could be heading for Norfolk, Suffolk or Kent.
- 3.27 Officers stated that there tended to be more movement in the summer months, when Gypsies and Travellers choose to visit relatives, holiday or seek casual employment.

## Site Location Considerations

- 3.28 The Council officers were asked what factors they considered important in the location of Gypsy and Traveller sites. Reasonable proximity or ease of access to shops, schools, health facilities and other local amenities and support services was thought to be important. The capacity of such services is also an important consideration.
- 3.29 Other provisions that need to be considered were thought to be: access to utility services (water, power); appropriate transport infrastructure and access to road networks; vehicular access; better lighting; and improved communication services.
- 3.30 Long term implications and the sustainability of sites were thought to be important, as was due regard to the level of noise and disturbance, rights of way and environmental hazards.
- 3.31 Furthermore, officers thought that site location considerations should not conflict with national policies e.g. Green Belt planning restrictions, and that there should be minimum visual impact on the countryside. Hence topographical features, natural screening and the character/appearance of the area should be considered.
- 3.32 It is important to assess settled residents' views and likely reactions to potential sites; hence there is a need to consult with the whole community.
- 3.33 Any previous occurrences of Gypsies and Travellers occupying local sites, either legally or illegally, should be considered; and whether this has been positively or negatively received by residents.
- 3.34 Other considerations suggested included: effective site management; accountability; ownership; and trying to ensure integration of diverse communities in order to encourage mutual understanding, appreciation and respect.
- 3.35 In considering where any new provision for Gypsies and Travellers should be placed, some officers were keen to emphasise that they did not want to 'create' a demand by providing a new site. The majority of officers considered this issue to be extremely politically sensitive.
- 3.36 References were made by a few officers to their Housing and Planning Policy when discussing site suitability. Comments on this included: that new provision should be semi-rural areas, close to urban areas; close enough to amenities but a sufficient distance from other residents; they should have reasonable road access but not have direct access to trunk roads; and that site suitability should be decided by mutual agreement.
- 3.37 Many advocated that Gypsies and Travellers should own their own pitches, which would encourage them to maintain them more thoroughly.

## Cross-boundary Issues

- 3.38 The majority of officers did not feel able to comment on the main travelling routes through their area and those who were aware of any cross-boundary issues were in the minority. However, some officers in North Herts, East Herts, Broxbourne and Stevenage were able to identify the main travelling routes through the areas. These were: A1(M), A505 (North Herts); A10, A414 and the M11 (East Herts); A10 (Broxbourne); M11, A1, M1 and M25 (Stevenage).
- 3.39 Of the Legal and Enforcement Officers, few stated that they displaced Gypsies and Travellers regularly from their district. It is only in cases where Gypsies and Travellers stopped over on highway verges that they are always moved on.
- 3.40 Most of the officers are not aware of any trend for Gypsies and Travellers to move to neighbouring districts as, to their knowledge, no survey has been undertaken to establish this – in this respect it *'could be happening'*. There is no evidence of the same local Gypsies and Travellers being shifted back and forth from district to district – those not residing on permanent sites are in the main simply passing through and *'are never seen again'*.

## The Future

- 3.41 Participants openly discussed the constraints locally on further provision of sites for Gypsies and Travellers. The three main constraints are:
- Resident and political opposition;
  - Availability of land, given the pressure to provide additional housing, including affordable housing;
  - Securing planning permission.
- 3.42 The price of land in the area was described as very expensive, which was further compounded by the fact that for some of the districts the Green Belt covers most of the rural area making it difficult to release land for private- or public-owned Gypsy and Traveller sites. In addition, some questioned whether further provision was necessary given the current perception of demand in their area and pressures on land given the limited availability.
- 3.43 Some identified scope for increasing the size of existing sites if demand increased, suggesting that this would be an easier option than creating new sites.
- 3.44 When asked how they see the Gypsies and Travellers situation in their area in five years time, the majority of officers predicted that it is likely to remain static with no acceleration of numbers. They based this on the fact that there generally has been a low propensity in the past for Gypsies and Travellers to reside in their District.
- 3.45 However, some officers were unsure how the situation in neighbouring districts would affect them and therefore considered it possible that policy and procedures introduced and imposed by other Councils could have a local impact. Also, the removal of compulsion on districts to provide for Gypsies and Travellers was seen as reducing provision for them. Having said this, a few considered that their district is likely to have to make more provision as the issue has not been addressed in the last few years and is increasingly featuring on the political agenda. A few suggested that transit sites, at least, should be provided.

- 3.46 In terms of mechanisms for regular consultation with Gypsies and Travellers in the area, the main ones mentioned were: County Council Liaison Officers; enforcement meetings; consultation on the draft local plan/local development framework; resident satisfaction surveys; environmental health survey; local council meetings; and Gypsy and Traveller Law Reform Coalition.
- 3.47 All local planning authorities in the study area will be required to make continuing provision for new dwellings. The draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England currently identifies the districts covered by this study as being required to plan for and deliver an additional 53,900 homes until 2021. The absence of a regionally specific policy on Gypsies and Travellers was debated at the Examination in Public into the Regional Spatial Strategy on January 18<sup>th</sup> 2006. The fact that much of the area is covered by Green Belt imposes a significant constraint on further provision, making applications extremely difficult to get accepted. Indeed, some officers remarked how there are no suitable sites available in their area that could be allocated for Gypsies and Travellers.
- 3.48 The majority of officers did not feel that they have much of a Gypsy and Traveller 'problem' and largely felt that their district is well served and has adequate provision for current need and demand, which in their view is low. Hence, experience of dealing with such issues is fairly low.
- 3.49 According to the majority of officers large numbers of Gypsies and Travellers are not attracted to the area and the situation is fairly static.
- 3.50 Some officers remarked that they have an increasingly more robust attitude to illegal encampments. However, they also stated that Gypsies and Travellers tended to move on without enforcement measures needing to be implemented.
- 3.51 Although officers were not directly questioned about Members' opinions some officers commented that they considered it to be unlikely that Members would support new Gypsy and Traveller sites in the area due to likely opposition and pressure from the electorate. It was anticipated by some that there would be less resistance to increasing the size of existing sites (that could cater for any future demand) than providing additional sites. Currently, if there was an increase in the number of Gypsies and Travellers in the area, there are few designated sites to cope with this because no provision has been made for this eventuality. This situation concerned some of the officers.
- 3.52 With regard to the needs arising from Gypsies and Travellers in the area in the next five years, almost unanimously, officers did not anticipate any great changes. Officers described how it is likely to remain static, with very few fluctuations in the numbers of Gypsies and Travellers in their area. Officers considered it unlikely that significant numbers of Gypsies and Travellers would be attracted to their district, given the lack of site provision. Therefore, unless a decision is taken to increase provision, no changes are predicted. In this respect, the situation was considered to be somewhat dependent on the outcomes of the survey, how the results are viewed by Members, and the policy direction the local authorities decide to take.
- 3.53 Most Officers considered there to be few mechanisms for regular consultation with Gypsy and Travellers in their District, believing this was undertaken by the County Council. More specifically, they thought that consultation was likely to be undertaken by Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officers and community development workers working within the Council as they are more likely to have face-to-face contact with Gypsies and Travellers in their district. In many ways, officers felt that the County Council are better placed and more aware of the issues relating to Gypsies and Travellers.

## **Council Members**

- 3.54 Interviews were undertaken with 10 Council Members in total, with at least one Member interviewed from each district. A list of members' contact details were provided to ORS by leading Project Officers from the District Councils. Similar to the officers, Members were sent a letter notifying them of the study, plus a copy of the questions to consider beforehand.
- 3.55 Members readily took part in the research and shared their views openly. Appointments for ORS to undertake the telephone interviews were arranged at Members' convenience and they were on average 20 minutes in duration.

## **Gypsies and Travellers**

- 3.56 Members remarked that they had very few dealings/relationships/contact with Gypsies and Travellers in the course of their duties.
- 3.57 Participants remarked how incursions tended to upset local residents. Although permanent sites in the view of Members tend to generate fewer problems.
- 3.58 The only negative cited in relation to Gypsy and Traveller sites was the problem of fly-tipping and dumping of waste (from tree felling, tarmac and paving) near some, but not all, of the sites. It was mentioned that one of the County Council sites in Broxbourne has increased in size illegally, which has caused some problems.

## **Trends**

- 3.59 Stevenage is a very small borough in which there is a large population concentration. Members did not identify any apparent trends in relation to Gypsy and Traveller numbers. It was suggested that in the last three years there have been fewer illegal incursions due to stronger enforcement policies and action implemented.
- 3.60 Members in Broxbourne and North Hertfordshire did not consider there to be any trends per se. No increases in privately owned sites are apparent.
- 3.61 Members speculated that Gypsies and Travellers are attracted to their area for the purpose of work – such as laying new paths and drives – rather than farm work.
- 3.62 In some areas of East Hertfordshire farmers have been forced to have gated field access to avoid Gypsies and Travellers moving onto their land.
- 3.63 In relation to seasonal fluctuations, there do not appear to be any visible patterns. However, there are possibly more incursions in early summer. Other than this, the situation was described as static.

## Needs and Wants

3.64 When asked what the constraints are locally on further provision of sites for Gypsies and Travellers, a number of factors were mentioned:

- NIMBYISM - local opposition and the general perception that there is insufficient demand or need to warrant the provision of further sites. Also, the desire to protect open space and quality of life;
- The preference to investigate whether current sites can be enlarged, rather than try to find and establish a new site, although the scale of the site would need to be in relation to the local settled community;
- The difficulties of finding land for a suitable site especially in light of the housing and development pressures in the South East, which is heightened further by Green Belt restrictions.

3.65 The view shared by many of the Members was that Gypsy and Traveller sites were not popular amongst local residents and in their opinion local residents would not tolerate another rise unless the site was located in a remote area. However, they also stated that their Councils would provide another site if the demand was proven.

3.66 In terms of site location, Members thought that the following were considered as important criteria that must be borne in mind when determining where a site should be placed:

- The same planning rules and considerations should apply to Gypsies and Travellers as they do to other residents;
- Due regard must be given to the capacity of local services to cope with the extra population;
- Sites should be close to welfare services and other amenities, as well as having good access, given their travelling nature and movements;
- Good access to vital utility services should be made available – sewer, water, power, shower and WC facilities;
- Sites should be reasonably contained, not very visible, in nice surroundings and not too close to residential areas i.e. sites should have their own privacy while at the same time protecting local people's privacy;
- Sites should be compatible with the needs of Gypsies and Travellers, as well as the needs of residents and the Council;
- Community opposition and resistance should be minimised, by using natural screening if close to villages, ensuring that adverse impact on local residents and amenities is minimised.

3.67 In Broxbourne, the County Council Gypsy and Traveller site may be moved (as a result of the construction of a new road). Although the location of the new site has not been decided it is anticipated that it is likely to be problematic due to local opposition. The existing site is regarded as being well maintained and generates few complaints.



## The Future

- 3.68 Members were asked to comment on how they see the situation with regard to Gypsies and Travellers in their area in five years time. The most common view shared was that the situation is likely to remain fairly static, with little, if any, change.
- 3.69 The extreme pressure on land (which is in limited supply) driven by major government housing schemes and developments was a concern and perceived as likely to make it increasingly more difficult to identify suitable sites, if deemed necessary. Also, one of the interviewees speculated that Gypsy and Traveller numbers *could* increase in the area if they are attracted by the inevitable extensive building works emerging from the Olympic Games.
- 3.70 The general perception was that issues relating to Gypsies and Travellers were not particularly problematic although some districts evidently had higher numbers or more sites. Although, at the same time there was a degree of acknowledgement that little is really known about Gypsies and Travellers.
- 3.71 Some anticipated that there would be more support for a transit site than a permanent site. Although, it was remarked upon that it would be extremely difficult to find a site where there would be no local opposition. In fact a few Members cited a recent example whereby an appeal decision has been given in favour of the Gypsies and Travellers and they stated that this had caused a lot of local resentment.
- 3.72 Therefore, Members felt that there was potential for a large amount of opposition to the provision of new Gypsy and Traveller sites and/or extending existing ones. However, at the moment it seems that this is not a significant issue.
- 3.73 Members thought that limited experience of this issue means that fear exists amongst local residents about what the designation of new sites and expansion of existing sites might entail.

### **Summary of Key Points**

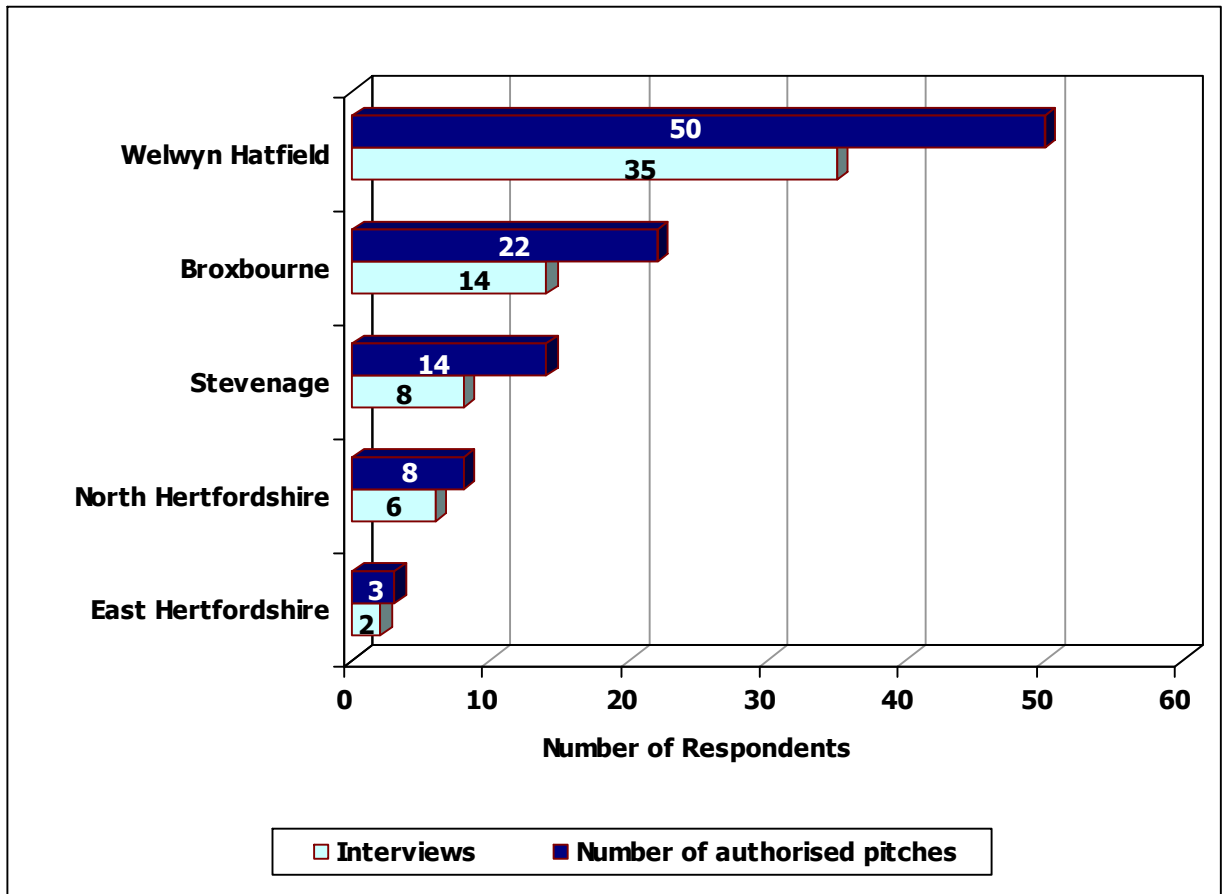
- According to Members and Officers there is concern amongst residents living in close proximity to Gypsy and Traveller sites. Interviewees thought that communication with local residents was crucial especially as media reports fuel people's fears about Gypsies and Travellers;
- Officers and Members had not noticed an increase in the numbers of Gypsies and Travellers in the area but they did identify a lack of transit provision. They did not think that the area had any features that attracted Gypsies and Travellers apart from casual employment in the summer months;
- Suitable Gypsy and Traveller sites were identified as being semi-rural: reasonably close to urban centres but away from other residents and screened off where possible; and
- The price of land and pressure on land for other development means that identifying suitable potential sites for Gypsies and Travellers in the area is difficult. Interviewees did not see an immediate need for new site provision, although some thought that numbers were likely to increase in the future.

## 4. Gypsy and Traveller Profile

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### Survey of the Gypsy and Traveller Population

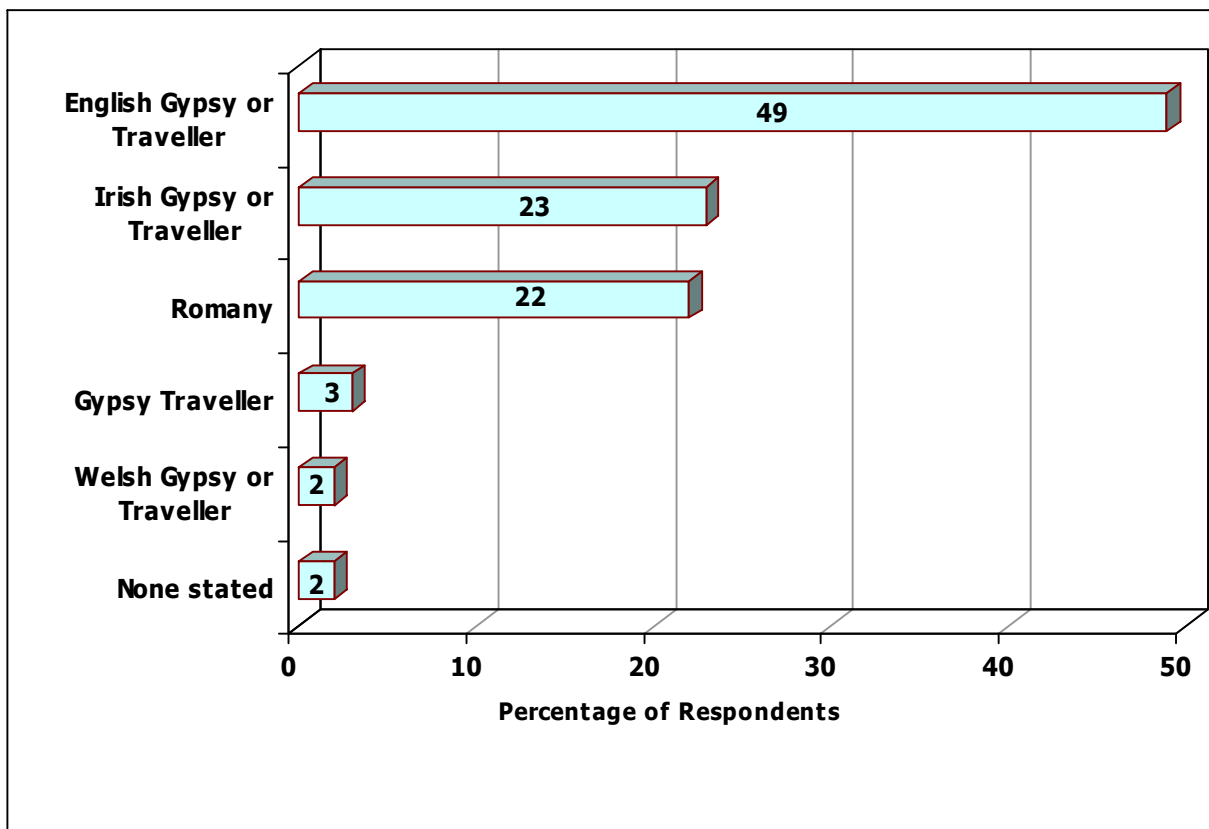
- 4.1 One of the major components of this study was a detailed survey of the Gypsy and Traveller population in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire. This aimed to identify current households with housing needs, and to assess likely future household formation from within the existing households to help judge the need for future site provision. The survey sought to provide a baseline position on the resident Gypsy and Traveller population of Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire. Therefore, the aim was for all interviews to take place in as short a time space as possible to achieve a snapshot of the population. In practice all interviews took place in the period 19<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> September 2005. A full copy of the questionnaire can be found in Appendix A.
- 4.2 Interviews were attempted with every Gypsy and Traveller household in the area and at least one interview was achieved on 11 out of 12 authorised and unauthorised sites in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire. Throughout the survey period interviewers worked from 9am to 9pm each day and made repeated visits to each household until a successful interview was concluded. Despite some refusals, potential respondents were generally very keen to co-operate with the survey and wished to have their views taken into account. Throughout this study the person responding to the survey will be referred to as the respondent, and in questions which refer to all people in the household they will be referred to as household members.
- 4.3 In total 65 interviews were achieved with Gypsies and Traveller households in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire. The definition used for a household was that of a pitch. Therefore, the 65 interviews all took place with respondents who lived at separate pitches. The 65 interviews represent approximately two thirds of the 97 authorised pitches which are to be found in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire.
- 4.4 Throughout the remainder of this report the majority of numbers which appear on the charts represent the percentage of respondents who appear in that category. The purpose of showing percentages is to allow the results of the survey to be extrapolated to the whole Gypsy and Traveller population of Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire. In a few cases it is more appropriate to use the actual number of respondents, and these cases are clearly identified. In all charts those respondents who answered 'don't know', or did not answer the question, are omitted unless otherwise stated.
- 4.5 In total, 223 people were contained within the 65 households which were interviewed. This gives an average household size of 3.4 people per household. This is slightly smaller than for South and West Hertfordshire where there were 3.8 people per household. However, 7 of the 65 households interviewed did contain 6 or more people.
- 4.6 Figure 11, overleaf, shows the breakdown of interviews achieved, by local authority, in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire. Welwyn Hatfield contains over 50% of all pitches in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire and slightly over 50% of the interviews were achieved there. Over 50% of households were interviewed in each of the local authorities. It should be noted that the Broxbourne figure does contain one interview from an unauthorised development.



