

Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

Policy DM31, Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

1. **The Council will meet the need for additional Gypsy and Travellers pitches and plots for Travelling Showpeople as identified in the Gypsy and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment (GTTSAA). Sites are allocated for additional pitches and plots in policies BU4 and BU5 to meet this need.**
2. **In accordance with the assessment, the Council will work with neighbouring authorities to determine whether there is a need for a transit site in a wider area and to address any need identified in a suitable location.**
3. **Development for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, including transit sites, will be permitted where:**
 - a. **there is an identified need for the pitch or plot provision which the proposal helps to meet;**
 - b. **the site is able to accommodate both residential use and where necessary the range of economic activities and vehicles associated with residents' mobile lifestyles without unacceptable impact on local amenities, road safety, heritage, landscape or biodiversity interests;**
 - c. **the site has safe and convenient access to existing and proposed services and facilities to serve the residents, including education, health facilities and shops;**
 - d. **the site has or can be viably provided with utility services; and**
 - e. **the site has vehicular access to and from the strategic road network adequate to accommodate mobile residential units and any vehicles/ machinery associated with residents' working activities.**
4. **Existing Gypsy and Travellers sites and Travelling Showpeople sites permitted in the Borough, and any new sites granted permission and implemented, will be safeguarded for these purposes as long as the need exists for accommodation within the Borough.**

5.139 Part of meeting the housing needs in Eastleigh Borough is addressing the needs of travelling communities. The Council is required to assess needs and then identify suitable sites for permanent and transit site accommodation to meet these needs.

5.140 The Council produced a Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment (GTTSAA) for Eastleigh in 2017⁵⁵. This applied the updated national Planning Policy for Travellers sites (PPS 2015)⁵⁶ definition of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople to consider the existing provision in the Borough and the future needs.

5.141 The GTTSAA identifies the current provision in Eastleigh Borough. There are 29 pitches on 17 Gypsy and Traveller sites and an additional four plots on two Travelling Showpeople yards. By 2036 there is a confirmed need for four permanent Gypsy and Traveller pitches and three permanent plots (from Travelling Showpeople households living elsewhere in Hampshire but with a connection to Eastleigh). The GTTSAA estimated one additional Gypsy and

⁵⁵ ORS Eastleigh Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2017

⁵⁶ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/457420/Final_planning_and_travellers_policy.pdf

Traveller pitch and two further Travelling Showpeople plots are likely to be needed to address unconfirmed need. This need is unconfirmed at this stage as sites were surveyed but interviews were not able to be completed.

- 5.142 The criteria in policy DM31 helps ensure Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople sites have access to services, facilities and utilities, suitable vehicular access and do not have an unacceptable impact. Policies BU4 and BU5 allocate sites for pitches. Applications received for additional sites will be assessed against the criteria in policy DM31. These include whether there is an identified need which the proposal helps to meet. This may reflect newly arising need and those needs which are currently unconfirmed.

A healthy community

Community facilities

5.143 Community facilities include a wide range of services and facilities which are divided broadly into:

- Recreation and open space
- Community, leisure and cultural facilities

Recreation and open space

Relevant issues and objectives

Issues (Chapter 2): G4, C1

Objectives (Chapter 3): ii, iv, v, vii, viii

Related local and national strategies/policies (see Appendix B)

Source	Reference/title
Eastleigh Borough Council	Sports Facility Needs Assessment and Playing Pitch Strategy Update 2017 Eastleigh Open Space Needs Assessment 2017 Play Strategy and Action Plan 2007-2017 Cultural & Creative Industries Strategy 2015-19 Public Arts Strategy 2015-19
Eastleigh Borough Council and partners	Draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2016)
PfSH	Green Infrastructure Strategy
Hampshire County Council	River Hamble Harbour Board Strategic Vision and Strategic Plan
NPPF	Paragraphs 74-75

5.144 An important part of the Borough Council's health strategy is to promote healthy living, including engagement in physical activity. The Council therefore considers the provision and protection of recreation and open space facilities to be an essential part of its vision and strategy for the communities of the Borough. This will also accord with the vision, strategic aims and objectives of the Hampshire County Council Physical Activity Strategy 2018-21.

5.145 The definition of recreation facilities and open space is very wide-ranging, including indoor and outdoor facilities,

and ranging from informal play areas, amenity spaces, natural habitats/wildlife sites and country parks to more formal sports pitches, courts, greens, athletics tracks etc. It can also include rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs. With the exception of indoor facilities, many of these also fall within the broad definition of green infrastructure. The Open Space Needs Assessment 2017 has not included a review of cemetery provision, as in the Local Plan cemeteries are addressed under the heading of community facilities.

- 5.146 The Council has carried out studies of recreational needs and provision in the Borough, the Open Space Needs Assessment 2017 and the Sports Facility Needs Assessment and Playing Pitch Strategy Update 2017 established standards of provision for certain types of recreation and open space, specifically:

- Formal outdoor sports facilities such as playing fields, pitches, greens and courts;
- Indoor sports facilities such as swimming pools, gymnasiums and squash courts;
- Amenity open space including play space, wildlife sites and country parks;
- Allotments.

The Council seeks to protect those forms of sports and recreation facilities set out above (policy DM32), and to secure additional provision in association with residential schemes (policy DM33) and through the development of new facilities (policy DM34).

Policy DM32, Protection of recreation and open space facilities

1. **The loss of existing or allocated recreation and open space facilities, including those identified on the policies map, are only likely to be permitted in exceptional circumstances, where:**
 - a. **the Council's Sports Facility Needs Assessment and Playing Pitch Strategy Update and/or Open Space Needs Assessment clearly identifies the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or**
 - b. **any loss would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or**
 - c. **the development is for alternative recreation or open space facilities, the need for which clearly outweighs the loss.**

Any replacement provision should be made available for use prior to commencement of development.

2. **Development ancillary to the recreational use may be permitted on recreation sites provided that it does not adversely affect land forming part of, or capable of forming part of, a playing pitch/court/green.**

- 5.147 Sports pitches, sports facilities, parks and amenity open space contribute substantially to the quality of life in and around urban areas. As well as visual amenity and setting for/separation between areas of development, they also provide opportunities for outdoor recreation, and for biodiversity. Wildlife sites are often accessible to the public, but public access may not be provided to areas or sites where this would be likely to harm the wildlife interest. Associated vegetation may also have benefits in terms of helping to improve ambient air quality. The Council therefore seeks to protect all existing recreation facilities and open spaces unless they are demonstrated to be surplus to requirements through the open spaces needs assessment or the sports facility needs assessment update