

THERE IS AN UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENT ON COUNCIL LAND

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Equality Act 2010 makes it unlawful to treat someone less favourably because of a range of protected characteristics, including colour, race, and nationality, ethnic or national origins. The following of a nomadic lifestyle is lawful, it is a culture that is recognised and protected through legislation. Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers have been granted protection under the previous Race Relations Acts.

The decision to adopt a travelling lifestyle where Housing need is met through living within a vehicle either on a long- or short-term basis is made by a wide variety of people for various reasons. It is therefore important that Gypsies and Travellers are not denied the right to mainstream services that the council provides.

What we will do

- Visit the unauthorised encampment to conduct an assessment and issue the code of conduct, and the trading standards guidance leaflet
- Liaise with key partner agencies
- Serve direction under section 77 (1) of the criminal Justice and public order act 1994, stating they must vacate the land within 24 hours.
- If they do not leave as requested, we will apply to have this listed in court. Once we have a court date we will serve the encampment a court summons under section 78 of the criminal Justice and Public Order act 1994, informing them of the court date.
- Attend court for removal of trespassers on council Land.
- When the order is served they must leave the land in a reasonable time (typical period is 7 days)
- If they do not comply, we will continue to liaise with the police to assist and enforce the court order.
- Once the travellers have left; the site will be cleaned and restored as soon as possible.

What you can do

- Any criminal Activity or anti-social behaviour must be reported to the police on the 101 number
- If you require any further information, please contact the Gypsy Liaison Officer on
Tel: 01204 335217 or mobile 07789 031464

NB. This document is available on the council's website