**Figure 11: Number of Interviews and Pitches on Authorised Sites in Each Local Authority**  
 Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population, September 2005

## Ethnic Background

4.7 Nearly half of all respondents were English Gypsies or Travellers. Around a quarter of respondents were Irish Gypsies or Travellers, and another quarter were Romany. The sites in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire tend to divide along ethnic lines with the Romany population predominately to be found in Welwyn Hatfield and many of the Irish Gypsy and Traveller population to be found in Stevenage and North Hertfordshire.

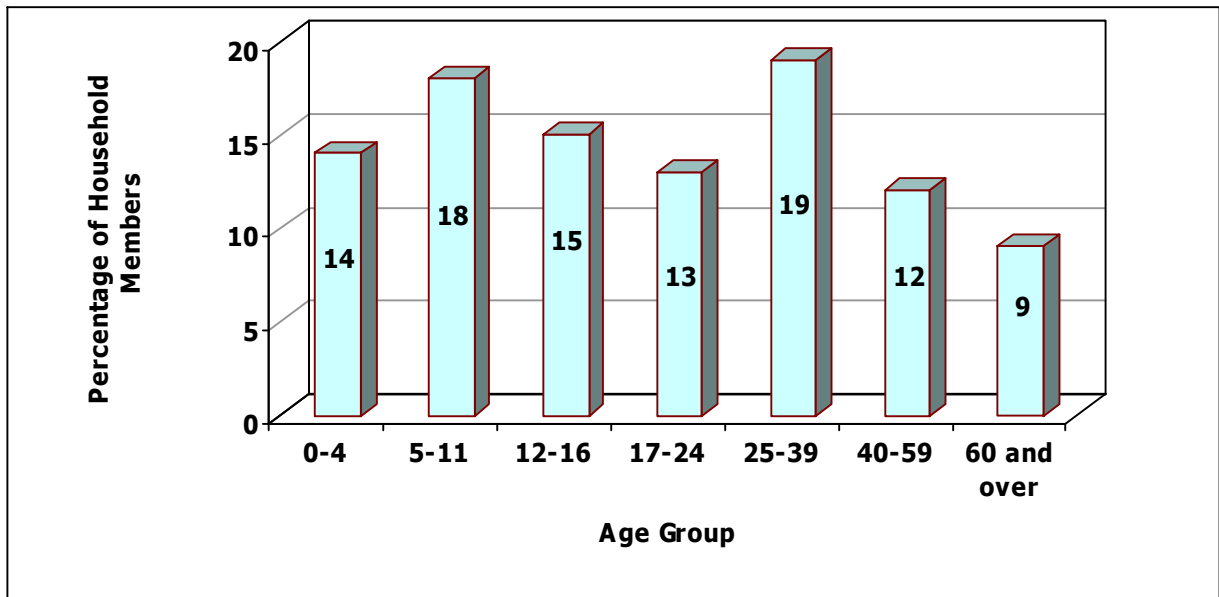


**Figure 12: Ethnic Group, by all Respondents**

Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population, September 2005

## Age and Household Profile

- 4.8 The households showed a mixed range of ages across their members. The households contained 9% people who were of retirement age, but nearly 50% of all household members were aged 16 years or under. 33% of all household members were of school age and another 14% were children aged 4 years or less.
- 4.9 Another important result was that over 25% of all households contained only one adult. Only a few of these households were comprised of only adults. Nearly 25% of all households interviewed contained single parents.

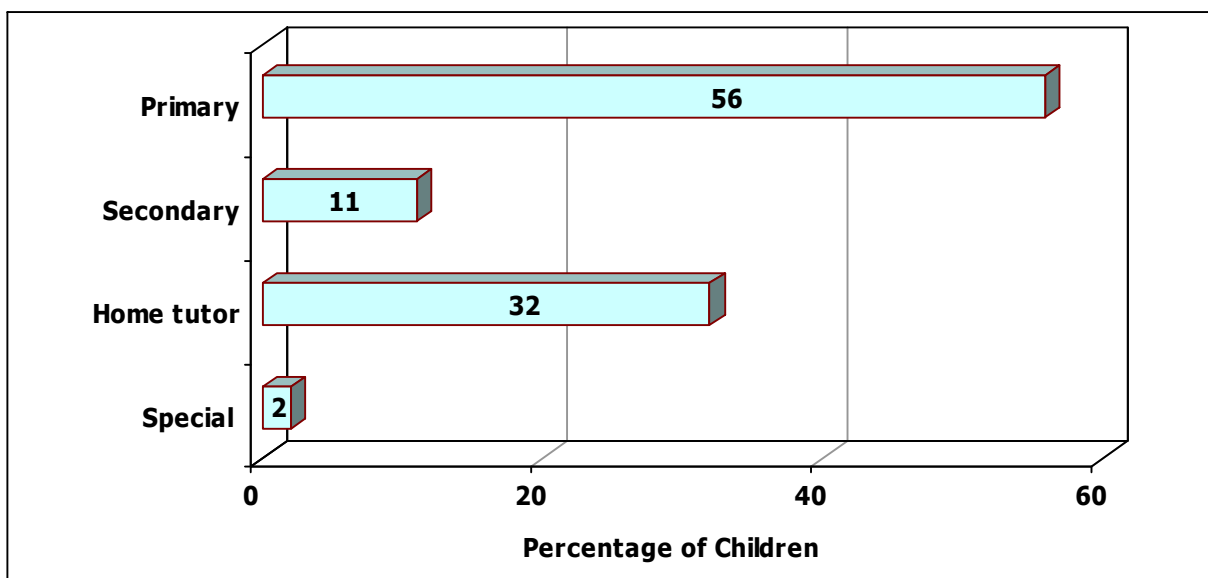


**Figure 13: Age of Household Members, by all Household Members**

Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population, September 2005

## Schooling

- 4.10 The schooling details of 63 of the children aged 5-16 years were included in the responses to the survey. Almost all the children who were aged 5-11 years were schooled in primary schools. However, among the 43% of children of secondary school age a majority were schooled by a home tutor (74% of secondary school aged children were tutored at home. These form 32% of all children aged 5-16 years).
- 4.11 Evidence from the Traveller Education Project of HCC is that a key factor in this lack of attendance at secondary schools is parental choice. The representative from the Traveller Education Project felt that parents of Gypsy and Traveller children typically perceived that they would follow in their parent's footsteps. Therefore, female children were expected to look after a home/family and male children were expected to undertake manual work, both of which require little formal education. Therefore, the parents of Gypsy and Traveller children did not see the need for education beyond the basics provided by primary school.
- 4.12 Given that the local authority must provide an education to all children, the Traveller Education Project feel that it is necessary to educate the Gypsy and Traveller children at home because their parents do not wish them to attend secondary schools.
- 4.13 Given the evidence that there are many more children aged 11 years and below, this situation will continue in to the future unless the attitudes of Gypsy and Traveller parents change. Therefore, the continued provision of home tutoring for older Gypsy and Traveller children will be required for the foreseeable future.



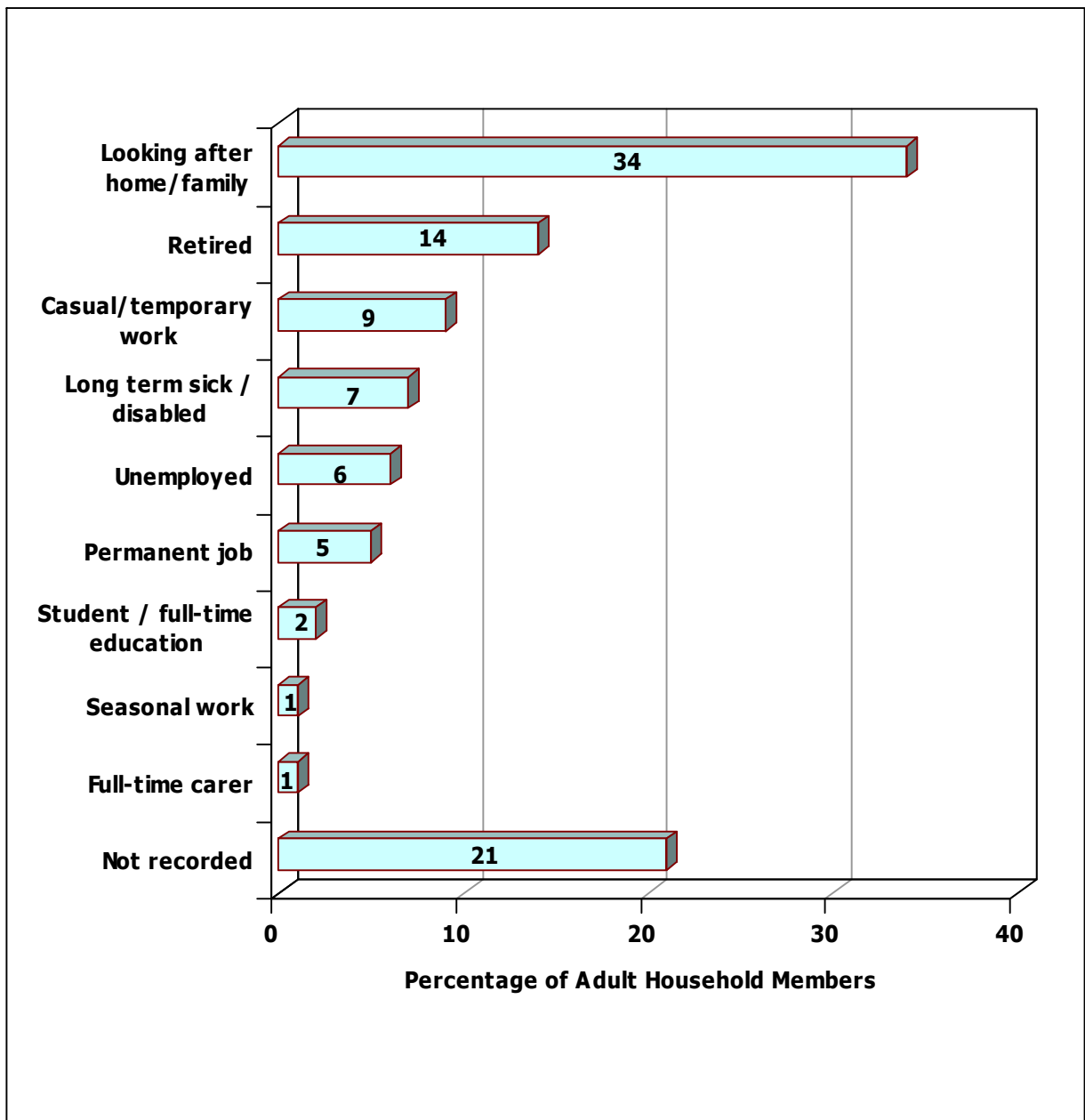
**Figure 14: Type of School Attended, by all School Aged Children**

Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population, September 2005

## **Employment Status**

- 4.14 The employment status of household members aged 16 years or more is shown in Figure 15. Despite the interviewers working from 9am to 9pm it is noteworthy for this section that the majority of interviews took place during the day, and that 70% of respondents to the survey were female. Many attempts were made to interview male household members, but they were typically less willing to co-operate with the survey than female household members.
- 4.15 The employment status of 21% of the adults in the sample was not recorded during the interviews. It is possible that many respondents who do work are likely to have been out and it was those who do not work who gave the responses. This is the only area of the questionnaire which had a poor response rate and may reflect a lack of willingness to divulge information on sources of income.
- 4.16 Of those who had their employment status recorded, 34% were looking after their home/family. Another 14% were retired and 7% were long term sick or disabled. Only 5% had a permanent job, another 9% had casual or temporary work and 1% worked seasonally.
- 4.17 The most common jobs that were detailed were gardening, building and paving. No-one works in the agricultural sector, which is the mainstay of many Gypsy and Traveller communities in the East of England.





**Figure 15: Employment Status of Household Members, by All Household Members Aged Over 16 Years**

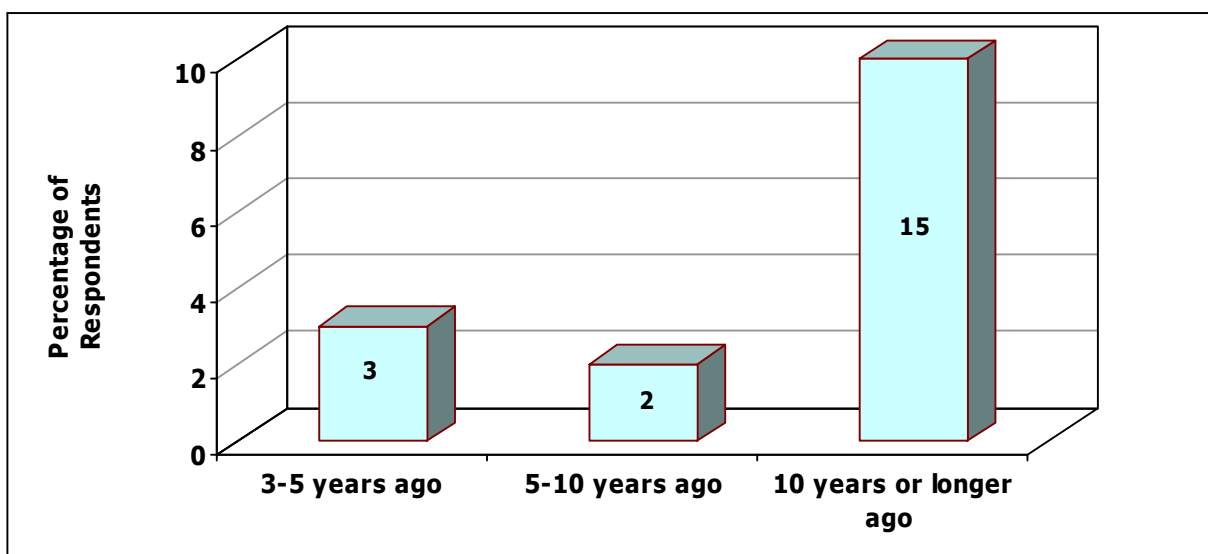
Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population, September 2005

## Health Problems

- 4.18 45% of respondents interviewed reported that their household contained at least one member with a long-term health problem. This compares with 28% of all households in Hertfordshire which contained someone with a health problem at the time of the 2001 Census.
- 4.19 12% of respondents reported that their accommodation required adaptations because of these health problems and 11% of respondents reported that at least one household member required some form of care which meant they were unable to fully support themselves.
- 4.20 However, only 2% of respondents felt that their current support needs were not being met. Therefore, there appear to be serious health issues in the Gypsy and Traveller population of Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire, but their support needs are currently being met.

## Bricks and Mortar Accommodation

- 4.21 20% of respondents reported that they had lived in bricks and mortar accommodation in the past. However, Figure 17 shows that none had done so in the last 3 years.
- 4.22 The South and West Hertfordshire study found very little interest in bricks and mortar accommodation among the households who were surveyed. Respondents were much keener to remain within their caravans and trailers, and therefore a limited amount of social housing was felt to be needed for the Gypsy and Traveller population.
- 4.23 The evidence from this survey is also that there is very little interest in bricks and mortar accommodation among the Gypsy and Traveller population in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire. Of those who have lived in bricks and mortar accommodation in the past, many report that they left because they did not like it, and that it was not part of their way of life. No respondent wanted to leave their site for a bricks and mortar house.



**Figure 16: When did Respondent Last Live in Bricks and Mortar Accommodation, by all Respondents**

Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population, September 2005

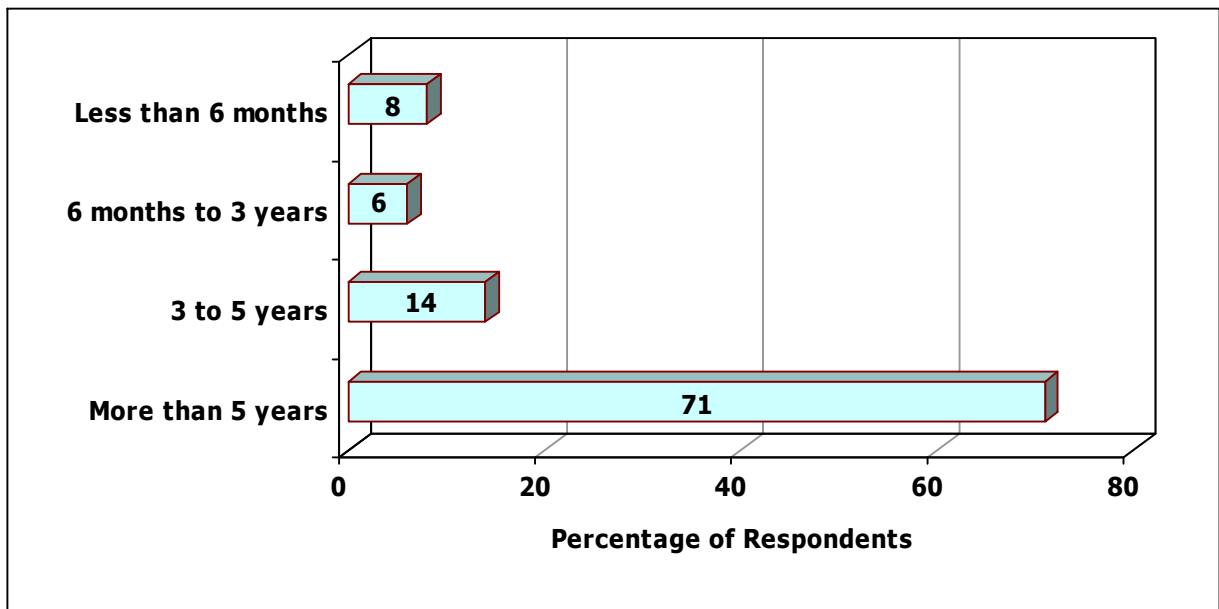
### **Summary of Key Points**

- A total of 65 interviews were achieved with Gypsy and Traveller households on sites in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire. These came from a total of 11 sites and represent around two thirds of all Gypsy and Traveller households in the area;
- Interviews took place in the week commencing 19<sup>th</sup> September 2005. Interviews were conducted between 9am and 9pm to ensure that all households had an opportunity to respond to the survey;
- In total 223 people were present in the households giving an average of 3.4 people per household;
- Around one half of respondents were English Gypsies or Travellers. The remainder were mainly Irish Gypsies or Travellers, or Romany. Some sites were divided along ethnic lines with many of the Romany population to be found in Welwyn Hatfield and the Irish Gypsies and Travellers in North Hertfordshire and Stevenage;
- Nearly 50% of all household members were aged 16 years or younger;
- Around a quarter of all households contained single parents;
- Of those receiving tuition, a majority of secondary school aged children were tutored at home;
- Employment rates among the population were low;
- 45% of households contained someone with a long-term health problem. However, only one respondent felt that their care needs were not being met; and
- 20% of the respondents had lived in bricks and mortar accommodation in the past, but none had done so recently and none expressed any desire to move to this form of accommodation in the future.

