

Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople

Accommodation Needs Assessment Report 2011



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Abbreviations and symbols used in this document

GTTS Gypsy and Traveller & Travelling Showpeople

GTANA Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment

↑ The Contents above are Hyperlinked to the relevant sections throughout the document

† Acknowledgements

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We would like to thank:

The Gypsy and Traveller Community and the Travelling Showpeople who took part in the fieldwork and the following inter agency groups involved in the fieldwork and consultation process:

Representatives from:

- Gypsy and Traveller Empowerment Group (GATE) – Community Representative
- Hertfordshire County Council – Gypsy and Traveller Section including Head of Services, Site Manager, Warden, and Support Staff
- Hertfordshire County Council – Access to Education Service – Education Officer
- Hertfordshire County Council’s Adult and Family Learning Service – Inclusion and Partnership Manager
- Community Development Agency – Play Bus Coordinators
- NHS – Health Visitors for Welwyn Hatfield and Welham Green area, and Community Development Officer

In particular, we would like to thank the Site Manager and Site Warden for all their kind assistance and time in the joint visits on the sites.

†Executive Summary

In 2011, Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council, working together with the local Gypsy and Traveller community and their representatives, and partner organisations covering access to health and education, family learning and the management of sites, reviewed the accommodation needs of Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople (GTTS).

In summary, the key findings from this review were:

- The survey and analysis of data collected indicates that there is a level of unmet need for additional new pitches within the Welwyn Hatfield area.
- There is a low turnover of pitches on the current authorised permanent local authority site and a low level of new pitches to meet the identified need for additional pitches.
- There are waiting lists for sites across Hertfordshire and there is a significant backlog of need from households living across Hertfordshire.
- There are a significant number of households living in overcrowded accommodation; larger plots should be considered on any new development sites.
- It is estimated that a total of 25 permanent site pitches may be required within the next 5 years to meet existing need. Beyond 2016, demographic growth and household formation is likely to lead to a need for additional pitches and this has been calculated using a 3 per cent compound growth approach between 2016 and 2026. This indicates a potential need for an additional of 29 pitches.
- Hertfordshire County Council's waiting list as of July 2011 demonstrates a total of 93 on the waiting list for any of the 11 sites in Hertfordshire including the sites surveyed for this assessment. (Update: as of August 2011, it is understood that this list has risen to 120 and all pitches on Hertfordshire County Council sites are occupied). Hertfordshire County Council balances the needs of those camping on the roadside or living in bricks and mortar accommodation against the interests of those already living in the authorised sites when allocating the few vacancies that arise from time to time on authorised sites.
- The qualitative data revealed that residents would welcome greater autonomy on publicly run sites and would prefer for smaller sites to be managed; between 10-20 pitches.

[†]1.0 Introduction

Local authorities have a duty under the Housing Act to assess the accommodation needs of Gypsy and Traveller residing in or resorting to the area. It also has a duty to prepare a strategy for meeting such accommodation needs, which includes the provision of sites.

Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council's Housing Objective:

"Our vision is to be a vibrant place where people choose to live, work and invest"

The borough council has a responsibility to ensure that it plays an active role in enabling housing across all tenures. Our objective is to deliver the vision for housing in order to meet the needs of our customers.

The borough council believes that raising the standards of, and access to, housing across the borough is fundamental to people's quality of life and well-being. The council is committed to providing effective housing services and it recognises that good strategic planning and partnership working are integral to ensuring that the future services provided meet the needs of our customers both now and in the future, and that services represent value for money.

The Housing Green Paper, *'Homes for the future: more affordable, more sustainable'* explained that the strategic housing role is made up of the "strategic decisions and activities associated with effective planning and delivery to meet the housing needs of all residents across all tenures".

It also identified the following five key elements which comprise the strategic housing role:

- assess and plan for the current and future housing needs of the local population across all tenures;
- make the best use of the existing housing stock;
- plan and facilitate new supply;
- plan and commission housing support services which link homes and housing support services; and
- work in partnership to secure effective housing and neighbourhood management on an on-going basis. (Department for Communities and Local Government: CLG, 2008)

The Interim Housing Strategy (2010 – 2012) sets out a locally agreed direction for addressing the housing requirements, problems and opportunities across the borough, both private (for example private rented or owner occupier) and public sector (for example council's, or housing associations).

An important aim of our Strategy is to provide advocacy and choice for customers and we are striving to improve communications with all members of the community in order to encourage greater participation in service delivery.

[†]1.1 **Assessment Aims and Objectives**

The aim of the assessment is to carry out a local study to help identify the need for additional residential and transit pitches in the borough.

The assessment takes account of the housing requirements of GTTS within the study area.

The assessment reflects CLG's guidance on conducting the Gypsy and Travellers Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTANA) 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.

1.1.1 Definitions and Scope

Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers have been recognised by the courts as being distinct ethnic groups and are recognised as having a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010.

In accordance with the "*Housing (Assessment of Accommodation Needs) (Meaning of Gypsy and Traveller) (England) Regulations 2006*", and for the purposes of assessing accommodation needs in accordance with section 225 of the Housing Act', Gypsy and Traveller means:

"Persons with a cultural tradition of nomadism or living in a caravan; and all other persons of a nomadic habit of life, whatever their race or origin, including:

- (i) such persons who, on grounds only of their own or their family's or dependant's educational or health needs or old age, have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently; and
- (ii) members of an organised group of travelling showpeople or circus people (whether or not travelling together as such).

The Housing Act 2004 requires local housing authorities to produce a housing assessment that takes into account the accommodation needs of Gypsy and Traveller. This includes the need for authorised sites for their caravans, and to have a strategy in place which sets out how any identified Gypsy and Traveller needs will be met as part of an authority's housing strategy. The local housing assessment process is the key source of information enabling local authorities to assess the level of provision that is required.

1.1.2 Travelling Showpeople's Accommodation

Showpeople are members of a community that consists of self-employed business people who travel the country, often with their families, holding fairs. Many of these families have been taking part in this lifestyle for generations. Although their work is of a mobile nature, showpeople nevertheless require secure, permanent bases for the storage of their equipment and for residential purposes. Showpeoples' quarters are increasingly occupied by some family members on a permanent basis. Older family members may stay on site for most of the year and there are advantages in children living there all year to benefit from an uninterrupted education.

Typically a site comprises areas set aside for the showpeople's accommodation – usually caravans and mobile homes – and areas where vehicles and fairground equipment can be stored, repaired and occasionally tested. The area of land set aside for accommodation by one family unit and the area of land set aside for the storage and maintenance of their equipment would collectively form a plot.

Circular 04/2007 currently sets out the national planning policy for Travelling Showpeople. For the purposes of this circular, "Travelling Showpeople" means:

"Members of a group organised for the purposes of holding fairs, circuses or shows (whether or not travelling together as such). This includes such persons who on the grounds of their own or their family's or dependants' more localised pattern of trading, educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, but excludes Gypsy and Traveller as defined in ODPM Circular 1/2006."

The assessment of Travelling Showpeople's accommodation needs should be made as part of the GTANA. The data collected through the GTANA process will inform the preparation of planning documents.

1.1.3 Planning guidance definition

For planning purposes, Circular 1/2006 contains definition of Gypsy and Traveller, which is:

"Persons of nomadic habit of life whatever their race or origin, including such persons who on grounds only of their own or their family's or dependents educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, but excluding members of an organised group of travelling show people or circus people travelling as such."

The housing and planning definitions are different because they cover different purposes. The housing definition is intended to be a much wider definition which will enable local authorities to understand the possible future accommodation needs of this group and plan strategically to meet those needs. It recognises that there will be movement between sites and bricks and mortar housing, and that an understanding of the full Gypsy and Traveller community, not just those who are currently travelling, is needed.

The GTTS Accommodation Needs Assessment is an important piece of evidence that the council will take into account when developing its planning documents.

†1.2 Defining housing need

Housing needs can have many components but generally refers to households lacking their own housing or living in housing which is inadequate or unsuitable, and who are unlikely to be able to meet their needs in the housing market without some assistance.

For the purposes of this study on GTTS it is important to understand that when referring to the term overcrowding (a form of housing need) it is not used to describe the degree of bedroom deficiency in the same way that a traditional housing survey would. Instead, it better describes the lack of pitch space which is required to accommodate household growth on a site. Other indicators of 'need' were drawn from a number of factors commonly used in housing need assessments (demographic growth, facilities and condition, waiting lists, movement intentions and aspirations).

†1.3 Methodology

This assessment considers the responses from mainly English Romany Gypsies, Travelling Showpeople and Irish Travellers. They are recognised as ethnic minority groups under the Race Relations Act (1976), as amended in 2000, who are settled in Welwyn Hatfield on public or private authorised sites, those living in 'bricks and mortar' housing and those living on the Gypsy and Traveller transit site.