# 5. Links with Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire

## Length of Residence

5.1 The majority of Gypsies and Travellers surveyed had a long period of residence in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire. 71% of respondents had lived in the area for more than 5 years. This is supported by records from the public sites which indicate that very few of the residents are recent arrivals to the sites.

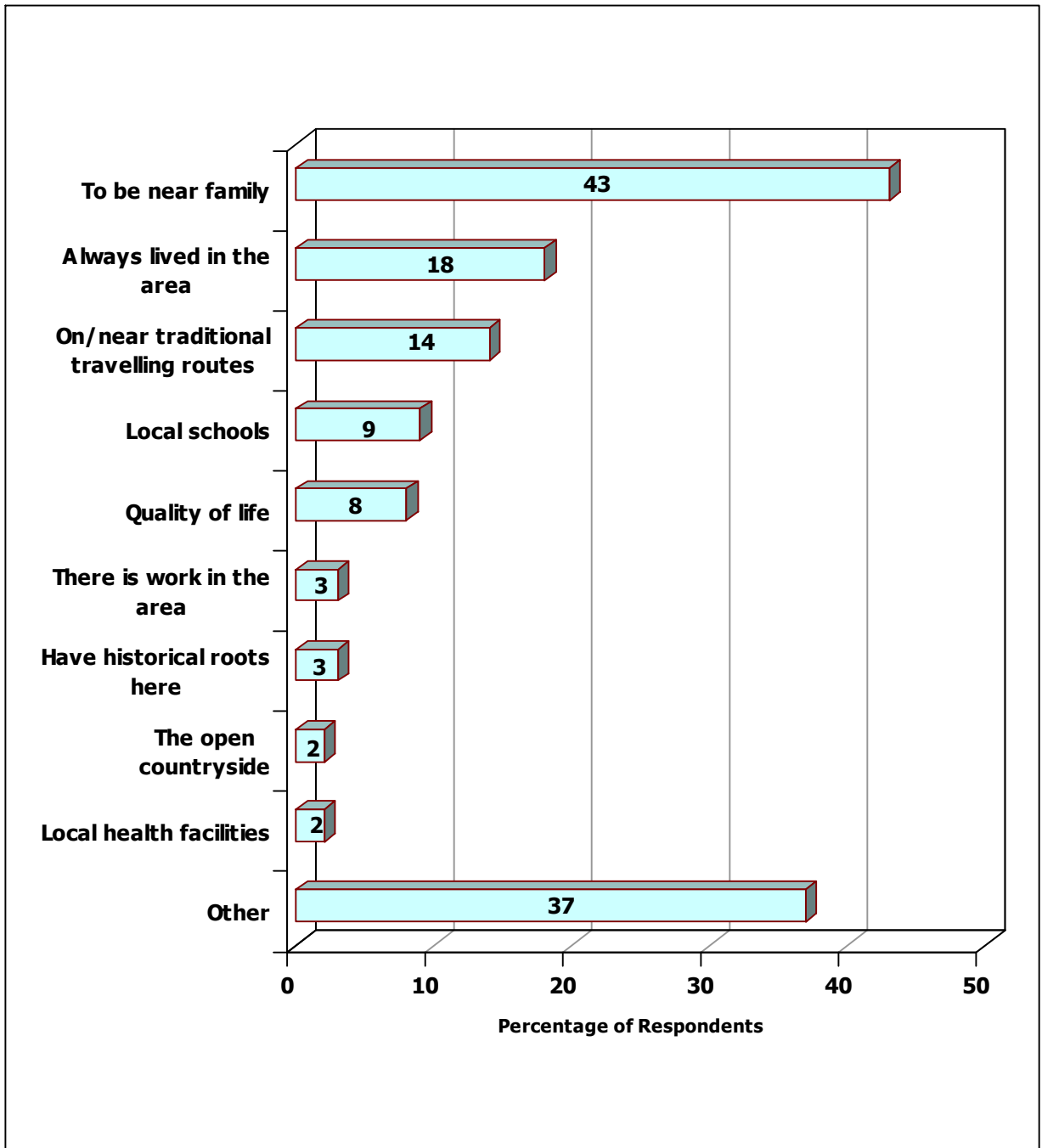


**Figure 17: Length of Time Respondents Have Lived on Their Current Site, by all Respondents**

Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population, September 2005

## **Attractions of Living in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire**

- 5.2 Respondents were asked to identify the main reasons that attracted them to live in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire. They were allowed to select as many reasons as they wished from a list of nine options.
- 5.3 The main factors which attracted respondents to Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire were to be near to their family or because they had always lived in the area. 37% of respondents gave other reasons, with many reporting that they were attracted to Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire because they had nowhere else to go.
- 5.4 There is no evidence that many respondents were in the area because of lifestyle or economic factors. Only 3% of respondents were in the area because of work and 8% for the quality of life. Therefore, Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire is unlikely to be a pull for Gypsies and Travellers from other areas, but may still be a recipient for those pushed from other areas.

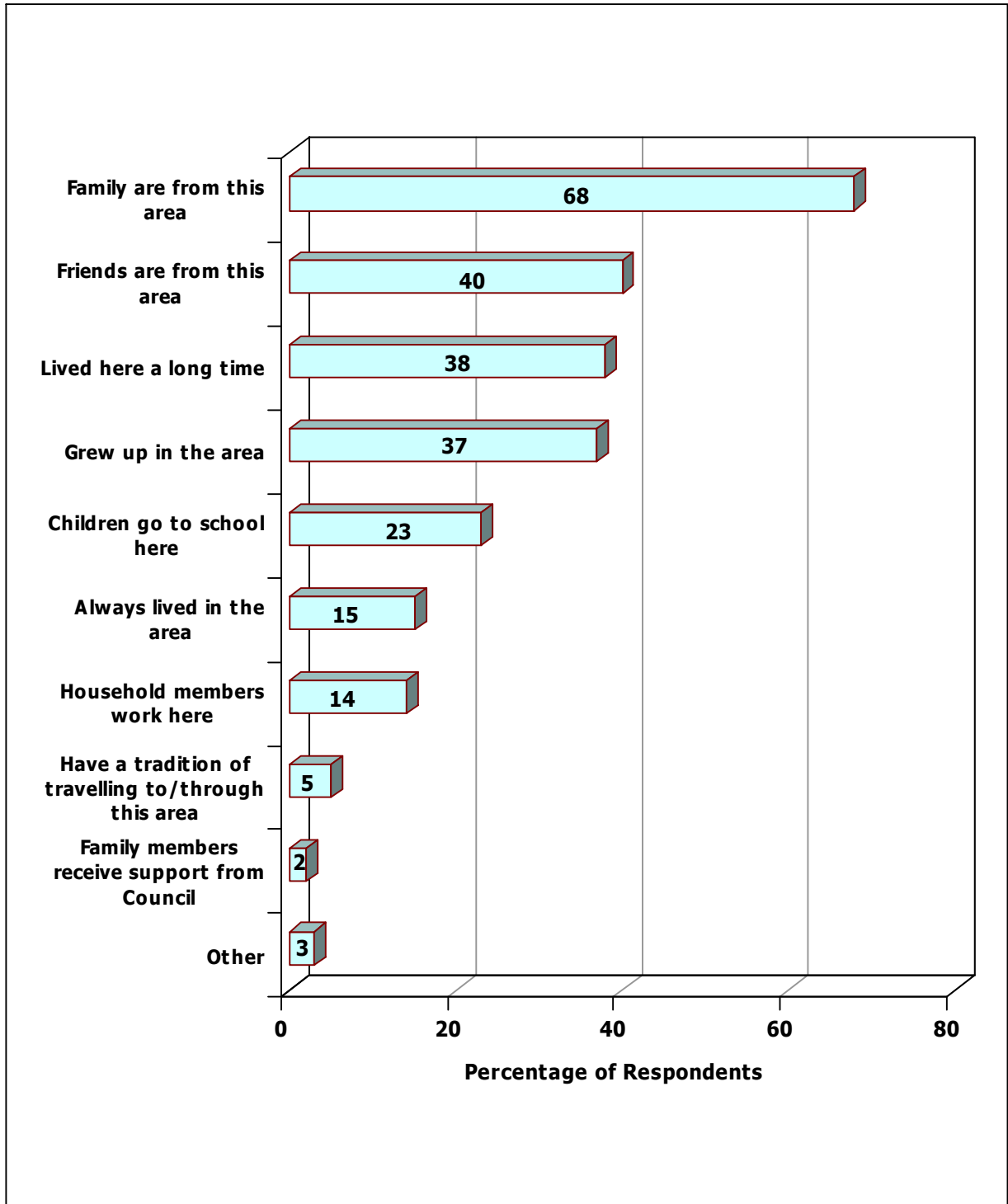


**Figure 18: What Attracted Them to Live in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire, by all Respondents Length of Time**

Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population, September 2005

## Connections with the Area

5.5 72% of the respondents felt they have strong connections to Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire. In particular, Figure 19 shows that the main connection was that for 68% of respondents their family comes from the area.



**Figure 19: Nature of Local Connections in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire, by all Respondents**

Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population, September 2005

### **Summary of Key Points**

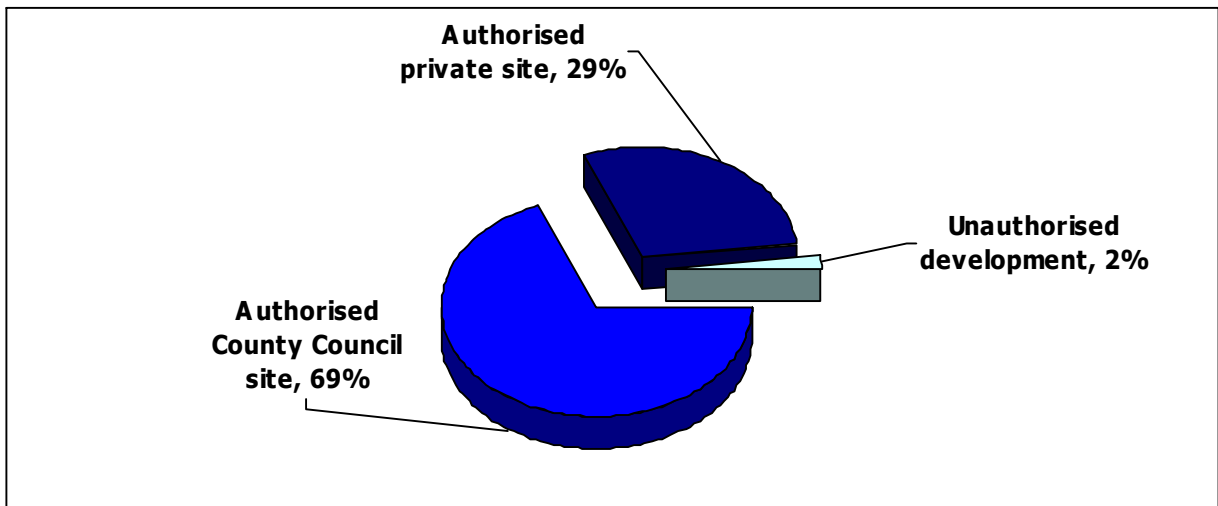
- 71% of respondents had lived on their current site for 5 years or more. Only 8% had arrived in the past 6 months;
- The main attractions of Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire were to be near their family, or because they had always lived there. Only 3% were attracted by work, but many did record that they were living in the area because they had nowhere else to go; and
- 72% of the respondents felt that they had local connections with Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire. These were predominately that they had family from the area.



## 6. Existing Sites

### Type of Site

- 6.1 69% of interviews were obtained on authorised public sites. Almost all of the remaining interviews were obtained on authorised private sites. Only one interview came from the unauthorised development in Broxbourne, which at the time of interviews was the only unauthorised site in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire and had only a very small number of caravans present.

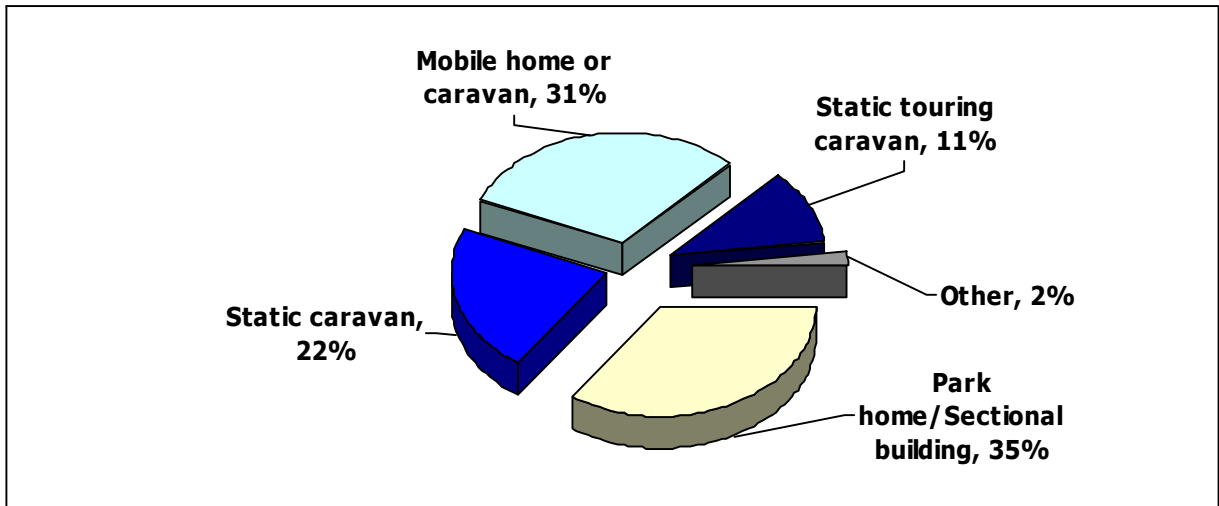


**Figure 20: Type of Site the Respondent is Currently Living on, by all Respondents**

Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population, September 2005

### Type and Number of Caravans

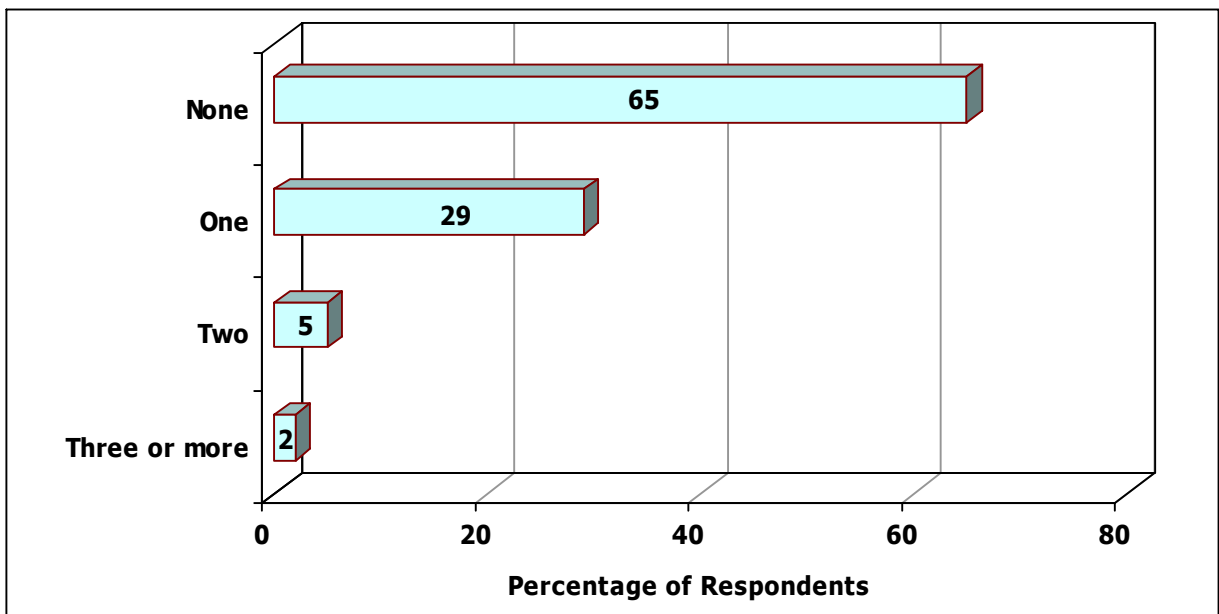
- 6.2 Figure 21, overleaf, shows that the type of accommodation occupied by respondents demonstrates considerable variation.
- 6.3 The definition of the different types of accommodation are:
- Static caravan: A caravan which is not designed to tour;
  - Static touring caravan: A caravan which is designed to tour, but which is not currently being used for this purpose;
  - Mobile home or caravan: A mobile living quarters which is used for touring;
  - Park home/sectional building: A more permanent structure than a caravan, often featuring a timber framed structure.



**Figure 21: Nature of Current Accommodation, by all Respondents**

Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population, September 2005

- 6.4 More interestingly, Figure 22 shows that 65% of the respondents reported that they do not own any caravans or trailers. The HCC Gypsy and Traveller Unit report that none of the caravans or trailers are publicly owned.
- 6.5 This result may therefore be due to the nature of the interviews, with the main income earner with whom ownership of a caravan resides not being the person who was interviewed. Again, it should be emphasised that repeated visits were made to each household to attempt to ensure a representative sample was gathered, but co-operation among male household members was much lower than among female ones.

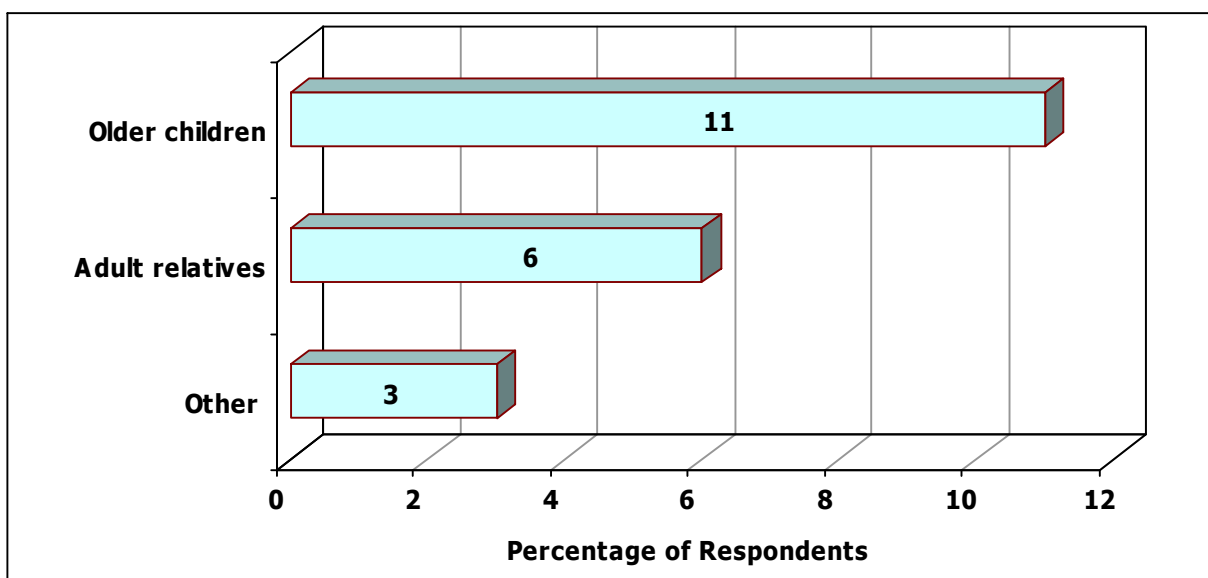


**Figure 22: Number of Caravans/Trailers Owned by Respondent, by all Respondents**

Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population, September 2005

## Extra Caravans

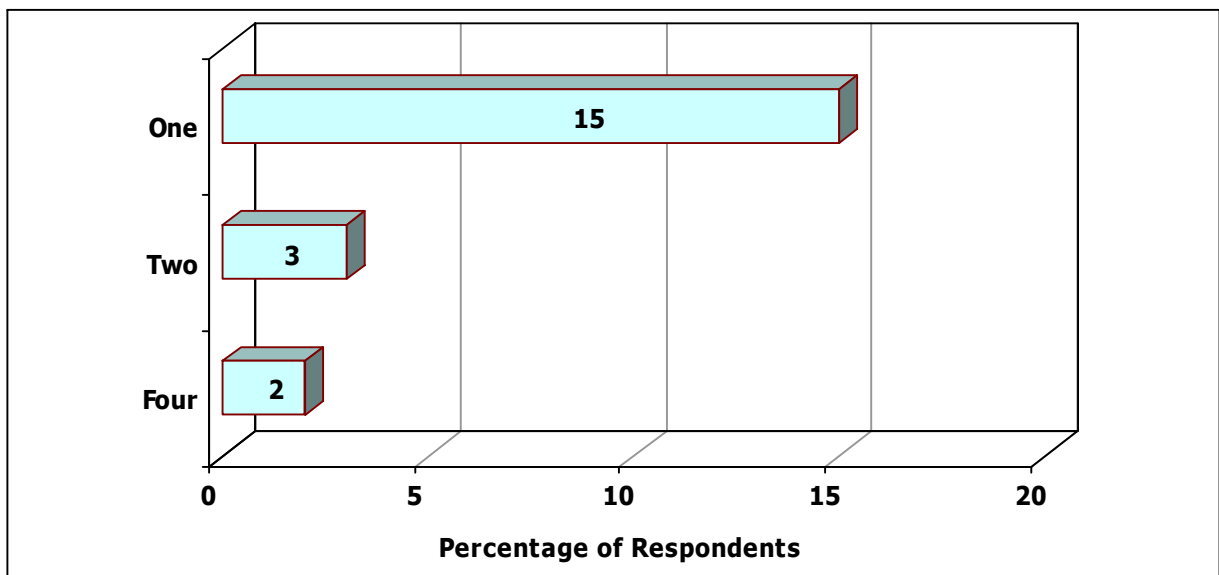
- 6.6 The evidence from the survey is that 20% of the households would like more caravans within their existing household. The phrasing of this question focused on a need rather than a demand for more caravans. Respondents were asked, irrespective of who was purchasing the caravans, whether they needed more caravans for household members. Therefore, this question simply reflected a perceived need for more caravans, rather than an ability to afford (demand for) more caravans.
- 6.7 ORS has conducted qualitative work with Gypsy and Traveller households in Northamptonshire and South Bedfordshire. Experience in these locations indicates that many Gypsy and Traveller households prefer to have more than one caravan per household. Many households would like to be able to have separate accommodation which is used for sleeping from that which is used for cooking. Many also like to have separate accommodation for guests. Households which do not have as many caravans as they would like are likely to feel overcrowded within their existing caravans.
- 6.8 The evidence from this survey is that extra caravans were felt to be needed mainly if there were older children within the household, and also if there were older relatives. However, no household expects any members to leave and form their own households soon. Therefore, the extra caravans are most likely to be needed to provide more sleeping accommodation on existing pitches. This could be seen as relieving overcrowding at existing pitches by providing more living space without the necessity of providing any further pitch provision.



**Figure 23: Who Requires Additional Caravans, by all Respondents**

Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population, September 2005

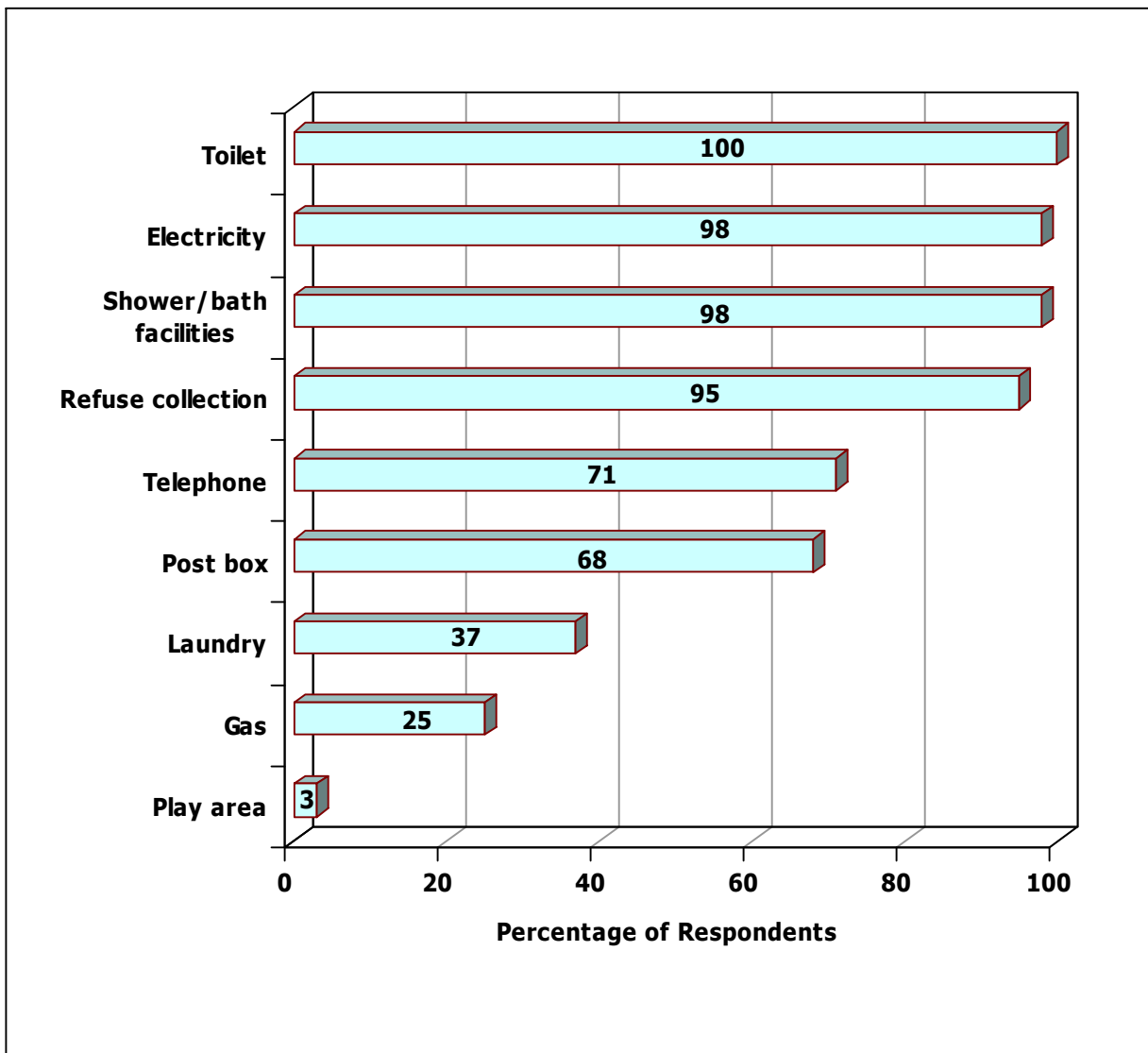
- 6.9 Figure 24 shows that 15% of respondents felt that they required one extra caravan, 3% wanted two and 2% wanted four more caravans. When extrapolated to the whole Gypsy and Traveller population of Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire this amounts to around 30 extra caravans required among existing households to accommodate the needs of the Gypsy and Traveller population.
- 6.10 However, evidence from the Gypsy and Traveller Unit of HCC indicates that almost all households on public sites have at least part of their rent paid for by Housing Benefit. The survey results also show that few households have members in full time work and there are a large number of single parents in the population. This implies that there are affordability issues in the area, so that many households will not be able to afford to add the extra caravans they felt that they needed.



**Figure 24: How Many Additional Caravans are Required by the Household, by all Respondents**  
Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population, September 2005

## Site Facilities

6.11 100% of respondents stated that their site had toilets and 98% reported that it had electricity and shower/bath facilities. 95% also reported that their refuse was collected.

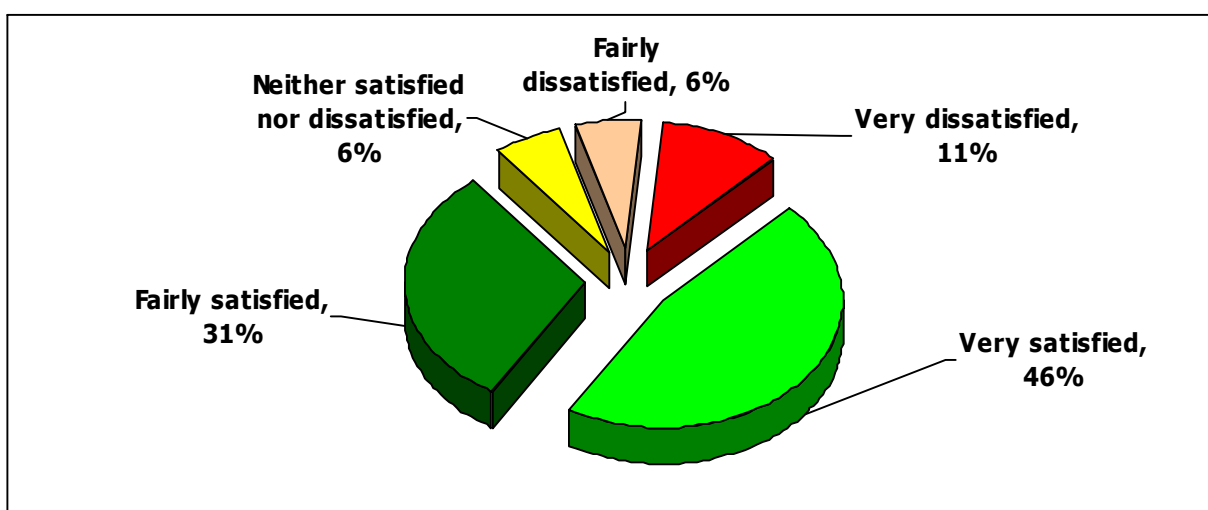


**Figure 25: Facilities That are Available to Respondents on the Site, by all Respondents**

Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population, September 2005

## Views of Sites

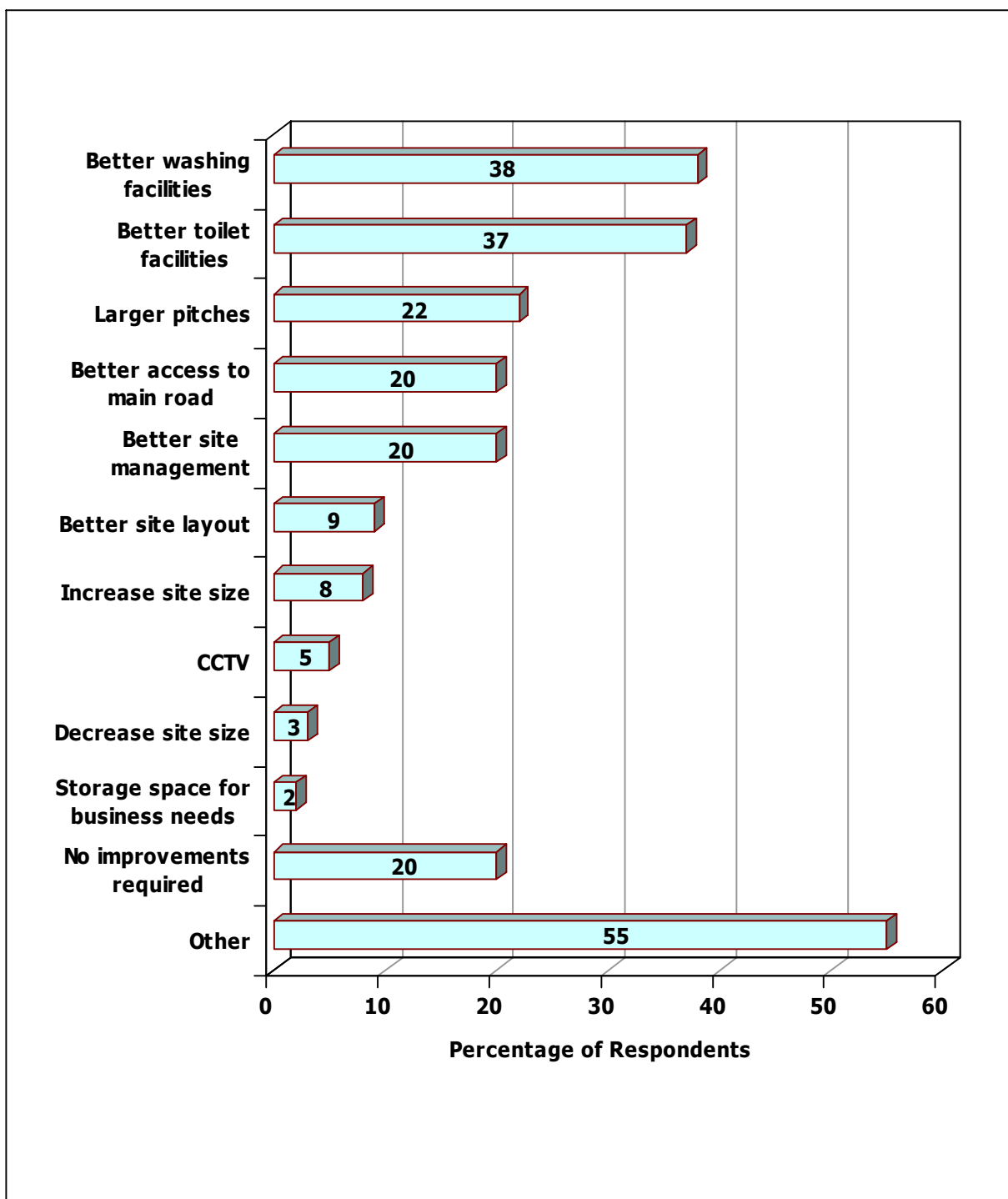
- 6.12 The majority of respondents were satisfied with their sites. 77% of respondents expressed some form of satisfaction with their site, with only 17% expressing dissatisfaction.
- 6.13 However, almost all of the respondents who expressed dissatisfaction were living on public sites - around 25% of all respondents on public sites expressed dissatisfaction with them. Many of those who expressed some form of dissatisfaction with their site lived on the Holwell site in Welwyn Hatfield.
- 6.14 The text comments which accompany this question indicate that there are a number of issues which concerned respondents on this site. Some felt the pitches were too small, there was a rat/mice problem, there was a lack a play area for children, the standard of the tarmac was not good enough and the general standard of maintenance was also not good enough.



**Figure 26: Satisfaction with Current Site, by all Respondents**

Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population, September 2005

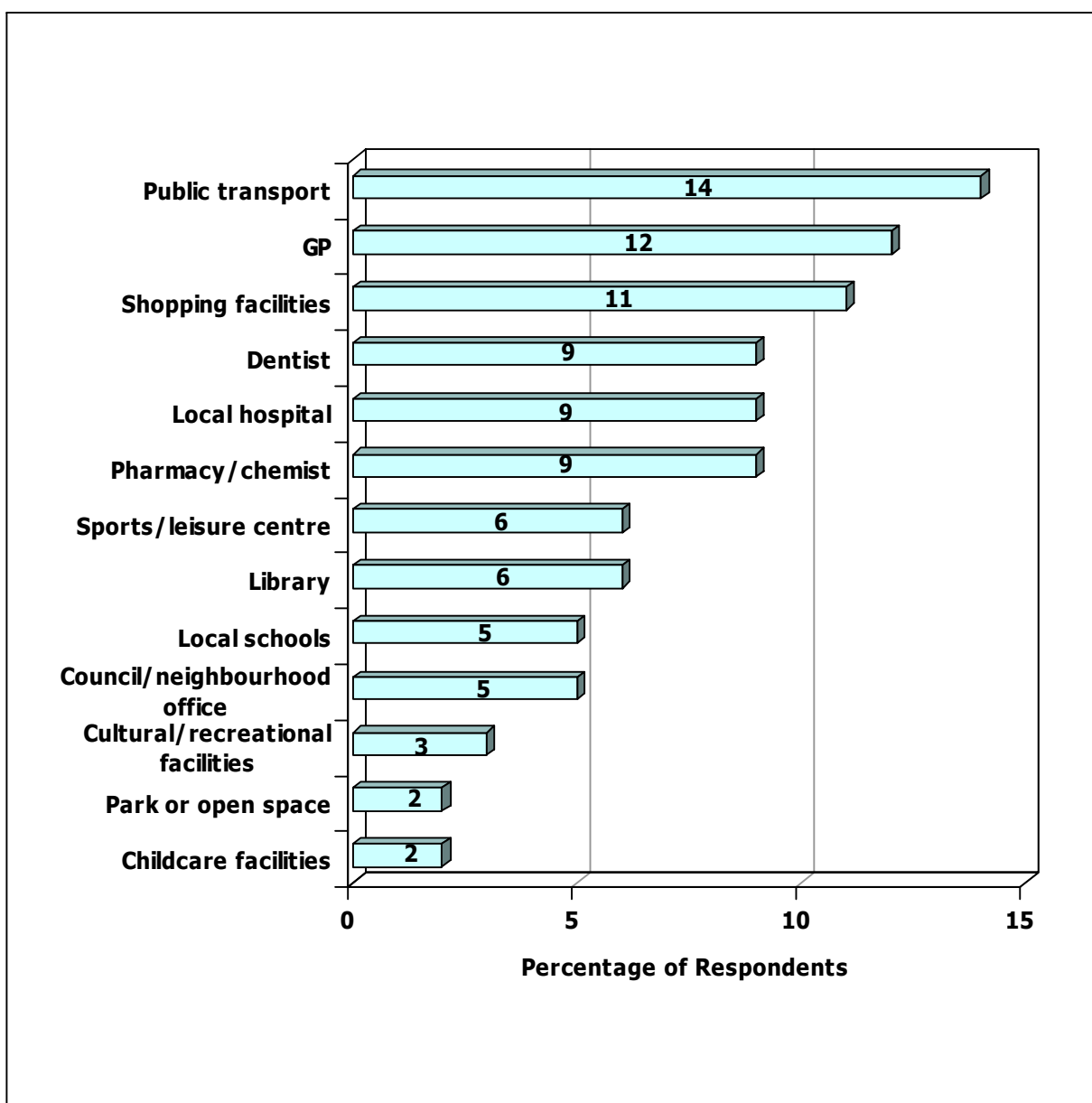
- 6.15 Figure 27, overleaf, shows the improvements which were identified by respondents as being required at their sites. Only 20% of respondents felt that no improvements were required to their site. Almost all of these reside on private sites. Of the respondents who identified specific issues with their sites, almost all lived on public sites.
- 6.16 All respondents who wanted better washing and toilet facilities resided on public sites. Many of the required improvements were on the Holwell site. A majority of those who wanted better washing facilities and larger pitches were on this site.
- 6.17 Of those who listed other improvements, water quality and plumbing, pest infestation, tarmac and fencing were issues which many respondents would like to see addressed.
- 6.18 Only one respondent reported that they wanted more storage space for business needs and no one asked for better parking facilities.