Data has been mainly drawn from the following:

- The fieldwork comprised a face to face survey using a questionnaire and semi-structured interviews carried out with GTTS living in Welwyn Hatfield.
- Secondary information, including reviewing the Hertfordshire County Council's Gypsy and Traveller site waiting list, analysing the demand from those who would like to live on sites within the borough, and those who want to move out of the borough and so forth.

- The Hotline data managed by Hertfordshire County Council's Gypsy and Traveller Section, which provides an Encampment Hotline service, coordinating information on unauthorised encampments across the county. Patterns of unauthorised encampments within the borough have been reviewed for a time period between 2006-2011.

Community involvement has been a key part of the methodology, ensuring that we gain the confidence of the community in both the process and results of the survey. This has included:

- An inter agency meeting with representatives from the Gypsy and Traveller Community, the NHS, the Hertfordshire County Council's Gypsy and Traveller Section, Access to Education Section and Adult Family Learning service; the Community Development Agency and the borough council's Planning Policy and Strategic Housing Services. The meeting was arranged in order to discuss the purpose of the assessment, to develop and agree the design of a questionnaire to be used in fieldwork and to work with the support of local staff to promote and undertake the fieldwork with the Gypsy and Traveller Community; and
- Regular contact between site managers and professionals mentioned above to arrange access to sites and introduce the fieldwork officer onto sites;
- Quantitative and qualitative data has been gathered and analysed to inform the findings of this study.
- Desktop analysis was used to assess the back-log of need in the local area.

The findings reported here are based upon the survey responses and the officer's observations and analysis of the research indicated.

The results will be used as evidence to inform policy development in Housing and Planning in Welwyn Hatfield.

†1.4 Limitations to the assessment

Both English Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers participated in the survey. However the majority of respondents were English Romany Gypsies and only two responses were from Irish Travellers. As only a limited number of responses were obtained from Irish Travellers, the overall population of this ethnic group living in the borough is not known, there is a possibility that any wider housing needs of the Irish Traveller community may not be fully reflected in this study.

The Council worked very closely with the Education Officer who has access to families from the Gypsy and Traveller community including those who reside in bricks and mortar. During the fieldwork only one household agreed to participate therefore due to the small sample size, this is not considered to be a representative sample. Whilst anecdotal evidence suggests that many Gypsy and Traveller residing in Bricks and Mortar wish to move back to a site or even those who have never lived on a site have cultural connections and a desire to live on site. In this assessment, we have been unable to find any evidence of need, if any, from those living in bricks and mortar to live on sites. There may be Gypsy and Traveller households who apply for housing via the housing waiting list and this flow between sites and bricks and mortar is a dynamic which is not capable of being assessed at the current time. For example, table 14 in this report indicates that of the 42 respondents, four were already registered on the waiting list and four would consider applying for housing.

It was brought to our attention during this assessment that a number of pitches on sites are “doubled up”, (where more than one family/household is sharing one pitch). It is understood that five pitches are doubled up and effectively tolerated on the public site in order to cope with a general shortage of suitable alternative pitch availability for family members elsewhere (although not necessarily in the borough). At least one pitch is known to be doubled up on a private site. At least four of these households are known to be on the Hertfordshire County Council’s waiting list.

†1.5 Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople in Welwyn Hatfield

The following groups participated in this study:

- Households living on authorised permanent sites (public and private);
- Households living on the Gypsy and Traveller transit site located at South Mimms, Junction 23 of the M25, which is outside the borough;
- Households living in bricks and mortar accommodation within the Borough; and
- Travelling Showpeople living in Welham Green, Hertfordshire.

The assessment also took into account evidence relating to unauthorised developments and illegal encampment patterns in the borough.

1.5.1 Permanent Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople sites

Surveys were successfully conducted on all three of the borough’s authorised permanent Gypsy and Traveller sites. Holwell site has 39 pitches and is a public site, managed and owned by Hertfordshire County Council’s. Barbarville has 11 pitches and is a private site,

owned by a charitable trust called "the Barbara Cartland Onslow Romany Trust". Four Oaks is a private site and has 5 pitches. Fieldwork was also successfully carried out with the family living on the borough's Travelling Showpeople site. The response rate achieved from the fieldwork carried out on the borough's authorised permanent Gypsy and Traveller sites was as follows:

Table 1

Site	Total number of pitches	Response rate achieved	No Response (Percentage)	Empty pitches
Holwell (public)	39	34 (87%)	5 (13%)	0
Barbaraville (private)	11	7 (64%)	4 (36%)	0
Four Oaks (private)	5	*1(5) (20/100%)	0	0
Total	55	42 (84%)	9 (16%)	0

** Note: Four Oaks is a family owned site and in this instance, one family member participated in the fieldwork on behalf of the extended family group, representing 5 households living on the site.*

1.5.2 Bricks and Mortar

There are Gypsy and Traveller households living in bricks and mortar in the borough. However, data on the size of this population is extremely limited.

Whilst the Council worked together with partner agencies to include households living in Bricks and Mortar in the fieldwork, we were only able to conduct a 'face to face' survey with one household living in Bricks and Mortar in Welwyn Hatfield. As this is such a small sample, this data cannot be considered as being representative.

1.5.3 Travelling Showpeople

The study includes an assessment of the household characteristics and accommodation needs of Travelling Showpeople living in the borough, including any spatial requirements for storage, and maintenance of fairground rides.

There is one authorised Travelling Showpeople site in the borough close to the village of Welham Green. The land is privately owned and occupied by a family who have for generations lived on and managed the site, including any equipment they own. The fieldwork included an interview with a member of the family whose responses were made on behalf of an extended family of ten individuals.

1.5.4 Transit site

South Mimms is the only transit site within Hertfordshire. It is situated close to Junction 23 of the M25 and the A1M and is located within the borough of Hertsmere. The site is owned

and managed by Hertfordshire County Council and has spaces for 15 pitches. 14 were occupied at the time of the assessment.

Six surveys were conducted on the Transit site to establish if the community are travelling in seasonal periods and using the transit sites for stop and go or whether the transit site is being used on a longer term basis, which may demonstrate a shortage in permanent pitches. Questions were also asked to establish if families have any local connection within Hertfordshire or if they have any intentions to remain.

The response rate achieved from the fieldwork carried out on the Transit site was as follows:

Table 2

Site	Total pitches	Response rate	No Response	Empty pitches
South Mimms	15 (100%)	6 (40%)	8 (53%)	1 (7%)

†2.0 Quantitative Assessment: Permanent Authorised sites

This section reports on data and information for the following permanent (authorised) Gypsy and Traveller sites in the borough, they are: Holwell (public provision), Barbaraville (private provision), and Four Oaks (private provision). The data for these permanent sites are demonstrated in tables 3-14; this excludes any assessments on the South Mimms Transit site and Travelling Showpeople site.

Data collected on South Mimms Transit site is demonstrated on table 15 whilst a qualitative method has been adopted for the Travelling Showpeople site in the borough, this is demonstrated in the qualitative findings of the report.

In total 42 respondents participated out of a total sample of 55 families/households living in all three of the borough’s permanent Gypsy and Traveller sites (†refer to table 1).

Table 3 Population

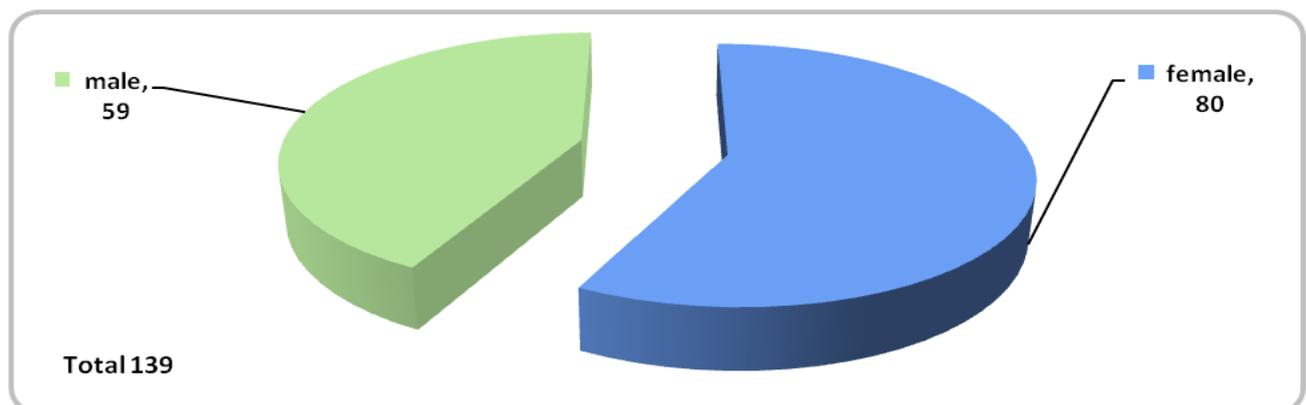
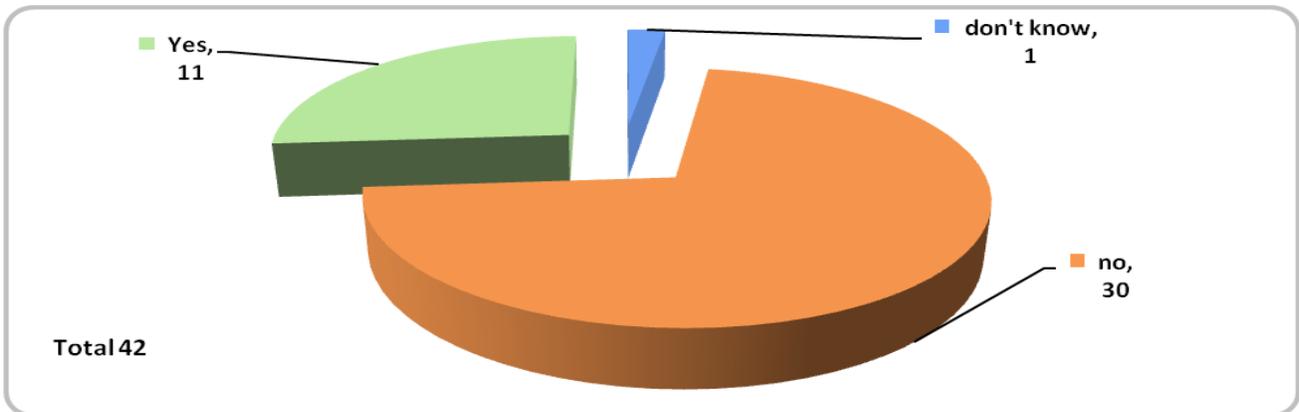


Table 3 demonstrates that 42 respondents were representing the views of 139 individuals of which 80 were female and 59 were male. The majority of respondents were female. Limited information on spouses was provided through the fieldwork.

The population is generally very settled, with a large number of respondents having lived on the site for their whole lives or for lengthy periods.

2.1 Table 4 Over-Crowding



Overcrowding is defined by size of pitch

Concepts of over-crowding are sometimes different among the Gypsy and Traveller community from those residing in Bricks and Mortar.

By and large the Gypsy and Traveller consider overcrowding by the size of their pitch. The need to acquire further trailers for growing families in order to have separate sleeping/living accommodation for household members, depending on the age and sex of the family members concerned. In this context, 'over-crowding' could mean too small a plot to accommodate the desired number of trailers/mobile home/ 'chalet'. There can also be restrictions to the number of trailers allowed per pitch particularly to public sites. For instance the fieldwork carried out in Holwell (public site), Hertfordshire County Council will allow 2 caravans per pitch which could include a caravan trailer, mobile home or 'chalet'. Therefore overcrowding in this context for the public site could also mean restrictions to the number of trailers/mobile home/ 'chalet' allowed which can exacerbate households overcrowding situation.

The survey asked respondents living on authorised sites (public and private) to indicate if they considered themselves to be overcrowded by pitch size. The responses were as follows:

Yes	11
No	30
Don't know	1

However, 2 respondents out of the 11 respondents who stated “yes” to overcrowding did not demonstrate a need for an additional pitch to meet the accommodation needs of any newly forming households in the next 5 years. Their overcrowding was determined by the inadequate size of their pitch rather than the need for an additional pitch.

5 out of the 30 respondents, who said “no” to overcrowding however, also indicated a need for a separate pitch for existing family members who would need to form their own household within the next 5 years. This reflects the age of mainly young adult children living within existing households who whilst not living in overcrowded conditions, may need to set up their own home in the future.

A number of respondents are under-occupying their plots and expressed no desire to move. This was particularly true of the older respondents.

2.2 New family formation in the next 5 years

The survey asked ‘in addition to your existing family needs, are any of your family currently living with you, likely to need to set up their own separate home within the next 5 years’.

Table 5 demonstrates the responses to this question

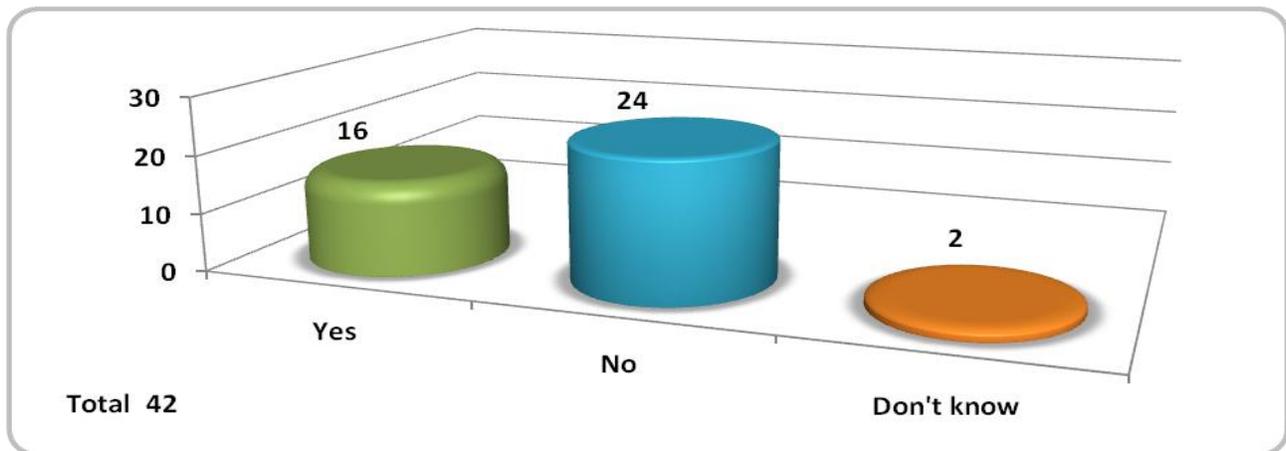


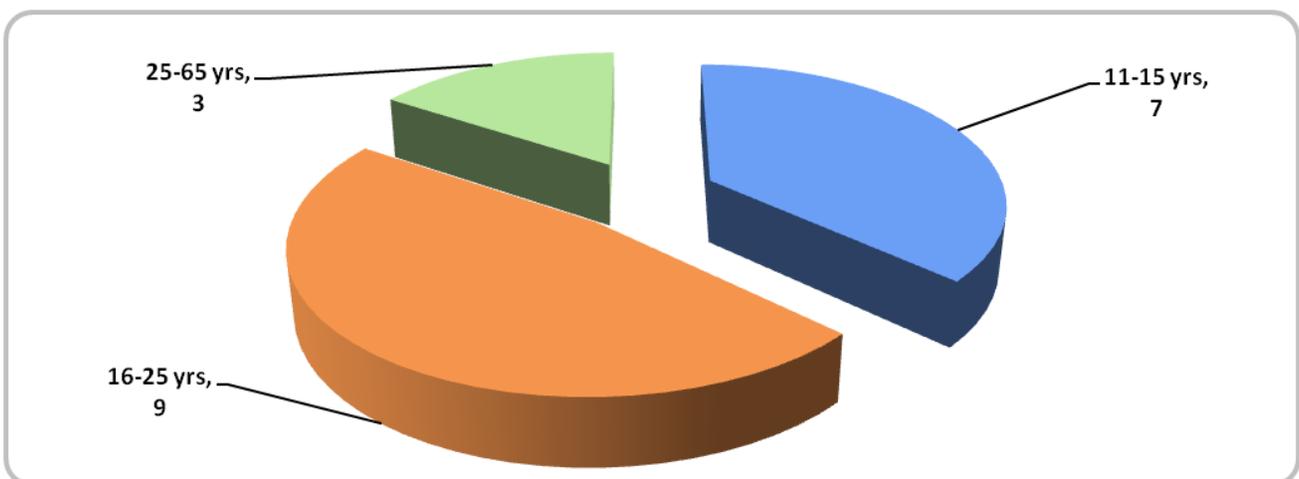
Table 5 demonstrates that 16 respondents living on the borough’s permanent public and private Gypsy and Traveller sites considered that there would be a need for additional pitches to meet the accommodation needs of existing family members who will need to form a separate household within the next 5 years. Some respondents indicated that there would be more than one family member who would need to form their own household within the next 5 years. The age profile of existing individual household members who, in the respondent’s opinion, will need to form their own household in the future is demonstrated in table 6.