**Figure 27: Improvements Which Respondents Would Like to See on Their Site, by all Respondents**

Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population, September 2005

- 6.19 Some respondents reported that they had trouble accessing key services. Those that did have trouble were all living on public sites. Around a quarter of all respondents from the Holwell site in Welwyn Hatfield and the Dyes Lane site in Stevenage felt that they have had difficulties accessing some key services.
- 6.20 The largest single difficulty identified among those interviewed was that of access to public transport. This would suggest that many households lack access to transport of their own and that the level of public transport provided near their sites is not adequate. Many of the other difficulties such as access to a GP, shopping, hospital and pharmacy are also likely to be linked to the lack of adequate public transport.



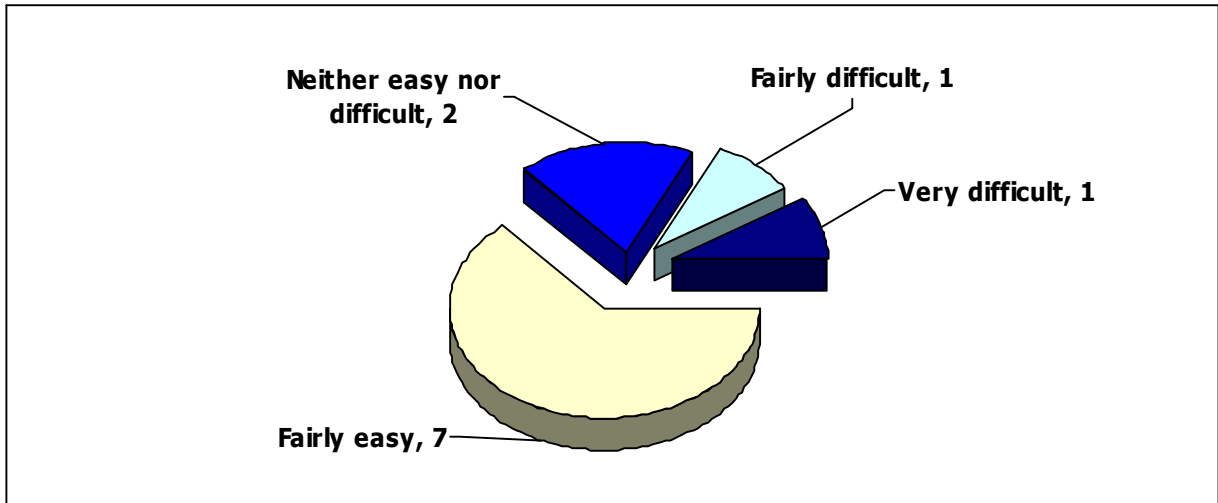
**Figure 28: Problems Accessing Services at Current Site, by all Respondents**

Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population, September 2005



## Private Sites

6.21 18 respondents to the survey resided on private authorised sites. Of these, 11 reported that they had required planning permission for their site. This is higher than the number of private sites in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire, but is likely to include members of extended families who applied for a joint development, or those who applied for planning permission to extend existing sites. Of those who did need planning permission, 7 felt that this was fairly easy to obtain.

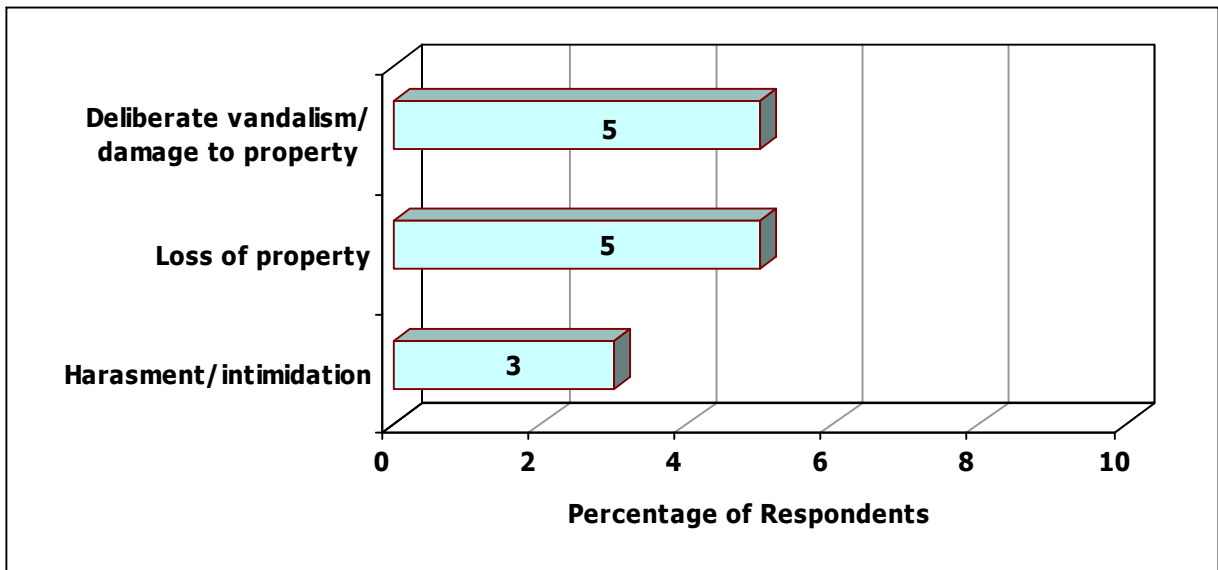


**Figure 29: The Ease of Obtaining Planning Permission, by all Respondents who Required Planning Permission**

Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population, September 2005

## Security and Crime

6.22 11% of respondents reported that they had experienced some form of harassment / damage or theft in the last 12 months. This amounts to 7 respondents, with one having suffered both deliberate vandalism/damage to property and loss of property. Of those who were willing to apportion blame, three respondents felt the problems were caused by other members of the site, and only one by local people from outside the site.



**Figure 30: Harassment/Damage/Theft on the Site in the Last 12 Months, by all Respondents**

Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population, September 2005

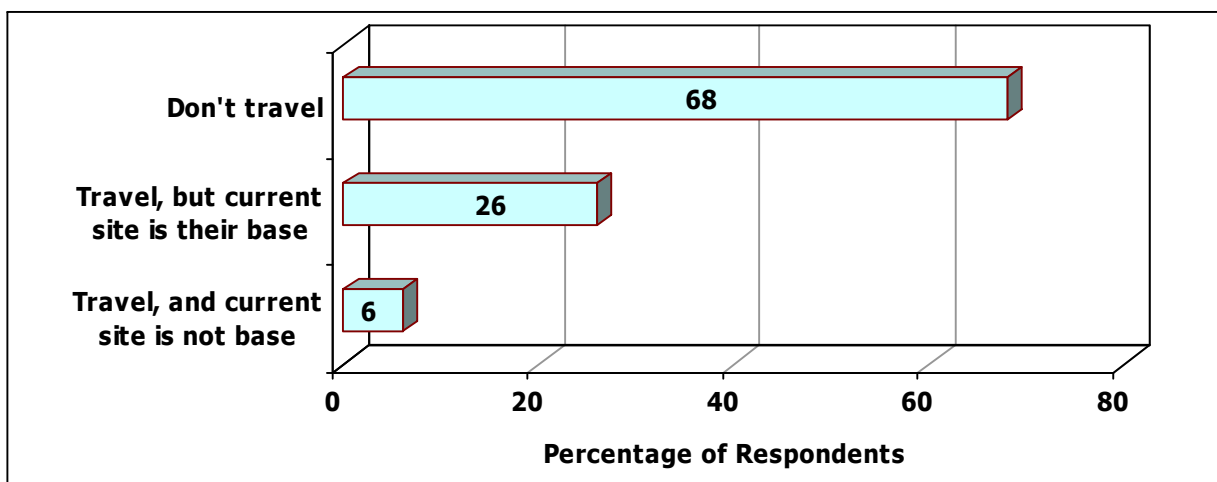
### Summary of Key Points

- 69% of respondents lived on authorised public sites and 29% on authorised private sites;
- 65% of respondents reported that they did not own any caravans or trailers, but no trailers are publicly owned. This result may be an artefact of fewer men than women being interviewed in the sample, despite the repeated attempts to achieve a representative sample of male respondents;
- 20% of households would like extra caravans. This is likely to represent a need for around 30 extra caravans across Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire. These caravans are not needed for new household formation, but to accommodate existing household members in less overcrowded conditions with extra sleeping space appearing to be a key consideration;
- The majority of residents of public sites have their rent paid through Housing Benefit. When combined with the low levels of employment and high numbers of single parents this indicates that many households may not be able to afford the extra caravans they want;
- 77% of respondents were satisfied with their site and 17% were dissatisfied. Almost all of those who were dissatisfied reside on public sites, with many of these to be found on the Holwell site in Welwyn Hatfield;
- Only 20% of respondents wanted no improvements to their sites, and almost all of these lived on authorised private sites. Many respondents on the Holwell site wanted better washing facilities and larger pitches. Many respondents at all public sites wanted better toilet facilities.

## 7. Travelling

### Propensity to Travel

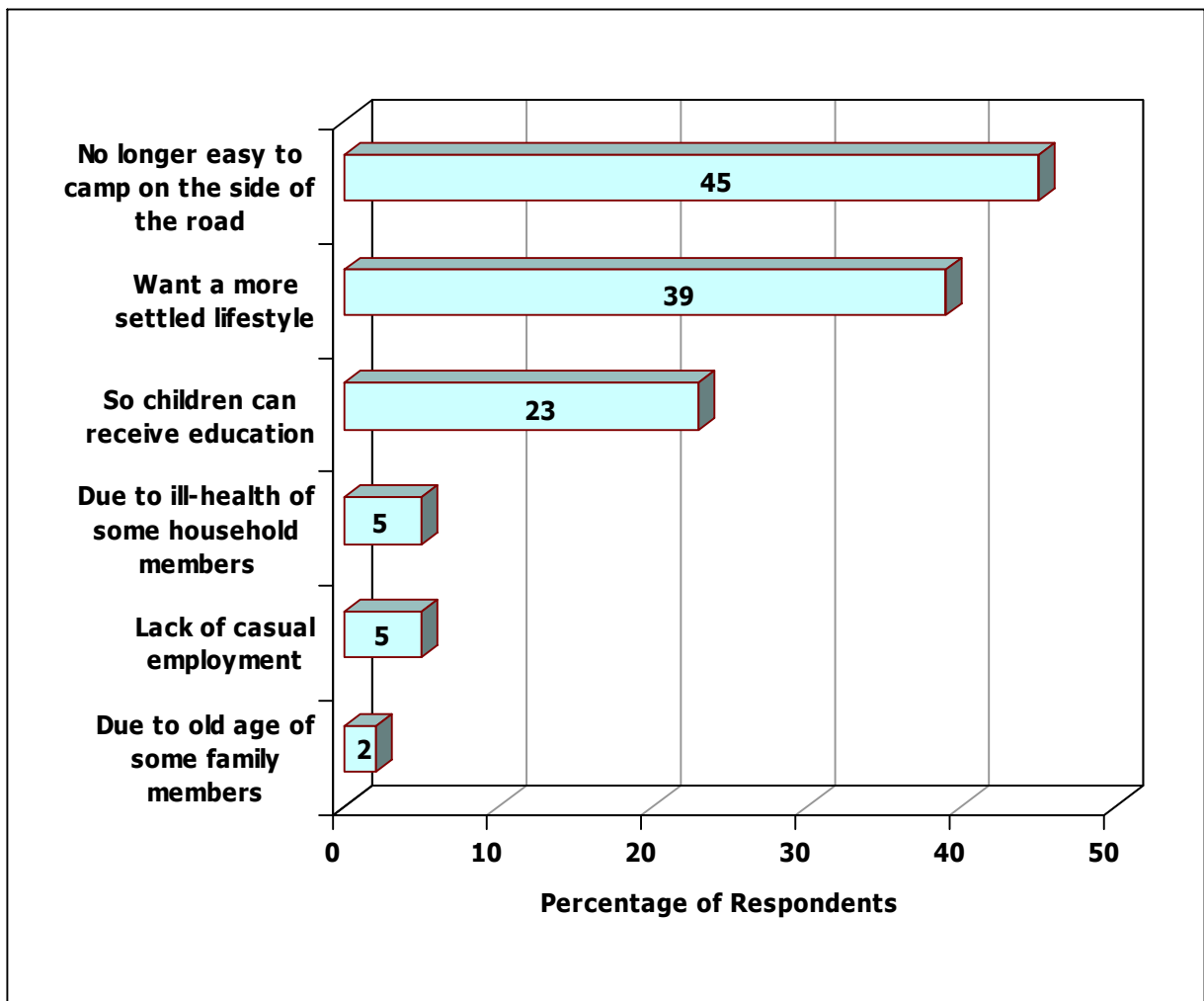
- 7.1 68% of respondents reported that they do not travel at all. Only 6% of the respondents were members of households which do travel and do not consider Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire to be their base.
- 7.2 Therefore, the Gypsy and Traveller population in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire is a largely settled one with very few of its current population considering other areas to be their base. Furthermore, all respondents who travel, but do not regard Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire to be their base, had travelled to the district in the past and had been coming to the area for a significant period of time. Therefore, it would appear that even those just passing through the district will continue to return in the future.



**Figure 31: Does the Respondent Travel, by all Respondents**

Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population, September 2005

- 7.3 80% of those who do not travel have travelled in the past. Figure 32 shows that the most common explanation for this is that they cannot camp easily on the side of the road. 45% of those who have travelled in the past no longer do so because of a lack of stopping places. However, 39% also stopped travelling due to them wanting a more settled lifestyle, and 23% had stopped travelling due to their children’s education needs.
- 7.4 Therefore, the low rate of travelling among the Gypsy and Traveller population in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire appears to be due to a combination of a lack of opportunities to travel elsewhere, and a desire to settle in one place.

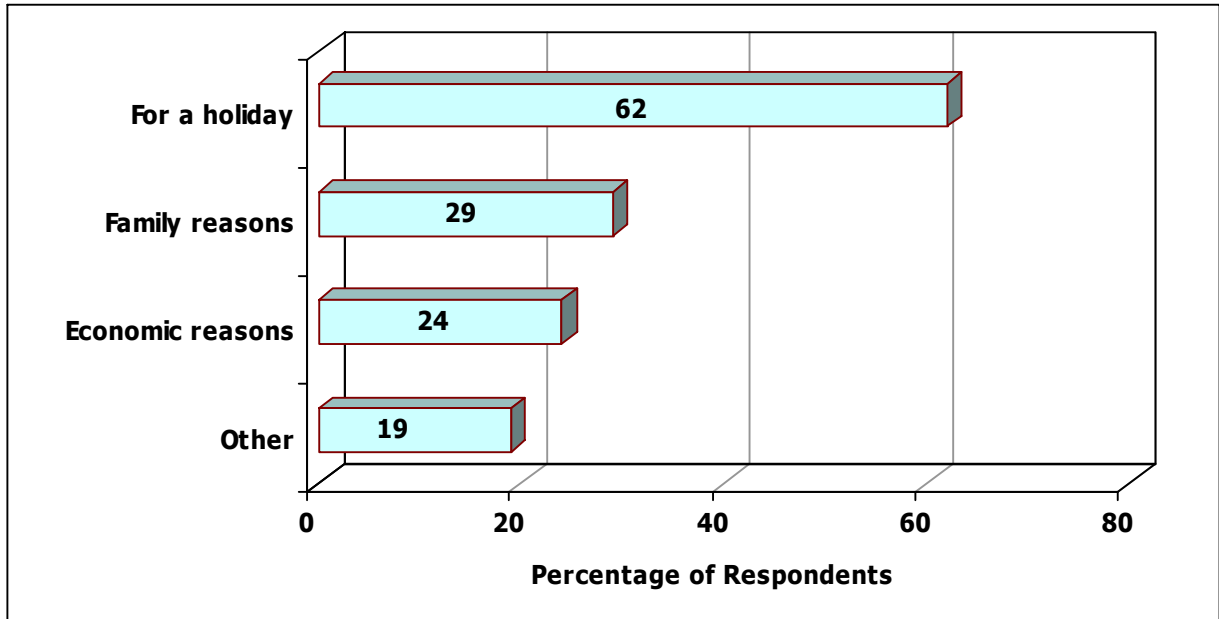


**Figure 32: Why Respondents No Longer Travel, by all Respondents Who Have Travelled in the Past**

Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population, September 2005

## Travelling Patterns

- 7.5 Of the 32% of respondents who do travel, the main reason given for this was for a holiday. Only 24% of those who do travel report that they do so for economic reasons and this only represents 5 respondents.



**Figure 33: Reasons for Travelling, by all Respondents who Currently Travel**

Source: Survey of Gypsy and Traveller Population, September 2005

### **Summary of Key Points**

- 68% of respondents do not travel and only 6% of respondents travel and do not consider Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire to be their base. This entire group had travelled to Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire before, and therefore the population appears to be well established;
- 80% of respondents who do not currently travel had travelled in the past. Many of these highlighted the issue of not being able to stop on the roadside as one which prevents them from travelling now, but others stopped travelling because they wanted a more settled lifestyle; and
- Of the 32% of respondents who do travel, a majority do so for holidays and only 24% do so for economic reasons.

## 8. Extra Site Provision

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### Site Provision

- 8.1 This section focuses on the extra site provision which is required in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire in at least the next 5 years. It concentrates not only upon the total extra provision which is required in the area, but whether this provision should be in the form of public or private sites, is there a need for any transit site/emergency stopping place provision, and which local authorities should provide any identified need.
- 8.2 The ODPM published draft guidance in February 2006 on conducting 'Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments'. This contains an illustrated example on how to calculate the current and future need for residential site pitches. The key factor in this methodology is to compare the predicted amount of extra site space which will become available with a prediction of the need for extra space on sites.