[†]Table 6 Age Profile of those who need to form their own household within the next 5 years

11-15 years old	16-24 years old	25-65 (plus) years old
12	16	25
12	16	27
14	18	47
14	19	
14	19	
15	19	
15	19	
	20	
	22	
7	9	3
Total number of newly forming households		19

The age profile as demonstrated in Table 6 of newly forming households within the next 5 years does not automatically follow that every individual will form a separate household and require a new pitch. Some new households may comprise more than one person, for example forming a new household through marriage. If a pitch is required, it does not automatically follow that all pitches will need to be located within the borough as some individuals may choose to move away from the area in the future. However, the respondents indicated a strong desire for families to stay close together locally if possible, this data is captured in [†]Table 9.

Table 7 19 newly forming households: by age



The responses from the fieldwork indicated in table 7 that there is the potential for 19 newly forming households arising from existing residents of the borough’s permanent public and private Gypsy and Traveller sites (this includes 3 couples and their children) out of the 16 respondents who said 'yes' ([†]refer to Table 5) to having a need for additional pitch provision

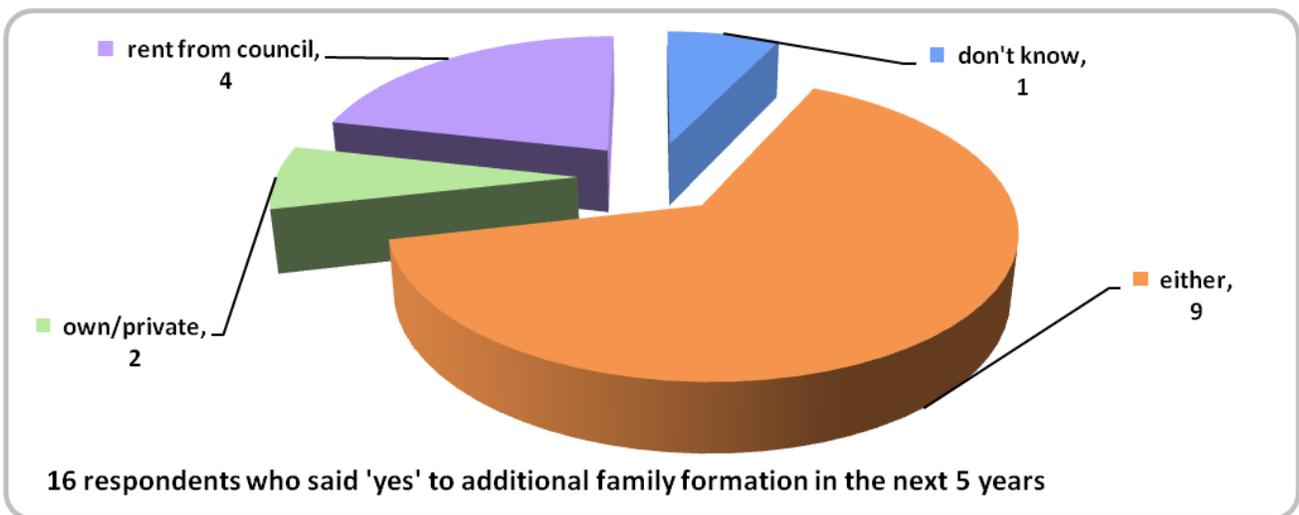
within the next 5 years. However 7 of those potential newly forming households are currently aged 11-15. Respondents over the age of 65 plus did not demonstrate any need for moving to another site or to Bricks and Mortar for any support.

It is clear from the population age structure, which includes a very high percentage of children that household growth will continue after 5 years.

2.3 Preferred Tenure

The 16 respondents who answered 'yes' (↑refer to Table 5) to additional family formation within the next 5 years, were also asked 'what type of tenure they would prefer?'

Table 8 below demonstrates their response.

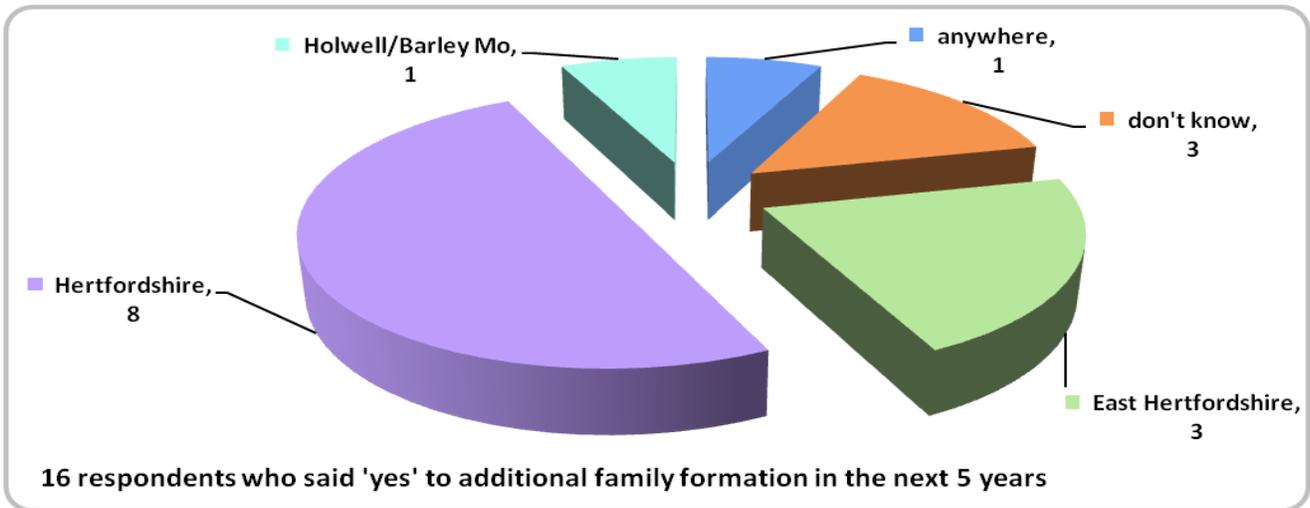


The respondents indicated their requirement to move to another site and live in a caravan/mobile home/'chalet', as demonstrated in Table 8. 9 respondents indicated they did not mind if their tenure was council, private or owned. 4 respondents indicated they would prefer council tenure. 2 respondents indicated the tenure to be either private or owned and 1 respondent indicated they did not know what type of tenure their family member would wish to occupy. No respondents indicated they would like to move to Bricks and Mortar.

2.4 Preferred Locations to live for newly forming households

The 16 respondents who answered 'yes' (↑refer to Table 5) to additional family formation in the next 5 years, were also asked about their preferred location of where they would prefer to reside. This is demonstrated in table 9.

↑ Table 9 Preferred Locations



8 respondents indicated they would like to live within Hertfordshire, 3 specified the East Herts District area, which is very close to the Holwell site. One respondent specified a preference for particular sites (Holwell / Barley Mo). The majority of respondents living on the public site (Holwell) did mention, as a first choice, that they would like their family members to be able to remain on Holwell. However, because families felt there was no room for any extension of the existing site, they did not see the point in specifying this as a preference. This feedback is not captured in the data shown in Table 9.

Table 10 Reason why newly forming households would like to live in a specified location

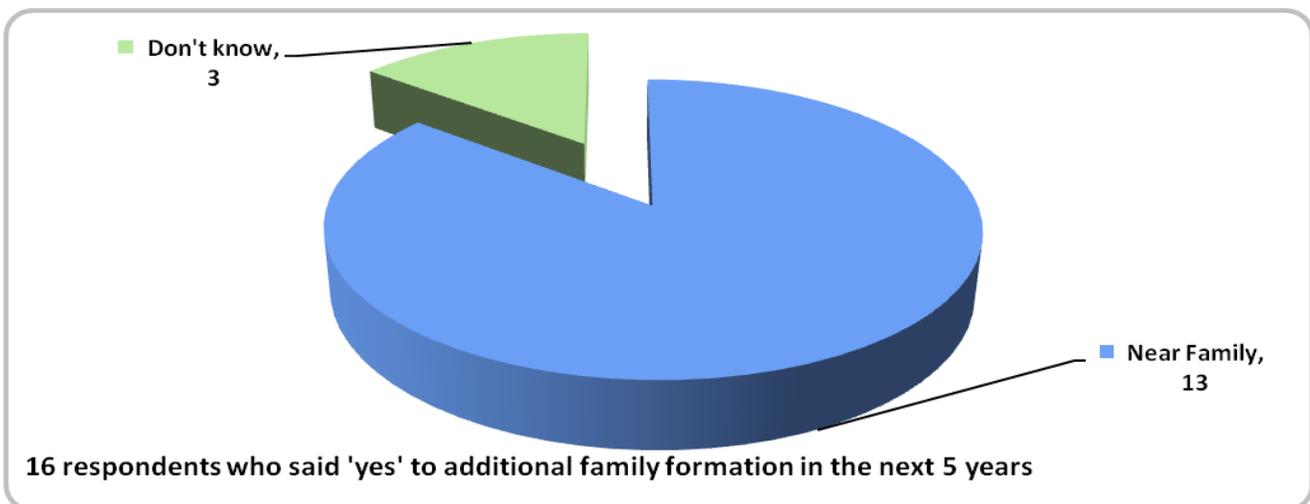
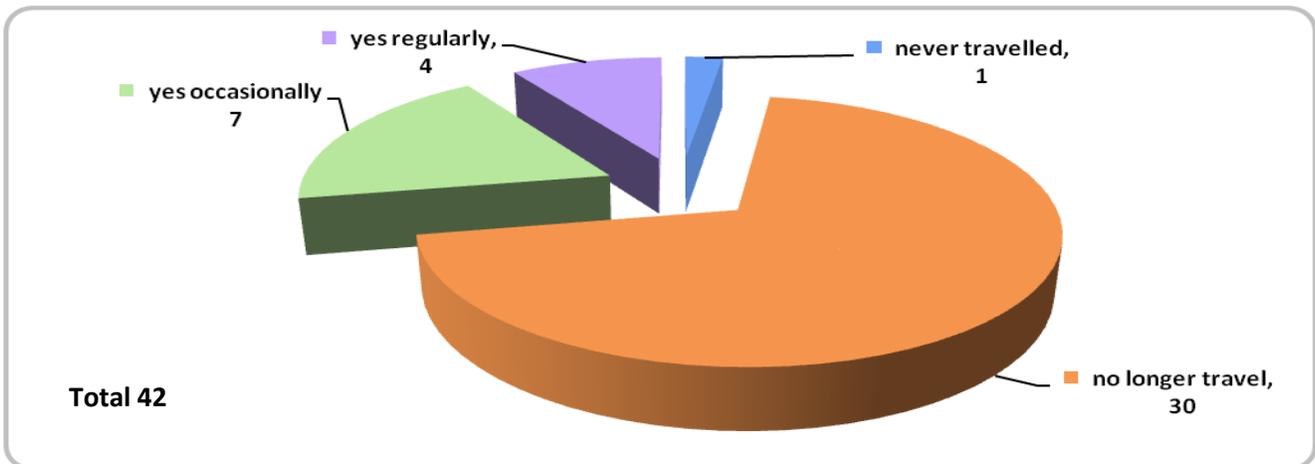


Table 10 demonstrates that the 16 respondents who answered 'yes' (↑ refer to Table 5) for newly forming households within the next 5 years indicated a high level of response to remain living close to their families.

Table 11 Respondents Travelling



All 42 respondents (public and private) were asked 'if they use their caravan trailers for travelling'. Table 11 demonstrates that there are low levels of travelling in the borough's public and private sites.

The majority of respondents indicated that families are no longer travelling and that communities were becoming more settled on sites. This could be connected to wider policy issues, like for instance restrictions on encampments. A fear of crime, or feeling threatened by other groups of people who may not necessarily accept Gypsy and Traveller in the area, was a reason for not travelling and wishing to lead a more settled existence.

The survey asked 42 respondents (public and private) about the need for Transit sites in the local area.

Table 12 Transit Site Demand

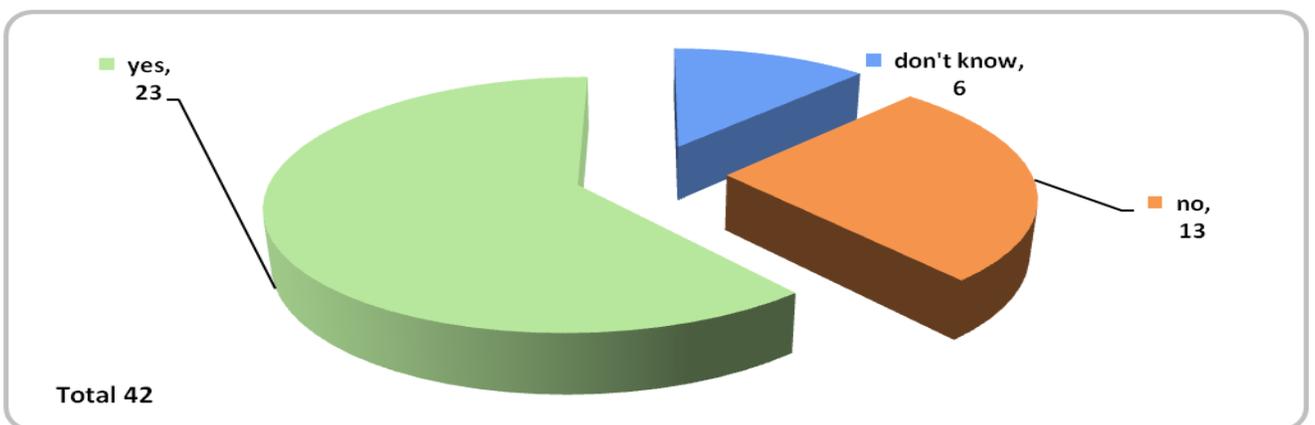
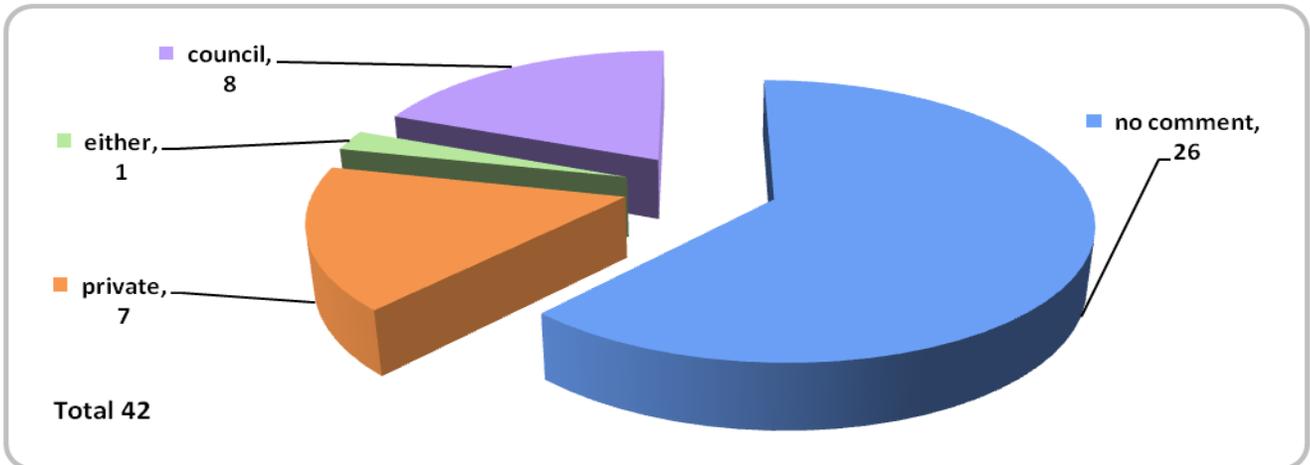


Table 12 demonstrates that 23 respondents were of the opinion that there was a need for transit provision, however the majority of responses indicated that Transit sites are more frequently used as a more settled residence because there is nowhere else to go and households are no longer travelling for work or short breaks as they used to historically.

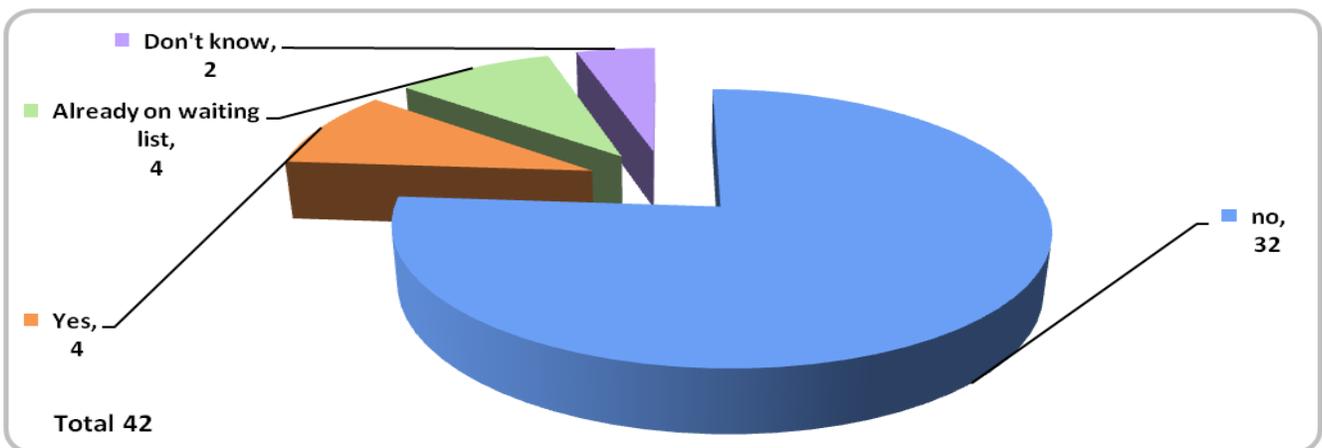
This may suggest that if more permanent pitches were to be provided the pitches on the existing transit site could have a more frequent turnover to meet the needs of households visiting the area.