### Current Site Provision

- 8.3 The first stage of assessing need in the ODPM methodology is to identify the current number of authorised pitches. Figure 1 on Page 16 of this report showed that as of September 2005 there were 97 residential pitches in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire. This comprised 68 pitches on authorised public sites and 29 pitches on private sites. Therefore, around 70% of pitch provision was on public sites and 30% on private sites.

### Space Available on Sites

- 8.4 The second stage of the ODPM methodology is to assess how much space is or will become available on existing sites. The main ways in which space is/will be freed are:
  - Current empty pitches;
  - New sites or site extensions which are likely to gain planning permission;
  - Migration away from the area;
  - Movement to bricks and mortar;
  - Dissolution of households.
- 8.5 It can be predicted that almost no extra space will become available in the near future. All existing sites are full, and only one respondent intends to move away from a public site to a private site in the near future. No new sites are planned and no site is close to achieving planning permission to extend. Also, no respondent to the survey intended to move to a site



outside of Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire or to bricks and mortar accommodation. Therefore, few pitches on the existing sites will become available.

- 8.6 The dissolution of a household occurs when all the members leave the household. Common ways for a household to dissolve are for a person living on their own to die, or to move to an existing household. The survey did find over 25% of all households contained only one adult, but very few of these were of pensionable age. Instead, around 25% of all households were single parents and there is no reason to expect these households to merge in the near future.

### **Additional Site Provision**

- 8.7 The third stage of the ODPM guidance is to assess how many households are likely to be seeking pitches in the area. Groups of people who are likely to be seeking pitches in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire will include:

- Those living on current unauthorised developments or encampments;
- Those living on existing sites threatened with closure;
- Those on waiting lists for public sites;
- In-migration from other sources;
- Those living in currently overcrowded accommodation;
- New household formation from within households on existing sites;
- New household formation from within bricks and mortar accommodation;
- Transit site provision.

### Current Unauthorised Developments and Encampments

- 8.8 The survey generated only one interview on an unauthorised development. As reported in section 2 of this report Hotline data indicates that each of the local authorities has experienced many unauthorised developments and encampments since 1997. However, most of these have been short-term unauthorised encampments which are more likely to reflect people passing through an area who would benefit more from a transit site than from extra residential pitches. There have been very few recent unauthorised developments in the area and therefore there is no need to provide pitches on authorised residential sites for those on unauthorised developments.

## Closure of Existing Sites

- 8.9 The survey of Council officers suggests that the public site in Broxbourne is likely to have to close to make way for a new road. If this site does close it should be a priority for the respective local authority to replace it with at least a similar sized site to ensure a continuous provision so as not to create a deficit on the current net provision. Broxbourne District Council may wish to note the need identified in later sections of this report for some larger pitches in the study area and may wish to provide some of these at a replacement site.

## Waiting lists for Council Sites

- 8.10 The method of registering a desire to obtain a pitch on a HCC run public site is through placing your name on the waiting list. Waiting list information for pitches on HCC operated sites was supplied by the Gypsy and Traveller Unit of HCC for July 2005. This includes information on households seeking transfers from existing sites in Hertfordshire, and those who are seeking to transfer to Hertfordshire from elsewhere in the country.
- 8.11 Applicants for pitches on public sites in Hertfordshire are allowed to request a pitch on as many sites as they wish. Therefore, many of the applications are made by the same household who are seeking a pitch on many different sites.
- 8.12 Figure 34 shows the number of applications that relate to specific sites. To begin with those who wish to move to Hertfordshire from outside of the County, the results show that 29 households who do not reside in Hertfordshire are on the waiting list for a pitch on a public site in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire. Of these, 13 of the households are also willing to accept pitches on sites in South and West Hertfordshire. This leaves 16 households on the waiting list who are only seeking pitches in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire.
- 8.13 A further group of households seeking pitches in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire are those who are already resident on public sites in Hertfordshire, but who wish to transfer to another public site. In total 11 households are seeking a transfer from one public site to another, with 6 looking to move to the Holwell site. However, at least 8 of the desired transfers would vacate pitches in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire. Therefore, this group does not require any extra pitches because each household who transfer will leave a pitch vacant for another household.
- 8.14 The ODPM guidance on assessing the need for pitch provision recommends identifying households who are living elsewhere who are seeking permanent site accommodation and counting them all in the need for residential pitches in the area. Therefore, this would suggest that 16 extra pitches on public sites in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire are required to accommodate all the specific extra demand for pitches from outside the area. We have also allowed for an extra 4 pitches for those 13 households who are seeking a pitch somewhere in Hertfordshire.

Site	Applicants		
	Move from outside of Hertfordshire	Transfer from within Hertfordshire	All
Holwell	4	6	10
Halfhide	6	0	6
Dyes Lane	3	0	3
More than one site in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire	3	1	4
More than one site in Hertfordshire	13	4	17
Total	29	11	40

**Figure 34: Number of Applicants for Specific Public Sites**

Source: Gypsy and Traveller Unit Hertfordshire County Council

### In-migration from other sources

- 8.15 The waiting list data held by the HCC Gypsy and Traveller Unit is the only method by which households who do not reside in Hertfordshire can express a desire to live on public sites in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire. The other form of migration which may occur is households moving to the area to develop private sites.
- 8.16 The local authorities in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire have experienced very few recent applications to develop private sites in total. They have therefore received few applications to develop private sites from individuals who reside outside of Hertfordshire. Few of the respondents to the survey have arrived in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire in the last 3 years (see Figure 17), and many of those who had arrived recently were to be found on public sites.
- 8.17 Potentially this pattern could change, but there is little reason to expect it to do so. Therefore, this study has concluded that in-migration from households seeking to create a private site in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire is unlikely to be a significant factor in the estimated need for pitch provision.

### Overcrowded Households

- 8.18 The ODPM guidance recommends that households which are overcrowded and where their current pitch is too small to accommodate another caravan or trailer should be considered as needing an additional pitch.
- 8.19 Paragraphs 6.4 – 6.9 of this survey have already identified households who wanted more caravans or trailers. This is not an objective measure of overcrowding, but can be thought of as households who felt that they were overcrowded. However, this study feels that no extra pitch provision is required for this group.
- 8.20 To understand the reasons for this it is necessary to consider how these overcrowding options can be addressed. For a household who feel that they need more caravans or trailers there are two possibilities. Either the extra caravans or trailers could be accommodated on the existing pitch, or if this is not possible, a new larger pitch is required.

- 8.21 If the household moves to a new larger pitch they will leave behind an existing pitch which can be filled by another household. This household will be one who has already been identified as being in need such as one of those who are on the waiting list for a pitch while living outside Hertfordshire. Therefore, only one extra pitch is required to accommodate a household from the waiting list and a household who are overcrowded. Given this is the case, counting those households who require to move to new pitches to alleviate their overcrowding as requiring extra pitches is likely to lead to an overestimate of the total need for new pitches.
- 8.22 However, this conclusion does not imply that no action is required to be undertaken to address overcrowding issues. The average size of a Gypsy and Traveller household in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire is 3.4 persons, but 7 of the 65 households surveyed did include 6 or more persons. For a household of this size two caravans are likely to be restrictive and therefore a small number of larger pitches are likely to be needed in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire. Therefore, it should be recognised that when developing new sites some larger pitches should be included which could accommodate larger Gypsy and Traveller families who require more than two caravans for their household.

### New Household Formation

- 8.23 The ODPM recognise that an important group for future pitch provision will be older children who form their own households. This survey found no households who expected any member to leave in the near future. However, it is inevitable that in a population where nearly 50% are children that there will be future household formations.
- 8.24 The survey of the Gypsy and Traveller population in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire found that there were 13% of household members aged between 17-24 years. This amounted to 28 people in the sample which extrapolates to around 40 people in this age group across Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire, and they would be the most obvious group to form their own household. Some members of this group are already the senior members of their own households and some may never form their own household, but potentially many more members from this age group could want to form their own households soon.
- 8.25 Another important group are those aged 12-16 years who formed 15% of the household members. All of this group will be old enough to form their own households in the next 5 years. It is unlikely that all will do so, but it can be predicted that some current 12-16 year olds will want to form their own households in the next 5 years.
- 8.26 Therefore, an assessment is required as to how many extra pitches will be required for this group. To extrapolate how the Gypsy and Traveller population is likely to grow in the future the clearest way to view this issue is to note that nearly 50% of the entire sample in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire were children, which implies that there is a high rate of growth in the population. Therefore, it can be forecasted that the Gypsy and Traveller population of Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire is likely to double in the next 20-25 years, if current population trends continue.
- 8.27 Therefore, over the next 5 years this would imply the area covered by Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire will need at least 15 more pitches due to household formation. This also implies that, assuming the current population structure is maintained, over the next 25 years it is likely that the number of pitches in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire will have to double from 97 to around 200 simply due to household formation among the existing Gypsy and Traveller population.

### Brick and Mortar Households

- 8.28 In the survey no respondent had left bricks and mortar accommodation in the last three years. Using this as a trend it can be predicted that there will be few people leaving this form of accommodation to move to Gypsy and Traveller sites soon. It should also be noted that those who currently reside in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire and who wish to reside on a Gypsy and Traveller site can already place their name on the waiting list for existing sites. The waiting list information indicates that no one has currently done, so it is forecasted that no further site provision is required for this group.
- 8.29 Experience elsewhere indicates that few of the Gypsy and Traveller households who reside in bricks and mortar want to move away from this form of housing. For example, in Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk only 3 of the 33 households interviewed wanted to move from their present home, and two of these wanted to move to a larger bricks and mortar house.
- 8.30 It is of course a very big assumption that because Gypsy and Traveller households in Greater Norwich do want to leave the bricks and mortar housing they are living in they will not want to do so in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire. However, the indications are that in areas such as Greater Norwich there is no desire to leave bricks and mortar housing from those Gypsies and Travellers who reside there.
- 8.31 While there is currently no evidence available to support the desire of any Gypsy and Traveller households in the study area to leave bricks and mortar accommodation, future Housing Needs Surveys may indicate otherwise. Should a need be identified, further site provision may need to be made within the study area.

### Transit/Emergency Stopping Site Provision

- 8.32 All 97 authorised pitches in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire are for residential use. Therefore, there is no transit site or emergency stopping place provision for those who are visiting relatives in the area, or simply passing through.
- 8.33 Some Council officers identified that there was a lack of transit site provision in the area and also noted that many unauthorised encampments were from groups who were simply passing through. The ODPM backed study from CURS also identified a need for a greater provision of transit sites nationwide. The CURS study for South and West Hertfordshire recommended that the area required three new 10 pitch transit sites.
- 8.34 The Hotline data provided by HCC Gypsy and Traveller Unit in Figure 35, below, shows that there have been 265 unauthorised developments or encampments in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire since 1997.
- 8.35 This number is inflated when compared with the number of groups of people involved. In some cases groups have moved from one location to another within the same district or have moved from one district to another and would therefore be counted more than once. However, even with known multiple counting cases removed the results still indicate that there have been over 200 unauthorised developments and encampments in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire since 1997.

- 8.36 Of the 47 unauthorised developments and encampments which have occurred since 2003, the vast majority of these have occurred in East Hertfordshire and Welwyn Hatfield. A transit site or emergency stopping place would allow short-term legal stays in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire, and therefore would prevent much of the need to involve the police and courts in moving groups on.
- 8.37 Therefore, there would appear to be a clear need for at least one transit site or emergency stopping place in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire for those who wish to travel, but lack stopping places to do so. The Hotline data indicates that the average number of families present at an unauthorised encampment or development since 2003 has been 10. It is noteworthy that in almost all cases the number of families estimated to be on the unauthorised development or encampment was the same as the number of caravans. Therefore the results are based on one caravan per family.
- 8.38 Very few encampments in the last 3 years have contained as many as 10 families, so one 10 pitch transit/emergency stopping site would be sufficient to meet the needs of those who do not want to reside in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire, but who do want to travel through it. The fact that each household contains only one caravan may imply that the pitches on this site could be smaller than on residential sites.

Local authority	No of unauthorised developments / encampments since 1997	No of unauthorised developments / encampments since 2003	Average no of families at unauthorised development / encampment since 2003
Broxbourne	35	3	20
East Herts	80	18	10
North Herts	54	3	6
Stevenage	68	1	12
Welwyn Hatfield	90	24	9
Total	265	47	10

**Figure 35: Unauthorised Developments and Encampments Since 1997**

Source: Gypsy and Traveller Unit Hertfordshire County Council Hotline data

## Overall Needs

8.39 The estimated extra site provision that is required for the next 5 years in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire is 45 pitches. This excludes replacing the existing site at Broxbourne if it is to close. The key groups who require extra site provision are those who currently live outside the area, but are on the waiting for public sites and the emerging households from young adults in the area. There is also a clear need for a transit site or emergency stopping place in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire.

Needs	
Reason	Net new pitches required in the next 5 years
Current unauthorised developments or encampments	0
Waiting list/migration from elsewhere	20
Currently overcrowded	0
New household formation	15
Movement from bricks and mortar	0
Transit/emergency stopping site provision	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>

**Figure 36: Extra Pitches Which are Required in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire**

## Public/Private Site Provision

- 8.40 The identification of the need for extra site provision still requires an assessment of the form in which it should be provided. The evidence of this study and similar ones undertaken by ORS for other local authorities is that the satisfaction levels among Gypsies and Travellers who reside on private sites is much higher than those on public sites. Therefore, this would make the ideal situation one where much of the provision was on private sites.
- 8.41 However, as noted in Chapter 3 of this report, the evidence from Council officers was that they felt that Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire is not an attractive area for Gypsies and Travellers because of the high land prices and lack of job opportunities in the area.
- 8.42 This view is supported by evidence from within the survey of the Gypsy and Traveller population. Very few respondents report that any member of their household had permanent jobs, and the HCC Gypsy and Traveller Unit report that for most households on public sites their rent is at least part paid for by Housing Benefit.
- 8.43 For this study we undertook an internet search of land prices in Hertfordshire. For this we used information from many websites, but a good source of information on land prices is [www.uklanddirectory.org.uk](http://www.uklanddirectory.org.uk). The conclusions show that the price of land varies enormously depending upon whether it is likely to be granted planning permission. Agricultural land is available in Hertfordshire for less than £10,000 per acre in areas where planning permission

for housing is not likely to be granted. However, agricultural land which is in areas where planning permission is more likely to be granted, such as the west of Stevenage, often sells for the equivalent of £250,000 - £500,000 per acre. Land which already has planning permission in urban areas often sells for £1 - £2 million.

- 8.44 The average house price according to the Land Registry in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire in October to December 2005 ranged from £165,946 in Stevenage to £264,109 in East Hertfordshire. Therefore, given these high house prices it is unsurprising that land which is likely to be granted planning permission attracts such a premium in the area.
- 8.45 These results imply that Gypsies and Travellers are unlikely to be able to compete for land which is likely to be granted planning permission. However, at prices of around £10,000 per acre Gypsies and Travellers may be able to afford to purchase agricultural land upon which is unlikely they will be granted planning permission. This is not a situation which is unique to Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire, with many Gypsies and Travellers finding the only land they can afford is in areas where it will not normally be granted planning permission.
- 8.46 However, in this context, the guidance set out at paragraphs 47 and 48 of Circular 1/06 is particularly relevant as it allows local planning authorities in rural areas to include a 'rural exception site policy' in the relevant DPD where there is a lack of affordable land to meet local gypsy and traveller needs (as demonstrated by an up-to-date accommodation assessment). These policies should operate in the same way as rural exception site policies for housing, as set out in Annex B of PPG3 (as updated in January 2005).
- 8.47 Past experience has shown that Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire only attracts a very small number of applications for private sites, but private sites do still form around 30% of all the pitch provision in the area. We do not envisage the number of applications rising in the near future, but we do anticipate that the authorities in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire will receive the occasional application for private sites. Therefore, a small number of the 35 residential pitches which have been identified in this study as being needed are likely to be on private sites.
- 8.48 This does however still imply that most of the pitch provision is likely to be required in the form of public provision.

### **Location of Site Provision**

- 8.49 A further issue is where the extra site provision should be. The survey has identified a need for 35 permanent pitches, a small number of which will be met through private site provision, and 10 transit pitches. Therefore, we feel that this is likely to equate to around three new permanent public sites with 10 pitches each and one new transit site with 10 pitches.
- 8.50 However, only one respondent to the survey indicated any desire to move in the near future. Therefore, we have no overwhelming evidence from the survey to indicate that sites need to be provided in one district over any other or that sites should be provided in close proximity to one particular transport corridor over any other. It is more the case that the survey identified a need that ought to be planned for somewhere in the study area.
- 8.51 It is therefore recommended that in light of the identified need for provision in the study area, the partnering districts should work towards the division of this allocation, which should be reflected in policy. One factor which we would recommend be considered in



allocating this need is that of equity. Broxbourne, Stevenage and Welwyn Hatfield already provide public sites while East Hertfordshire and North Hertfordshire do not. This may therefore be a factor in deciding the location of the site need which has been identified by this study, but it should be emphasised that there is no clear demand from within the survey for sites in these two districts.

- 8.52 There is no evidence arising from the survey to suggest that a spread of sites across the study area would be unacceptable to local Gypsies and Travellers, provided that any sites identified are accessible, attractive and well serviced. Indeed it should be remembered that many of the respondents to the survey reported that they arrived in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire because they had nowhere else to go and the particular location and facilities on their site was not an important factor in attracting them to the area.
- 8.53 By following the findings of this survey that household growth among Gypsies and Travellers is likely to require continuing provision beyond the first five years, it is recommended that both housing strategies and planning frameworks make provision for this continuing need. If current trends continue among the Gypsy and Traveller population in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire, it is likely that around 15-20 extra pitches will be needed every 5 years due to household formation among the existing population.

### **Current Local Authority Policies**

- 8.54 Each of the local authorities provided copies of their current policies relating to Gypsies and Travellers. These were predominantly drawn from their most recent Local Development Plans. The current policies were therefore drawn up before the publication of Circular 1/06, but do contain many positive aspects which can still be applied.

### Public Sites

- 8.55 In an area which is experiencing large-scale development such as Hertfordshire it is inevitable that some of this development may require the movement of public Gypsy and Traveller sites to alternative locations as part of a wider development process. As was noted in paragraph 3.67 the Broxbourne site at Halfhide Road may have to move to allow for the development of a new road. However, Broxbourne has made a clear statement (Policy BFC7) that the loss of their public site at Halfhide Road will not be permitted unless alternative provision in an acceptable location is made. The Stevenage Local Plan, which was adopted in 2004, also contains a statement that the loss of their public site at Dyes Lane will not be permitted unless alternative provision is made.
- 8.56 We would recommend to Welwyn Hatfield that they make similar public commitments to replace their existing public sites if they are forced to close for any reason. If they are able to make this commitment then this would ensure that the pitch capacity in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire is not reduced from its current level by the closure of public sites.
- 8.57 We would also recommend that all the local authorities accept that there is likely to be an on-going need to provide further Gypsy and Travellers sites for the foreseeable future, and that much of this provision will need to be on public sites.
- 8.58 In this context, we are aware that Milton Keynes Borough Council have set aside three areas of land within their Local Development Plan which will be developed as public Gypsy and

Traveller sites in the next 15 years. This type of policy is something that the local authorities in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire may wish to consider given the likelihood that sites will have to continue to be developed over this time period.