Table 13 Preferred Tenure of Transit Sites



Should transit provision be possible to provide, all 42 respondents (public and private) indicated that their preference for who should manage transit sites demonstrated in Table 13. Those respondents who said transit sites should be managed by a Gypsy or Traveller cited reasons of security. The majority of these respondents already reside on a private site and felt that a transit site should also be private. The majority of those who already reside on a public site felt happy for a Council to manage transit sites as opposed to a Gypsy and Traveller. These respondents felt that transit sites would be better regulated by the Council as opposed to a private site.

Table 14 Applying for the Council's Housing Register



All 42 respondents (public and private) were asked if they would consider applying on the council's housing register. Table 14 demonstrates that most respondents would not consider an application for the Council's Housing Needs Register. The majority of these

respondents have always resided on a caravan site within their community and feel that Bricks and Mortar accommodation would restrict their freedom to communicate with their neighbours, friends or family. The minority that have responded to say they would consider applying or are already registered on the Housing Needs Register have either experienced living in Bricks and Mortar or know of someone residing in Bricks and Mortar.

2.5 The South Mimms Transit Site

In addition to asking the 42 respondents of the borough's three permanent Gypsy and Traveller sites (public and private) fieldwork was also carried out on the only transit site in the County, at South Mimms, which lies within the borough of Hertsmere. Questions were asked around the demand for transit site provision.

Table 15 Reasons why respondents have travelled to Hertfordshire

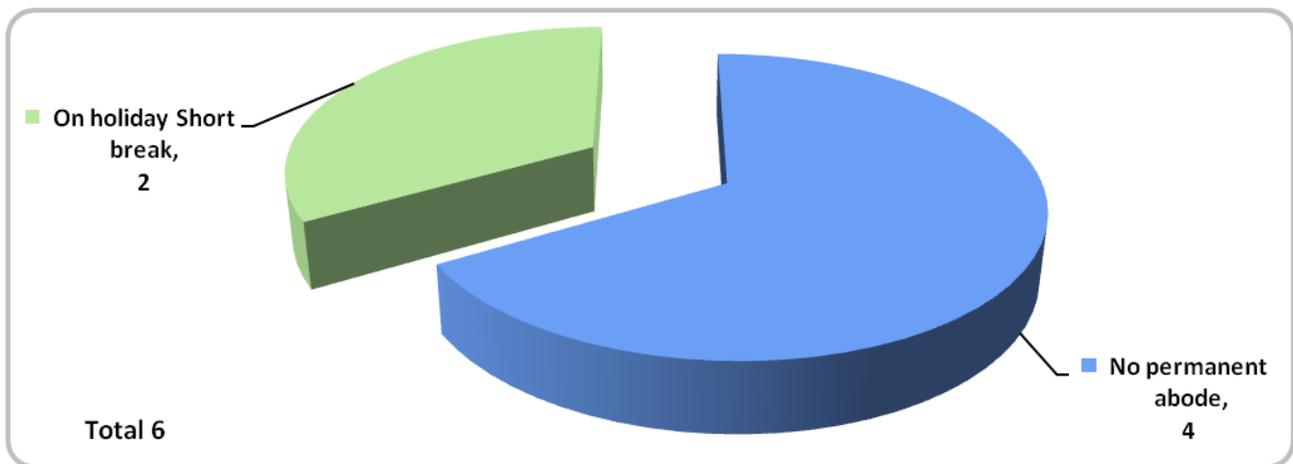


Table 15 demonstrates that of the 6 families who were interviewed on the South Mimms Transit site, 4 families indicated that they had nowhere else to reside and were looking for somewhere permanent to live. These respondents also demonstrated a family connection within Hertfordshire which initially led the respondents to the transit site. 2 of the families indicated that they would have a need for existing family members to form their own household and set up on a separate pitch within the next 5 years. Respondents were also asked if they had ever had a permanent abode before; four of the respondents indicated that they had never had a permanent pitch before; one indicated that they had previously lived on a permanent private pitch of their own outside Hertfordshire and one respondent answered they were previously tenants of Hertfordshire County Council and their last abode was in Holwell. Of the 4 respondents who answered they have never had a permanent abode before, 2 indicated a need for accommodation to meet the needs of newly forming households.

†3.0 Qualitative Assessment: Permanent authorised sites

†3.1 Holwell (public site)

The Holwell site first opened in 1965 and is a public site currently (but not originally) managed by Hertfordshire County Council. The site is predominantly occupied by English Romany Gypsies, with a small minority of Irish Travellers. The land was originally owned by a local company, Redlands as a gravel pit. Gradually over time Gypsy and Traveller occupied the land. Hertfordshire County Council recognised that there was a need to provide permanent sites for the Gypsy and Traveller community and leased the land from Redlands in 1965. Upon Hertfordshire County Council taking ownership of the land; 16 plots were concreted and designated for use. In addition to the site being built, Hertfordshire County Council supplied toilet blocks which they also managed at the time. Existing Gypsy and Traveller who had settled on the site had built their original plots to the size of their choice.

Today, the site is now effectively divided between old Holwell also known as Holwell 1 and new Holwell also known as Holwell 2. The site now has 39 pitches authorised to accommodate 78 caravans which may include a trailer, mobile home or 'chalet' (2 units per pitch of either).

An 87 per cent response rate was achieved through the fieldwork. Five households living on the Holwell site did not participate in the assessment because for the following reasons:

- A household did not wish to participate;
- An elderly man unable to participate due to ill health;
- A single man works unsociable hours and therefore unable to interview – who was not available for interview during the period of the study;
- A household who were not on site during the time of the study because they had gone travelling. The size of this family is two adults and four children; and
- A single man unavailable to take part for interview during the period of the study.

3.1.1 Potential Future family formation

There are a number of families living on the Holwell site with young children who have participated in the survey; all of which have expressed a need for a larger plot to accommodate their growing family. However the survey suggests that many who have said 'yes' to overcrowding also responded that there was no need for their additional family to set a separate pitch in the next 5 years as their family members were very young.

3.1.2 Views expressed by the residents

There was a tension amongst the community on the Holwell site in relation to what the residents called the old site - Holwell 1 and Holwell 2.

Residents in Holwell 2 live on smaller pitches than those living on Holwell 1 and made particular references to the high upkeep of maintenance on Holwell 1.

Residents located in Holwell 2 consider the pitch sizes in Holwell 1 to be more suitable because they are generally larger. During visits to the site, it was possible to see that there is more space available between pitches and for vehicles on Holwell 1. This is borne out by the findings of the survey, as the residents on Holwell 1 are generally more satisfied with their living circumstances. As previously mentioned, many residents living on the site are long standing tenants and therefore there is not a high turnover of pitches and the vacancy rate is very low.

The residents in Holwell 1 are generally from the older generation and there are a number of residents who could be considered to be 'under occupying' larger pitches.

The majority of the population living on Holwell 2 comprises of younger households with young children. There is a growing concern that due to the small pitch size on this side of the site, when the children are of an age where they will need their own caravan trailer, the pitches will become very overcrowded mainly due to the limited size of each pitch.

There is a lack of storage space for items such as children's' toys and household equipment which compounds the issue with lack of space.

There is also a lack of space on the road outside each pitch for vehicles to manoeuvre particularly work vehicles that is pick-up trucks and transit vans, owned by many of the residents on the site in general, as the road is narrower.

The general level of satisfaction was lower amongst residents on Holwell 2 than those living on Holwell 1.

3.1.3 Facilities

The residents in Holwell were generally dissatisfied with the hygiene and maintenance of the sani-units, (a small brick house with a bathroom/toilet and separate utility area, referred as the sani-unit and provided by Hertfordshire County Council).

Residents reported that mould often appears inside the sani-units and some residents stated that there is no heating in the sani-units which is a significant issue, particularly during the winter months. In fact there is a heating system, but Hertfordshire County Council

confirms that some residents are reluctant to use this, which is also the most likely explanation for the mould growth.

The officer carrying out the fieldwork was shown the current sani units and confirms that they are very small and in a very poor state. It would seem fair to say that they show signs of not having been improved or upgraded for a long time. However Hertfordshire County Council explained that Holwell 1 was upgraded in 2004 and Holwell 2 in 2008 which included a complete rebuild to some of the sani units in Holwell 1 and Holwell 2.