#### Private Sites

- 8.59 Circular 1/06 requires local authorities to set out the criteria under which they will grant planning permission for Gypsy and Traveller sites. This indicates that local authorities should set fair, reasonable, realistic and effective criteria for allowing the development of Gypsy and Traveller sites. In particular, they should also offer positive guidance which focuses on the criteria under which a Gypsy and Traveller site will be granted planning permission.
- 8.60 The criteria for authorising sites should include an analysis of the impact of the site on the local infrastructure. The site should also not dominate the nearest settled community. Sites should not be developed on Green Belt land unless exceptional circumstances can be shown. The land should not be contaminated, but other sites such as near a motorway or power lines are acceptable provided they would also be considered for settled housing. Sites should be located near to existing settlements to allow for access to services. Discreet use of tree screening, rather than fencing, to make the site appear less intrusive should also be considered.
- 8.61 Local need does not have to be proven for private sites. All private site applications should be judged by the same criteria. At all stages the Gypsy and Traveller population should be involved and those wishing to apply for planning permission should be encouraged to engage in pre-planning discussions with the local authority.
- 8.62 On this basis the current policies of Welwyn Hatfield District Council is a very good example for the operation of this policy. Their Policy H13 on Gypsy Sites set out very clear criteria under which sites will be granted planning permission. It is also noteworthy that compared with its original version Policy H13 has been made less restrictive with, for example, the requirement to demonstrate local need being removed in the Revised Deposit Version 2002.
- 8.63 A similar clear policy has been developed by East Hertfordshire in HSG16 of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Review Local Plan. For the remaining three local authorities their existing guidance on planning permission for Gypsy and Traveller sites is consistent with the guidance set out in Circular 1/94, but is not consistent with the new guidance outlined by Circular 1/06. We would recommend that they adopt clear statements, along the lines of those adopted by Welwyn Hatfield, under which Gypsy and Traveller sites will, and not may, be granted planning permission in their local authorities.

#### Data Collection

- 8.64 The Hotline data on unauthorised developments and encampments collected by the Gypsy and Traveller Unit of HCC is in our experience a unique and valuable data source. It highlights the weakness of the ODPM backed biannual caravan count by providing examples where the caravan count showed there were no unauthorised developments or encampments on the day of the count, but where there were many unauthorised developments or encampments in other periods throughout the years. We therefore strongly recommend that the Hotline data continues to be collected.

## Summary of Key Points

- It can be predicted that there will be few vacant pitches on existing sites in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire in the near future. Current sites are full, no new sites are due to open, only one respondent intends to leave a public site for a new private site and household dissolution will not create many vacant pitches;
- The potential closure of the public site in Broxbourne would require this local authority to identify a new site of at least a similar size. This would simply represent a replacement of current provision and is not a need for extra site provision;
- The waiting list information indicates that 29 households, who do not currently reside in Hertfordshire, are waiting for a pitch on public sites in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire. Of these, 16 want pitches exclusively on sites in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire, while the others would also accept pitches elsewhere in Hertfordshire. Therefore, 20 extra pitches will accommodate the needs of all households who are seeking to move exclusively to Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire and some of those who want to move to Hertfordshire in general;
- Household formation among the existing Gypsy and Traveller households in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire will require at least an extra 15 pitches to be provided in the next 5 years;
- Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire has experienced 265 unauthorised developments and encampments since 1997. Some of these unauthorised encampments were the same group moving around a district or between the districts, but there still were around 200 separate encampments or developments;
- Most of these have been small and short-term with an average since 2003 containing less than 10 caravans. A transit site or emergency stopping place with 10 pitches would allow short-term legal stays in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire;
- It is likely there will be a small amount of private site development in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire;
- Much of the extra site provision is still likely to have to be on public sites;
- There is no direct evidence from the survey as to which local authorities the extra site provision should be in. Instead, the survey reflects a general need which should be met by the area;
- Broxbourne also has a very positive statement that their public site will not be allowed to close without acceptable alternative accommodation being provided (Policy BFC7). Stevenage District Council have also made a similar statement. A similar commitment from Welwyn Hatfield District Councils would be welcome because it would ensure existing pitch capacity would not be reduced; and
- Welwyn Hatfield District Council have very positive policies for the circumstances under which Gypsy and Traveller sites will be authorised. They have been followed in this by East Hertfordshire District Council. It is recommended that the remaining 3 Councils should be seeking to develop similar policies.

## 9. Main Findings

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### **Gypsy and Traveller Sites and Population**

- 9.1 The most regularly collected national data on the number of Gypsies and Travellers comes from the bi-annual caravan count conducted by local authorities. This count is of caravans located on authorised and unauthorised sites. At the most recent count, in July 2005, there were 15,711 Gypsy and Traveller caravans across the whole of England, which represents a rise of 89% in the number of caravans since January 1979.
- 9.2 The East of England region, which contains Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire, has a significant Gypsy and Traveller population. In the July 2005 count there were 3,983 caravans present, which represents a 148% rise in the number of caravans since 1979. Many of the extra caravan numbers have been accommodated on authorised sites, with the number of caravans on these having risen from 609 in January 1979 to 2,782 in July 2005. However, the number of caravans on unauthorised sites has also risen from 998 in January 1979 to 1,201 in July 2005.
- 9.3 Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire had 175 Gypsy and Traveller caravans present in the most recent count in July 2005. This represents a rise of 73% when compared with the figure for January 1979. Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire has seen a steady rise in the number of places it has made available on authorised Gypsy and Traveller sites. In January 1979 there were 47 caravans on authorised sites and recent counts have shown around 150 caravans on authorised sites. This rise in pitches on authorised sites has therefore accommodated the rise in caravans in the area.
- 9.4 Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire currently contains 3 authorised public residential sites with a combined capacity of 68 pitches. There are also 8 authorised private sites with a combined capacity of 29 pitches.

### **Profile of the Population**

#### Demography

- 9.5 One of the major components of this study was a detailed survey of the Gypsy and Traveller population in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire. In total 65 interviews were achieved with Gypsies and Traveller households in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire, which represents approximately two thirds of the 97 authorised pitches.
- 9.6 In total 223 people were contained within the 65 households which were interviewed. This gave an average household size of 3.4 people per household.
- 9.7 Nearly half of all respondents were English Gypsies or Travellers. Around a quarter of respondents were Irish Gypsies or Travellers, and another quarter were Romany. Sites tended to divide along ethnic lines with the Romany population predominately to be found in Welwyn Hatfield and many of the Irish Gypsy and Traveller population to be found in Stevenage and North Hertfordshire.

- 9.8 Nearly 50% of all household members were aged 16 years or under. Around 25% of all households were comprised of single parents.
- 9.9 20% of respondents report that they had lived in bricks and mortar accommodation in the past, but none had done so in the last 3 years. The evidence from this survey is also that there is very little interest in bricks and mortar accommodation among the Gypsy and Traveller population in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire. No respondent wanted to leave their site for a bricks and mortar house.

### Attractions of Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire

- 9.10 71% of respondents had lived in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire for more than 5 years. The main factors which cause the population to remain in the area were to be near to their family, or because they had always lived in the area. Many respondents reported that they were attracted to Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire because they had nowhere else to go.
- 9.11 Therefore, the majority of respondents were in the area through a combination of family ties and being moved on from other areas. There is no evidence that many respondents were in the area because of lifestyle or economic factors. Only 3% of respondents were in the area because of work and 8% for the quality of life.
- 9.12 This is supported by the employment status of household members aged over 16 years, which shows that 34% of household members were at home looking after their home/family. Another 14% were retired and 7% were long term sick or disabled. Only 5% had a permanent job, another 9% had casual or temporary work and 1% worked seasonally.

### Travelling

- 9.13 68% of respondents report that they do not travel at all. Only 6% of the respondents were members of households which do travel and do not consider Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire to be their base.
- 9.14 80% of those who do not travel have travelled in the past. 45% of those who have travelled in the past no longer do so because of a lack of stopping places. However, 39% also stopped travelling due to them wanting a more settled lifestyle, and 23% had stopped travelling due to their children's education needs. Therefore, the low rate of travelling is due to a combination of a lack of opportunities to travel elsewhere and a desire to settle in one place.

## **Current Site Provision and Needs**

### Current Site Facilities

- 9.15 65% of the respondents say they do not own any caravans or trailers. Evidence from the Gypsy and Traveller Unit of HCC indicates that almost all households on public operated sites have at least part of their rent paid for by Housing Benefit. Very few household members had permanent jobs and the number of single parents was also high, so many households will not be able to afford their own caravans.

- 9.16 The majority of respondents were satisfied with their sites. 77% of respondents expressed some form of satisfaction with their site. However, around 25% of respondents on public sites expressed dissatisfaction with them.
- 9.17 Only 20% of respondents felt that no improvements were required to their site and almost all of these resided on private sites. Many of the required improvements were on the Holwell site where the washing and toilet facilities and the size of the pitches were identified by many as being a problem.

### Current Local Facilities

- 9.18 Around a quarter of all respondents from the Holwell site in Welwyn Hatfield and the Dyes Lane site in Stevenage felt that they have had difficulties accessing some key services.
- 9.19 The largest single difficulty identified was that of access to public transport. This would suggest that many households do lack access to transport of their own and that the level of public transport provided near their sites is not adequate. Many of the other difficulties such as access to a GP, shopping, hospital and pharmacy are also likely to be linked to the lack of adequate public transport.

### Schooling

- 9.20 Almost all the children who were aged 5-11 years attended schools. However, among children aged 12-16 years the majority were home tutored.
- 9.21 Evidence from the Traveller Education Project of HCC is that a key factor in this lack of attendance at secondary schools is parental choice. Gypsy and Traveller parents were felt to expect their children to follow in their parent's footsteps. Female children were expected to look after their home and family and male children were expected to undertake manual work. Therefore, attending school beyond primary appears not to be a high priority.
- 9.22 Given that the local authority must provide an education to all children, it is necessary to educate the Gypsy and Traveller children at home because they will not attend ordinary secondary schools. This situation will continue into the future unless the attitudes of Gypsy and Traveller parents change.

### Health Needs

- 9.23 45% of respondents reported that their household contained at least one member with a long-term health problem. This is much higher than for households in Hertfordshire in general where 28% had members with health problems during the 2001 Census.
- 9.24 In total 12% of respondents reported that their accommodation required adaptations because of these health problems and 11% of respondents reported that at least one household member required some form of care which meant they were unable to fully support themselves. However, only one respondent felt that their current support needs were not being met.

### Extra Caravans

- 9.25 20% of the households would like to be able to expand with extra caravans or trailers. This represents a desire for more caravans or trailers, but does not imply that they are able to afford them.
- 9.26 Experiences in other areas such as South Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire are that many Gypsy and Traveller households would like to be able to separate accommodation which is used for sleeping from that which is used for cooking. Many also like to have separate accommodation for guests. Households which do not have as many caravans or trailers as they would like are likely to feel overcrowded within their existing caravans or trailers.
- 9.27 The extra caravans or trailers were mainly for older children and older relatives within the household. Many respondents asked for larger pitches, which is consistent with respondents wanting to have more caravans. However, no household expects any members to leave and form their own households soon. This could be seen as relieving overcrowding at existing pitches by providing more living room without the necessity of providing any further pitch provision.

### Business Needs and Parking

- 9.28 Only one respondent reported that they wanted more storage space for business needs and no one requested better parking facilities. Therefore, there was no identified need to provide a significant amount of extra parking space or business facilities at existing sites.

## **Future Site Provision**

### Draft Guidance

- 9.29 ODPM draft guidance in the form of 'Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments' indicates that to assess the need for extra pitch and site provision it is necessary to compare the amount of pitch provision which is likely to become vacant with the amount which is needed. It is important to emphasise that the draft guidance focuses upon need, rather than upon demand for pitches. Demand requires both the need for something and the ability to afford it. Therefore, the draft guidance indicates that affordability of pitches is not a consideration and it is only the need for pitches which should be considered.
- 9.30 When the number of pitches needed has been calculated it is then possible to assess how many of these are likely to be provided by the private sector and how many will require to be on public sites.

### Available Space

- 9.31 All sites in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire are currently full, no new sites are about to open, and only one household in the survey intends to leave a site soon for either another site elsewhere or for bricks and mortar accommodation. There are also very few households which will completely dissolve in the foreseeable future. Therefore, very little space will

become available on existing sites in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire, and any new households who require extra space will have to have this met through new site provision.

### Existing Site Replacements

- 9.32 Indications from Council officers in Broxbourne are that the public site in the authority may have to close to make way for a new road. If this site is to close then it should be a priority for the District Council to identify an alternative site of a similar size. This would not represent additional sites or pitches, but simply a replacement of existing capacity.

### Waiting List

- 9.33 The ODPM guidance on assessing the need for pitch provision recommends identifying households who are living elsewhere who are seeking permanent site accommodation and counting them all in the need for residential pitches in the area.
- 9.34 The waiting list information provided by the HCC Gypsy and Traveller Unit indicates that there are 29 households currently not residing in Hertfordshire who would like a pitch on a public site in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire. Of these 29 households 13 would also accept a pitch on a public site in South and West Hertfordshire, but 16 would like to come specifically to sites in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire.
- 9.35 This would indicate that Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire requires around 20 more pitches on public sites to accommodate households who wish to move to the area and are currently waiting for places on public sites along with some of those who would more generally like to move to Hertfordshire.
- 9.36 A further group of households seeking pitches in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire are those who are already resident on public sites in Hertfordshire, but who wish to transfer to another public site. However, if one household moves from a pitch it becomes vacant for another household to fill. Therefore, this group should not be counted when assessing the provision of extra pitches because each extra pitch they need is matched by an extra pitch supplied when they move.

### In-migration from other sources

- 9.37 The other form of migration which may occur is households moving to the area to develop private sites. The local authorities in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire have experienced very few recent applications to develop private sites in total. Therefore, this study has concluded that in-migration from households seeking to create a private site in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire is unlikely to be a significant factor in the estimated need for pitch provision.



### Overcrowded Households

- 9.38 The ODPM guidance recommends that households which are overcrowded and where their current pitch is too small to accommodate another caravan or trailer should be considered as needing an additional pitch. However, this study feels that no extra pitch provision is required for this group.
- 9.39 For a household who feel that they need more caravans or trailers there are two possibilities. Either the extra caravans or trailers could be accommodated on the existing pitch, or if this is not possible, a new larger pitch is required.
- 9.40 If the household moves to a new larger pitch they will leave behind an existing pitch which can be filled by another household who have already been identified as being in need. Therefore, only one extra pitch is required to accommodate a household identified as being in need and a household who are overcrowded. Therefore, counting those households who require to move to new pitches to alleviate their overcrowding as requiring extra pitches is likely to lead to an overestimate of the total need for new pitches.
- 9.41 However, this conclusion does not imply that no action is required to be undertaken to address overcrowding issues. The average size of a Gypsy and Traveller household in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire is 3.4 persons, but 7 of the 65 households surveyed did include 6 or more persons. For a household of this size two caravans are likely to be restrictive and therefore a small number of larger pitches are likely to be needed in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire. Therefore, it should be recognised that when developing new sites some larger pitches should be included which could accommodate larger Gypsy and Traveller families who require more than two caravans for their household.

### New Household Formation

- 9.42 The evidence from this study is that nearly 50% of the entire sample in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire were children, which implies that there is a high rate of growth in the population. Therefore, it can be forecasted that the Gypsy and Traveller population of Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire is likely to double in the next 20-25 years, if current population trends continue.
- 9.43 Therefore, over the next 5 years this would imply the area covered by Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire will need at least 15 more pitches due to household formation. Furthermore, if this rate of population growth continues into the future it is likely that the number of pitches in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire will have to double from 97 to around 200 simply due to household formation among the existing Gypsy and Traveller population.

## Brick and Mortar Households

- 9.44 In the survey of Gypsies and Travellers no respondent had left bricks and mortar accommodation in the last three years. Using this as a trend it can be predicted that there will be few people leaving this form of accommodation to move to Gypsy and Traveller sites soon. However, while there is currently no evidence available to support the desire of any Gypsy and Traveller households in the study area to leave bricks and mortar accommodation, future Housing Needs Surveys may indicate otherwise and this should continue to be monitored.

## Transit Site Provision

- 9.45 All 97 authorised pitches in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire are for residential use. Therefore, there is no transit site or emergency stopping place provision for those who are visiting relatives in the area, or simply passing through.
- 9.46 The Hotline data provided by HCC Gypsy and Traveller Unit shows that there have been 265 unauthorised developments or encampments in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire since 1997. Some of these instances have been groups who have moved from one location to another within the same district or have moved from one district to another and would therefore be counted more than once. However, the results still indicate that there have been over 200 independent unauthorised developments and encampments in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire since 1997.
- 9.47 A transit site or emergency stopping place would allow short-term legal stays in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire, and therefore would prevent much of the need to involve the police and courts in moving groups on.
- 9.48 The Hotline data indicates that the average number of families at an unauthorised encampment or development since 2003 has been 10. It is noteworthy that in almost all cases the number of families estimated to be on the unauthorised development or encampment was the same as the number of caravans. Therefore the results are based on one caravan per family.
- 9.49 Very few encampments in the last 3 years have contained as many as 10 families, so one 10 pitch transit/emergency stopping site would be sufficient to meet the needs of those who do not want to reside in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire, but who do want to travel through it. The fact that each household contains only one caravan may imply that the pitches on this site could be smaller than on residential sites.

## Overall

- 9.50 The estimated extra site provision that is required for the next 5 years in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire is 45 pitches. This excludes replacing the existing site at Broxbourne if it is to close. The key groups who require extra site provision are those who currently live outside the area, but are on the waiting for public sites and the emerging households from young adults in the area. There is also a clear need for a transit site or emergency stopping place in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire.

## **Public/Private Site Provision**

- 9.51 The evidence of this study and similar ones undertaken for other local authorities is that the satisfaction levels among Gypsies and Travellers who reside on private sites is much higher than those on public sites. Therefore, an ideal situation would see much the necessary pitch provision being on private sites.
- 9.52 However, very few respondents reported that any member of their household had permanent jobs, and the HCC Gypsy and Traveller Unit report that for most households on public sites their rent is at least part paid for by Housing Benefit. This suggests there will be issues of affordability for the development of private sites among the existing population.
- 9.53 For this study we undertook an internet search of land prices in Hertfordshire. The conclusions show that the price of land varies enormously depending upon whether it is likely to be granted planning permission. Agricultural land is available in Hertfordshire for less than £10,000 per acre in areas where planning permission for housing is not likely to be granted. However, agricultural land which is in areas where planning permission is more likely to be granted, such as the west of Stevenage, often sells for the equivalent of £250,000 - £500,000 per acre. Land which already has planning permission in urban areas often sells for £1 - £2 million.
- 9.54 These results imply that Gypsies and Travellers are likely to be able to afford to purchase agricultural land upon which it is unlikely they will be granted planning permission, but cannot compete for land where planning permission is likely to be granted.
- 9.55 Circular 1/06 indicates that the local authority is allowed to operate a Rural Exceptions Policy. This will allow, under exceptional circumstances, the allocation of planning for Gypsy and Traveller sites where planning for settled housing would not normally be granted.
- 9.56 Past experience has shown that Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire only attracts a very small number of applications for private sites. This study does not envisage the number of applications rising in the near future, but we do anticipate that the authorities in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire will receive the occasional application for a private site. This does still imply that most of the pitch provision is likely to be required to in the form of public provision.