Many residents expressed their concerns around affordability, in particular with electricity and gas costs rising and as the majority of residents on the site are on benefits struggled to meet the costs. This may explain why some residents are reluctant to use the heating system in the sani-units.

Utility costs are of concern to many families, who consider that the rising prices have made this unaffordable although Hertfordshire County Council are of the opinion that there has been no increase in electricity costs. The impact of some families unable to afford has on occasions led to families being without electricity over the weekend because they have not sufficiently topped up their meter. Also, there have been reports of camp fire being used as a method of creating warmth during weekends.

Hertfordshire County Council have made attempts to negotiate with electricity suppliers to fit meters in each plot but this has been refused, no apparent reason has been given as to why the electricity company have refused to supply and fit meters in each plot.

Hertfordshire County Council have advised that the daily charge on electric meter is 9.5 pence a unit, (house dwellings are an average cost of 13.2 pence per unit depending on your supplier) therefore County Council state that there should not be an affordability issue amongst the residents but do recognise that it is a case of continuing to educate the residents on how to manage their electricity supply in their accommodation.

3.1.4 Community

Many residents expressed concerns relating to disruption on their site, whether it is caused by a resident or an outsider.

Similarly problems with children on sport bikes racing up and down the site have created tensions between neighbours particularly those who don't have children. Respondents felt that if a play space was created for the community, this problem would not exist, however some residents were concerned that having a play area could be problematic as it could be used as a dumping ground.

Some residents mentioned having a residents group meeting set up in order to improve the quality of life for residents in Holwell. However no residents appeared to want to take the lead in conducting the meetings. Hertfordshire County Council has since set up a resident group meeting; these meetings will be led by residents of Holwell.

3.1.5 Education

Education remained important to the majority of the residents. However, education attainment amongst the older generation was low and often they tend to rely upon the younger generation to support them. It was difficult to ascertain if education attainment was connected to their housing need in terms of overcrowding that could affect the children's studying but in general, Gypsy and Traveller' educational attainment are below national standards.

Some children are home schooled within the community. Residents explained that this is largely because they do not think that the teachers in traditional schools respond well to their needs. They suggested that the cost of home schooling is a burden and they would prefer to be able to send their children to school.

Many viewed education as important for the sake of children to be able to get by in life for instance learning how to drive and learning the basics of reading and writing. However, the majority of residents did not have any aspirations for their children to secure stable and long standing jobs and that labouring jobs like tree cutting, block paving, scrap collecting and so forth for men in particular and cleaning and caring jobs for girls continue to be the obvious jobs to secure.

Some residents have claimed that it is difficult for their children to integrate with the rest of society and some are reluctant to state they are a Gypsy and Traveller due to the prejudice they have either experienced or heard their community encountering on a daily basis when they are not amongst their community. Residents have stated that many of the children want to immerse themselves with the rest of society however they have to disguise their ethnicity because of fears of being rejected.

3.1.6 Health

Many of the older residents suffered from bone or muscular related diseases. Arthritis, Osteoarthritis and Rheumatoid arthritis appeared to be the overriding health concern followed by heart disease cancer or mental health problems. ADHD, hyper tension, learning disability and autism amongst the children was prevalent. We cannot comment on why this might be the case, but need to understand if it presents a particular issue with their accommodation or support needs and if this is currently addressed.

†3.2 Key findings from Holwell survey

A range of issues emerged from the survey including:

3.2.1 Cultural heritage and travelling patterns

All respondents were very proud of their culture and heritage.

The majority of residents continue to travel for short periods to attend community fairs or religious events to retain cultural identity. However no long periods of travelling were prevalent.

Stated reasons for this included the prohibitive cost of travelling, restrictions due to lack of suitable places to stop, preference for a settled life.

3.2.2 Connection with local area

The majority of respondents had been resident at their pitch for more than five years.

There was a general feeling that any additional residential sites or allocation of pitches should cater for only families who have a long standing association with the local area.

3.2.3 The need for sites/pitches/space

There is evidence of need for additional residential pitches.

The need for more space on pitches was particularly mentioned as a key area for improvement; in order to accommodate more caravans for growing children, and space for visitors who come with their own caravan trailers, and to be able to plug into services.

There is a high level of support for the provision of additional residential sites but not transit sites due to fear of unknown travellers entering the area; perceived to cause nuisance for local residents.

The majority of residents believed that transit sites were being used for permanent use due to the shortage of residential sites.

Increasing the number of pitches on the existing site was not supported by the majority of residents,

The majority of residents felt that the site was too big to manage well and that between 10-20 pitches was a better size to manage.

The majority of residents felt that there was a need for a new site and that if provided, allocation should go to either existing families on the site or to local people in the area.

The majority of respondents want to remain either where they currently live or close to their current location.

Some residents felt that the priority should be for the current site to be refurbished before any new site was developed.

A small minority of residents felt that no more sites were needed as it would attract too many people.

The majority of residents felt there was a lack of storage space and that if day rooms were built then the provision of storage space should also be considered.

A minority of residents felt a community centre was required where services such as NHS, education and police could be received. However others felt this may not be a good idea particularly if it is used by the police as the community would feel watched

The majority of residents made it clear that they could not afford to buy land with planning permission for their own sites even though they would ideally prefer to own their own site.

Many residents suggested that if land was leased from County Council they would be happy to manage the site and that sites should be managed by a Gypsy and Traveller as they understand the community's needs better.

Some residents stated that running the site would allow for residents to make their own choices on who could move onto the site.

Many suggested that bungalows would be very popular with the site residents – providing they had full facilities and the residents could also keep their caravan as well.

3.2.4 Access to amenities / services

There were significant references made about the lack of access to local amenities especially for those residents without a vehicle and suggestions were made about having services come to the residents on the site.

Ideally, many residents felt it was important to have a site which had access to GP and dental surgeries, schools and shops but it was also emphasised that they did not wish to have their site amongst other estates peering over the site.

The majority of residents felt the location of the site was a hindrance to their daily lives especially for the elderly and the young. Better access routes to school and bus stops would be ideal.

A lack of frequent buses and lack of shelter on the bus stops was also a difficulty amongst residents who advised that the bus stop location was dangerous for any resident to have to walk by a busy junction to get across to the bus stop. No lighting on the bus stop was also mentioned.

Some residents suggested that services like having a post man delivering post directly to their door step (residents have to collect their letters from the Warden's office), delivery men that sell staple or essential foods at the residents' door steps and services to take the older children to play centres for sport activity's would be beneficial; some claimed that many years ago this was often the service they received.

3.2.5 Support

The majority of the older residents would not contemplate receiving support from elsewhere in connection with their health and would rather rely on family living on the site or family living elsewhere in Hertfordshire to support them. This was also supported by the younger generation who believed in caring for their elderly relatives.

3.2.6 Bricks and Mortar

Very few, if any, residents wanted to move to Bricks and Mortar, although responses indicated that four households are already registered on the housing waiting list and a further four would consider applying.

The majority of residents made it clear that they do not wish to live in social or any other forms of rented housing of any kind. They want to remain within their close knit community.

3.2.7 Satisfaction with Site / Facilities

There is a mixed level of satisfaction from residents on the publicly run authorised site.

The majority of residents felt more resources were required to run the site.

The majority of residents felt that there was a lack of play areas for young children on sites and this was a significant area of concern, but equally some resident's agree to this.

In general residents felt that many sites were located in poor areas – near to pylons, motorways, ex brownfield/waste land.

Fly tipping and waste management was mentioned by the community as a real issue, there is a mixed view on who is responsible for the fly tipping, residents or outsiders?

Issues with horse faeces around the site and no one taking responsibility to clean this up was mentioned by some residents.

The majority of residents felt that a metal gate or barrier should be fixed at the front entrance for safety measures and for privacy. They also believed this would reduce incidents of fly tipping.

A resident felt that no stables should be allowed on site as they attract flies and it was felt that this was unhygienic; to live next door to horses. However, the majority of residents did not have a problem with horses being allowed on site.

Electricity supply amongst the majority of residents remained as a high priority and that residents felt meters should be fitted on each plot.

Some residents complained that more speed ramps should be fitted and that the existing speed ramps needed repairing.

There was a mixed view on the lighting of the area in Holwell; some were happy with the lighting and felt less lighting kept children indoors. However, others felt there should be more street lighting in the area but some stated; as long as it is not fitted outside their plot.

Some residents mentioned the need for a clear sign on each exit point at the end of each junction on the roundabout to let other passers-by know that there was a sharp turning on the left or right as resident's felt it was dangerous as most vehicles did not realise there is a site entrance just off the junction of A414.