## **Location of Site Provision**

- 9.57 A further issue is where the extra site provision should be located. Only one respondent to the survey indicated any desire to move in the near future. Therefore, we have no overwhelming evidence to indicate that sites need to be provided in one district over any other. It is more the case that the survey identified a need that ought to be planned for somewhere in the study area.
- 9.58 In light of the identified need for provision in the study area, the partnering districts should work towards the division of this allocation, which should be reflected in policy. One factor which may be considered in allocating this need is that of equity. Broxbourne, Stevenage and Welwyn Hatfield already provide public sites while East Hertfordshire and North Hertfordshire do not. This may therefore be a factor in deciding the location of the site need which has been identified by this study, but it should be emphasised that there is no clear demand from within the survey for sites in these two districts.

- 9.59 We can also identify that continuing provision of new sites is likely to be required beyond the first five years. If current trends continue among the Gypsy and Traveller population in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire it is likely that around 15-20 extra pitches will be needed every 5 years due to household formation among the existing population.

## **Current Local Authority Policies**

### Public Sites

- 9.60 In an area which is experiencing large-scale development it is inevitable that this may require the movement of public Gypsy and Traveller sites to alternative locations to allow for other development. In this context, the Stevenage Local Plan, contains a clear statement that the loss of their public site at Dyes Lane will not be permitted unless alternative provision in an acceptable location is made.
- 9.61 This study recommends that both Broxbourne and Welwyn Hatfield make similar public commitments to replace their existing public sites if they are forced to close for any reason. If they are able to make this commitment then this would ensure that the pitch capacity in Northern and Eastern Hertfordshire is not reduced from its current level by the closure of existing public sites.
- 9.62 We would also recommend that all the local authorities accept that there is likely to be an on-going need to provide further Gypsy and Travellers sites for the foreseeable future, and that much of this provision will need to be on public sites. The partnering authorities may wish to look at the policies of areas such as Milton Keynes which have set aside three areas of land within their Local Development Plan which will be developed as public Gypsy and Traveller sites in the next 15 years.

### Private Sites

- 9.63 Circular 1/06 requires local authorities to set out the criteria under which they will grant planning permission for private Gypsy and Traveller sites. This indicates that they should also offer positive guidance which focuses on the criteria under which a private Gypsy and Traveller site will be granted planning permission.
- 9.64 The current policies of Welwyn Hatfield District Council are a very good example for the operation of this policy. Their Policy H13 on Gypsy Sites set out very clear criteria under which sites will be granted. For the remaining four local authorities their existing guidance on planning permission for Gypsy and Traveller sites is more limited and this study recommends that they adopt clear statements, along the lines of those adopted by Welwyn Hatfield, under which Gypsy and Traveller sites will, and not may, be granted planning permission in their local authorities.

### Data Collection

- 9.65 The Hotline data on unauthorised developments and encampments collected by the Gypsy and Traveller Unit of HCC is in our experience a unique and valuable data source. This study therefore strongly recommends that the Hotline data continues to be collected.

## Footnotes

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- 1 'An Assessment of the Accommodation Needs of Gypsies and Travellers in South and West Hertfordshire', Centre for Urban and Regional Studies, Birmingham University, April 2005
- 2 Isobel Anderson and Stephen Thomson, 'United Kingdom National Report 2004 for the European Observatory on Homelessness: Statistical Update.' Feantsa, November 2004.
- 3 Isobel Anderson and Stephen Thomson, 'United Kingdom National Report 2004 for the European Observatory on Homelessness: Statistical Update.' Feantsa, November 2004.
- 4 'The Provision and Condition of Local Authority Gypsy/Traveller Sites in England' ODPM 2001.
- 5 Circular 1/06 'Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites' ODPM 2006

# Appendix A: Questionnaire

## Address/site location...?

Site name (if applicable) .....

Address .....

## In which district/borough is this site located

East Hertfordshire	01
North Hertfordshire	02
Welwyn Hatfield	03
Stevenage Borough	04
Broxbourne Borough	05

## A GENERAL TRENDS

### A1 What attracted you to live here?

The open countryside	01
Quality of life	02
It is on/near traditional travelling routes	03
Have historical roots in the area	04
To be near family	05
There is work in the area	06
Always lived in the area	07
Local schools	08
Local health facilities	09
Other	TX

## B YOUR ACCOMMODATION

### B1 How would you describe this accommodation?

Park home/Sectional building	01
Static caravan	02
Mobile home or caravan	03
Static touring caravan	04
Other type of home (code and write in)TX	

**(b) Including this accommodation, how many of each type of accommodation do you own?**

	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3 or more</b>
Park home/Sectional building	01	02	03	04
Static caravan	01	02	03	04
Mobile home or caravan	01	02	03	04
Static touring caravan	01	02	03	04
Other type of home (code and write in)	01	02	03	04

**B2 How long have you and your immediate family lived on this site?**

Less than a week	01
1 week but less than one month	02
1 month but less than 6 months	03
6 months but less than 1 year	04
1 year but less than 3 years	05
3 years but less than 5 years	06
5 years or more	07

**B3 Is this site...?**

An authorised County Council site	01	<b>Go to (e)</b>
An authorised private site	02	<b>Ask (b)</b>
An unauthorised development	03	<b>Go to B4</b>
An illegal encampment	04	<b>Go to B4</b>
Other type of site (code and write in)	TX	<b>Go to B4</b>

**(b) Did you need to gain planning permission for your site?**

Yes	01	<b>Ask (c)</b>
No	02	<b>Go to B4</b>

**(c) How easy was it to gain planning permission for your site?**

Very easy	01	<b>Go to (e)</b>
Fairly easy	02	<b>Go to (e)</b>
Neither easy nor difficult	03	<b>Go to (e)</b>
Fairly difficult	04	<b>Ask (d)</b>
Very difficult	05	<b>Ask (d)</b>

**(d) If planning permission was difficult to obtain, why?**

**(e) Do you have a license, tenancy, freehold or leasehold to live on this site?**

A license	01
A tenancy	02
A freehold	03
A leasehold	04
Other (code and write in)	TX
.....	
None	05

**B4 Which of the following facilities and amenities do you have access to on this site?**

Toilet	01
Shower/bath facilities	02
Laundry	03
Play area	04
Lorry park	05
Post box	06
Telephone	07
Electricity	08
Gas	09
Refuse collection	10
None of these	11

**(b) How satisfied or dissatisfied are you living here?**

Very satisfied	01
Fairly satisfied	02
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	03
Fairly dissatisfied	04
Very dissatisfied	05

**(c) Why?**



**(d) What improvements, if any, could be made to the site?**

Better toilet facilities	01
Better washing facilities	02
Better site management	03
Better site layout	04
Increase site size	05
Decrease site size	06
Larger pitches	07
Better access to main road	08
CCTV	09
Workshops for business	10
Storage for business needs (e.g. for tools)	11
Other(s)	TX
.....	
.....	
.....	
No improvements required	12

**B5 While living at this site, do you have any difficulty getting to or accessing the services you need for you and your family?**

Shopping facilities	01
Doctor (GP)	02
Park or open space	03
Public transport	04
Sports/leisure centre	05
Council/neighbourhood office	06
Library	07
Cultural/recreational facilities	08
Local schools	09
Childcare facilities	10
Local hospital	11
Pharmacy/chemist	12
Dentist	13
Care for elderly/sick family members	14
Other(s)	TX
.....	
None stated	15



**B6 Thinking about security and crime in the last 12 months, while living at this site have you or anyone in your family suffered?**

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	
	(i) Loss of your property from this site	01 02
	(ii) Deliberate vandalism/damage to your property on this site	01 02
	(iii) Harassment/intimidation in or around this site	01 02

**(b) If yes to any of the above, please provide more details?**

**Who do you think was responsible for this...?**

	(i)	(ii)	(iii)
Local people outside the site	01	01	01
Other members of the site	02	02	02
Other(s)	TX	TX	TX

**C TRAVELLING**

**C1 Do you travel to particular places at certain times of the year?**

Yes	01	<b>Ask (b) Go to C3</b>
No	02	

**(b) What time of year/season do you typically travel?**

Summer	01
Autumn	02
Winter	03
Spring	04
All year round	05

**(c) What are your main reasons for travelling?**

For work	01
Family reasons	02
For a holiday	03
Other (please write in)	TX

**(d) Do you typically reserve your pitch on this site when you travel?**

Yes	01
No	02

**(e) Have you ever used a Transit Site?**

Yes	01	<b>ask (f)</b>
No	02	<b>Go to C2</b>

**(f) Have you experienced any problems at Transit Sites?**

Yes	01	<b>ask (g)</b>
No	02	<b>Go to (h)</b>

**(g) What problems have you experienced?**

**(h) Which of the following facilities and amenities do you feel should be provided on Transit Sites?**

Toilet	01
Shower/bath facilities	02
Standpipes or water supply	03
Laundry	04
Play area	05
Lorry park	06
Post box	07
Telephone	08
Electricity	09
Gas	10
Other (please write in)	TX
.....	
None	11

**(i) How long do you think the maximum length of stay should be on transit sites?**

A few days	01
Up to a week	02
Up to two weeks	03
Up to a month	04
Longer than a month	05

**C2 Do you consider this site to be your permanent base?**

Yes	01	<b>Go to C4</b>
No	02	<b>Ask (b)</b>

**(b) If no, where do you consider your permanent base to be?**

**(c) Have you travelled to this area before?**

Yes	01	<b>Ask (d)</b>
No	02	<b>Go to C4</b>

**(d) When did you start coming to this area?**

Less than 2 years ago	01	<b>Go to C4</b>
2 years but less than five years ago	02	"
5 years but less than 10 years ago	03	"
10 years ago or longer	04	"

**C3 Have you travelled in the past?**

Yes	01	<b>Ask (b)</b>
No	02	<b>Go to C4</b>

**(b) If yes, why do you not travel any more?**

So children can receive education	01
Due to ill-health of some family members	02
Due to old age of some family members	03
No longer easy to camp on the side of the road when travelling	04
Want a more settled lifestyle	05
Lack of casual employment in other areas	06
Other (code and write in)	TX

**C4 Where does your family come from?**

**C5 Do you feel that you have strong connections with this area?**

Yes	01	<b>Ask (b)</b>
No	02	<b>Go to Section D</b>

**(b) What are your connections with this area?**

Always lived in this area	01
Lived here a long time	02
Grew up in the area	03
Have a tradition of travelling to/through this area	04
Family are from this area	05
Friends are from this area	06
Family members work here	07
Children go to school here	08
Family members receive care/support from Council/other local services here	09
Other (code and write in)	TX

**D HISTORY**

**D1 Please could you describe the places you have lived during the last two years and the type of accommodation you lived in at each of these.**

**D2 Do you own or rent a house, bungalow or flat?**

Yes	01	<b>Go to (e)</b>
No	02	<b>Ask (b)</b>

**(b) Have you ever lived in a house, bungalow or flat?**

Yes	01	<b>Ask (c)</b>
No	02	<b>Go to Section E</b>

**(c) Why did you leave?**

**(d) When did you last live in this type of accommodation?**

Less than 1 year ago	01
1 year but less than 3 years ago	02
3 years but less than 5 years ago	03
5 years but less than 10 years ago	04
10 years or longer ago	05

**(e) Why do/did you live in 'bricks and mortar' accommodation?**

## E TRAVELLING IN THE FUTURE

**E1 Do you expect to move to a new permanent base in the next two years?**

Yes	01	<b>Ask (b)</b>
No	02	<b>Go to E4</b>

**(b) What are your main reasons for wanting or needing a new permanent base?**

**(c) Where do you expect to establish this permanent base?**

**(d) What are your main reasons for wanting to move there?**

**(e) If you move, how close would you want to live to the following (in terms of journey length by vehicle)?**

	Less than 5mins	Less than 15 mins	Less than 30 mins	Less than 1 hour	1 hour or more
Shopping facilities	01	02	03	04	05
Doctor (GP)	01	02	03	04	05
Park or open space	01	02	03	04	05
Public transport (i.e. bus stop)	01	02	03	04	05
Sports/leisure centre	01	02	03	04	05
Council/neighbourhood office	01	02	03	04	05
Library	01	02	03	04	05
Cultural/recreational facilities	01	02	03	04	05
Local schools	01	02	03	04	05
Childcare facilities	01	02	03	04	05
Local hospital	01	02	03	04	05
Pharmacy/chemist	01	02	03	04	05
Dentist	01	02	03	04	05
Care for elderly/sick family members	01	02	03	04	05
Main travelling routes	01	02	03	04	05

**(f) Are there any other services and facilities that it would be important for you to live close to?**

**(g) If you move to a new permanent base, would you prefer to live in a town or village, adjacent to a town or village, or in the open countryside?**

In a town/village	01
Adjacent to a town/village	02
Open countryside	03

**E2 When you move to a new permanent base, will you take this caravan with you or replace it by moving to a different home?**

Take this caravan	01	<b>Go to E3</b>
Move to a different home	02	<b>Ask (b)</b>

**(b) How much would you expect this new home to cost?**

Less than £1,000	01
£1,000 but less than £5,000	02
£5,000 but less than £10,000	03
£10,000 but less than £20,000	04
£20,000 but less than £30,000	05
£30,000 but less than £40,000	06
£40,000 but less than £50,000	07
£50,000 or more (code and write in)	08
-----	
Nothing	09

**(c) Would you be able to afford this cost?**

Yes	01
No	02

**E3 If you move to a new permanent base, which of the following types of accommodation would you most like to move to?**

*Whole house that is...*

House or bungalow	01	<b>Go to E4</b>
Purpose built flat	02	"
Converted flat	03	"

*Caravan/trailer that is on a...*

Council run authorised site	04	"
Private site owned by others	05	"
Private site owned by you	06	<b>Ask (b)</b>
Authorised transit site	07	<b>Go to E4</b>
Camp on the side of the road	08	<b>Go to E4</b>
Other (code and write in)	TX	<b>Go to E4</b>

**(b) If you purchased your own land to establish a site, in which of the following ways would you be most likely to live on that site?**

Just your family live on the land	01	<b>Go to (g)</b>
Allow other families to rent/have pitches	02	<b>Ask (c)</b>

**(c) If you would allow other families to rent/have pitches, would you be selective on who you let pitches to?**

Yes	01	<b>Ask (d) Go to (e)</b>
No	02	

**(d) If yes, who in general would you let pitches to?**

Close family	01
Extended family	02
Close friends	03
Other (write in)	TX

**(e) How many caravans/trailers would you expect to accommodate on the land?**

**(f) If you were to buy land to accommodate this number of caravans, would it be funded by just your family?**

Yes	01
No	02

**(g) (i) How much would you expect to be able to afford to pay for your own land, (ii) How much would be your absolute maximum?**

	<b>(i)</b>	<b>(ii)</b>
Less than £5,000	01	01
£5,000 but less than £10,000	02	02
£10,000 but less than £20,000	03	03
£20,000 but less than £30,000	04	04
£30,000 but less than £40,000	05	05
£40,000 but less than £50,000	06	06
£50,000 but less than £60,000	07	07
£60,000 but less than £70,000	08	08
£70,000 but less than £80,000	09	09
£80,000 but less than £90,000	10	10
£90,000 but less than £100,000	11	11
£100,000 or more (code and write in)	12	12

**E4 Are additional caravans needed by members of this family regardless of who will purchase them?**

Yes	01	<b>Ask (b) Go to (e)</b>
No	02	



**(b) Which members of this family need additional caravans?**

Older children	01
Adult relatives	02
Other (write in)	TX

**(c) How many additional caravans are needed?**

One	01
Two	02
Three	03
Four	04
Five	05
Six or more	06

**(d) If these family members gained their own caravan would they continue travelling with you?**

Yes - All	01
No	02
Some (write in)	TX

**(e) Do any members of your family expect to leave permanently to live elsewhere in the next two years?**

Yes	01
No	02

**Ask (f)  
Go to F1**

**(f) Which members of the family expect to leave permanently to live elsewhere in the next two years?**

**(g) If yes, what type of accommodation would they like to move to?**

*Whole house that is...*

House or bungalow	01
Purpose built flat	02
Converted flat	03

*Caravan/trailer that is on a...*

Council run authorised site	04
Private site owned by others	05
Private site owned by you	06
Authorised transit site	07
Camp on the side of the road/illegally	08
Other (code and write in)	TX

**(h) Where do you expect them to move to?**



## F FAMILY PROFILES

**F1 To which of these groups do you consider (i) you and (ii) other members of your family belong? Choose as many or few as apply.**

	(i) You	(ii) Other family
	<b>Members</b>	
Romany	01	01
English Gypsy or Traveller	02	02
Irish Gypsy or Traveller	03	03
Scottish Gypsy or Traveller	04	04
Welsh Gypsy or Traveller	05	05
Gypsy Traveller	06	06
Other Gypsy or Traveller (code and write in)		TX TX
-----		
None of these groups	07	07

**F2 For each person living in this family now, please tell me their relationship, if any, to you.**

- Husband, wife or partner
- Son or daughter (inc. adopted, step-, fostered & -in-law)
- Brother or sister (inc. half-, step & -in-law)
- Parent (inc. -in-law)
- Niece or nephew
- Grandparent
- Grandchild
- Not related
- Other related (code and write in)

**F3 For each person, please tell me if they are male or female.**

	<b>Respondent</b>
Male	01
Female	02

**F4 For each person, please tell me his or her age.**

**Respondent**

Write in age in years .....

**(b) For each child, where are they currently schooled?**

- Primary school
- Secondary school
- Other (code and write in)

**(c) For each child, how long have they attended this school?**

**F5 For each family member aged 16 or over, please tell me their current working status?**

	<b>Respondent</b>
Working in a permanent job	01
Undertaking casual/temporary work	02
Undertaking seasonal work	03
Registered unemployed	04
Student/full-time education	05
Retired	06
Long term sick/disabled	07
Looking after home/family	08
Full time carer	09
Other (code and write in)	TX

**(b) What type of work do you currently undertake?**

**(c) Where do you work?**

**(d) Have you undertaken any other types of work during the last two years?**

Yes	01	<b>ask (e)</b>
No	02	<b>Go to F6</b>

**(e) What other types of work have you undertaken?**

**F6 Do any of the people currently living as part of your family suffer from any long-term illness, health problem, mental health problem or disability?**

Yes	01	<b>Ask (b)</b>
No	02	<b>Go to end</b>

**(b) Who suffers from these problems?**

**Respondent**

01

**(c) Which problems do they suffer from?**

**Respondent**

Visual impairment	01
Hearing impairment	02
Wheelchair user	03
Other walking or mobility difficulties	04
Mental health problem	05
Learning disability or mental handicap	06
Diabetes	07
Other long-term illness or sickness	08
Difficulties due to old age or frailty	09
Other (code and write in)	TX

**(d) Are they registered disabled?**

**Respondent**

Yes	01
No	02

**(e) Are any adaptations required in your current home to meet their needs?**

Yes	01
No	02

**F7 Thinking of all family members who have long-term problems, which of the following describes their support needs?**

Require permanent 24 hour care or support	01	<b>Ask (b)</b>
Require regular overnight care or support	02	"
Require regular daily care or support	03	"
Require occasional care or support	04	"
They are able to support themselves	05	<b>Go to end</b>

**(b) Who currently provides support for these family members?**

Other family members (living at this address)	01
Other family, friends or neighbours (living elsewhere)	02
Social Services	03
Health service or NHS trust	04
Voluntary groups	05
Privately employed carer(s)	06
Private care agency	07
On-site warden	08
Landlord (e.g. HA support team)	09
No support currently provided	10

**(f) Thinking of the care and support provided, which of the following best describes the current situation?**

Respite care is needed for the carer	01
More support services are required	02
Want to move to sheltered accommodation	03
Need to move to supported housing	04
Need to move to a residential home, nursing home or hospital	05
Their support needs are met satisfactorily	06

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