Hygiene and safety issues remained high amongst the residents, for example santy rooms where their toilet/bathroom and separate utility room was situated, many complained that mould residue existed in their santy rooms and that resident's would often paint or clean in attempt to remove the mould. Residents claim that the santy rooms were badly designed in the first instance and this has not been rectified.

The majority of the residents would support the provision of a large day room which ideally should include a kitchen, separate bathroom and separate toilet along with a space for eating. This could help to reduce the number of mobile homes residents have on their plots

for cooking and living day room facilities and would allow room for more caravans for sleeping. Residents have also stated that this would reduce their costs of not having to either rent or own their mobile home.

3.2.8 Discrimination / potential for conflict

Amongst the community, there were suggestions of discrimination and conflict between English Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers. By and large, the English Romany Gypsies will not live amongst the majority of Irish Travellers on any sites. It is hard to say if Irish Travellers feel the same, as the site is predominantly occupied by English Romany Gypsies.

The residents have no general problem with harassment from the wider community. However, some residents stated that it is difficult for their children to integrate with the rest of society and some are reluctant to state they are a Gypsy and Traveller due to the prejudice they have either experienced or heard their community encountering on a daily basis. Residents have stated that many of the children have to disguise their ethnicity because of fears of being rejected.

†3.3 Barbaraville (private site)

3.3.1 History

The Barbaraville Romany Gypsy camp was set up by the author Dame Barbara Cartland on the outskirts of Hatfield 40 years ago. Currently, Barbara Cartland's son is the trustee of the charity that runs Barbaraville. The site, which has 11 pitches, is situated at Mill Green between a dual carriageway and a Thames Water sewage plant, on land rented from the ancestors of the Earl of Salisbury.

A 64 per cent response rate was achieved through the fieldwork. 4 households living on the Barbaraville site did not participate in the assessment for unknown reasons.

3.3.2 Concealed households

There is no quantitative evidence to demonstrate that there were any concealed households living on this site. However, conversations with some of the younger population suggests that there are separate families who are either sharing a plot with their parents on a permanent basis and/or families who travel during spring/summer periods and return back for the winter periods and share the same plot with their parents. One family explained that they travelled as they have never had a permanent base and would like to have a permanent base similar to that at Barbaraville.

3.3.3 General comments

The respondents were all females; there was mention of one spouse from one respondent.

The key issue arising from the visits to this site are that residents are concerned about the future of their children as a result of overcrowding by pitch size and that many desired to have a private site like Barbaraville. However, in reality, none of the residents felt in a position to be able to afford to buy their own land.

The respondents explained that they were concerned about the location of their site, describing the struggles of children attending local schools. Respondents explained that they were currently appealing against a local school nearby who had rejected her child, which was walking distance (albeit that it was a dangerous route to take; have to cross over the busy A414 junction). The alternative would mean that the respondent would be required to take a bus to get to the next nearest school but bus routes and access to frequent buses was not available.

The respondents explained that it was important for their children to have a better education, be able to secure good jobs and to integrate with society. The respondents discussed how they felt their children perhaps may decide to move to Bricks and Mortar house dwellings of some sort due to the limitations of the lack of space. However, they would ideally like their children to live the life as they did growing up.

The respondents explained that in order to have another plot on Barbaraville meant that they would have to wait for a relative to have passed away. The respondents felt that they would not wish to live on a Council run site as they felt uncomfortable with sharing the site with neighbours they are unaware of.

The respondents felt that there was no space to extend the existing site as much of the surrounding site was open fields owned privately.

The main health issues affecting residents were described as arthritis and heart problems. One respondent described how her family living nearby took care of her full support needs, such as cooking, cleaning. Although the respondent had a spare room, rarely would any family member reside in her mobile home and anyone visiting would have their own caravan to park on her pitch. In terms of adaptations fitted in the home, the respondent's home was equipped with hand rails and ramp to her front door.

The respondents did not speak about the management of the site but made references to the original founder of the site and felt very proud of being associated with the founder. The respondents did not identify any lack of facilities on the site and appeared to generally be happy with how the site is run.

The community in general is self-sufficient and managed all the affairs on the site. During the site visits the community appeared to be harmonious and united, perhaps due to the fact that there are four generations living on this site. The older generations are well respected and appear to be the main decision makers for the site.

†3.4 Key findings from Barbaraville survey

3.4.1 Satisfaction with site / facilities

The community in general appeared satisfied with their living conditions and with the conditions on the site.

3.4.2 Travelling

Many of the respondents who travel rely upon family or long standing friendships within the community to be able to get by.

3.4.3 The need for sites / pitches / space

The respondents in general felt more transit sites needed to be built. However they felt that the transit sites should be privately run and not run by non-travellers or a Council.

The respondents will not mix with Irish Travellers or other Romany Gypsies and prefer living with family.

The respondents agreed that any new site that may be developed should have access to amenities.

The respondents agreed that there was not enough space for younger family members as they grow.

A respondent explained that a few young families were doubling up on their parents pitches, demonstrating a need for more sites

Respondents felt that sites should be smaller and that sites are better managed with family or extended family living on site.

The majority of respondents want to remain either where they are or close to their present location.

Respondents felt that larger plots were required along with a garden and day rooms for the family.

Respondents stated that where a garden existed on the plot, these were being stripped away to use for their growing children's' caravan(s) to be parked on the plot.

3.4.4 Local Connection

Many residents living on the site have been living on the site for more than 11 years.

3.4.5 Support

The older residents would not contemplate receiving support from elsewhere in connection with their health and would rather rely on family living on the site to support them. This view was supported by the younger generation who believed in caring for their elderly relatives.

There was a strong sense of family union, which has been established for generations on the site.

3.4.6 Potential for conflict

Respondents felt that sites should not be mixed with Irish Travellers. However, when probed as to why the respondents would not mix, it became clear that the respondents had no prior experience of living in direct contact with Irish Travellers. Generations of growing up without integrating with Irish Travellers and hearing rumours in the community about Irish Travellers means that the respondents feel safer to live on sites with only English Romany Gypsies and preferably with family only.

There is a general sense of fear of entering a site where the respondents are not aware of who may be on the site.

3.4.7 Future Accommodation need

The survey findings are not entirely representative of all residents living on this site due to non-participation from some households. There is no secondary data available in relation to this site. However, there was support for transit site provision (providing it was privately managed) and there were indications that a few young families were doubling up on their parents pitches, demonstrating a potential need for more pitches/sites (although no evidence was supplied to support any particular quantum for a number of pitches).

†3.5 Four Oaks (private site)

3.5.1 History

This site is managed and owned privately by a large extended family. They are of a mixed race background comprising English Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers (four generations). The family has moved on and off the site since the 1980's. Planning permission was granted for 3 additional pitches in 2010, bringing the total pitch number to five (with 10 caravans). The family have predominantly settled and their seven children have all been raised in Welwyn Garden City. The site itself is located between the embankment off the A1 (M) and the B197 with access from the Great North Road.

3.5.2 General comments

The site is usually managed by the head of the family as he prefers to deal with all affairs in relation to the site. However, he was not present at the time the site was visited for this assessment and therefore another family member participated in the survey on behalf of the wider group.

The family has a day room although this did not appear to be large enough for the whole family to occupy. The day room had a small kitchen and an open space eating area in the kitchen. The respondent advised that it became very overcrowded for the family to eat in the kitchen during the day.

The family currently owns 10 caravan trailers as permitted by the Council. The family on the site has two day rooms (only one has been permitted to date) and an associated paddock, which supports the keeping horses in association with the family's main means of employment as a horse trader and breeder. The family has an existing brick and tiled permanent structure on the site of no discernable (planning) use. The family has submitted a planning application to extend the high block wall in order to mitigate noise from the A1 (M) and to erect a barn/stable to breed horses and to store a bow top vardo (a traditional wagon) which is used for horse fairs.

All the children have received some form of education, although the females of the family left school from the ages of 11-12 as the respondent states that at this age, 'traveller girls' are best to stay at home and be home schooled and learn the ways of a 'travelling lifestyle'. The family continue to travel, particularly the men in the household; to attend fairs, and the family often gather together for religious festivals. However, travelling in general for holidays has ceased due to restrictions (for example the difficulties associated with finding places to stop-over).

The respondent felt that many transit sites come with the concern of crime and a fear of crime. The family's health in general was in good condition apart from the grandparents who suffered from heart problems and arthritis.

3.5.3 Future Accommodation need

The family was happy with their current housing conditions and was generally happy with the open space of land and where the site is located. However, they felt that facilities, such as day rooms were lacking and this was something they wish to seek permission for from the Council. The family's seven children all reside on the site along with two daughter-in-laws, brother-in-law and two grandparents. The two adult children who are married have three children between them. The family was not concerned about their future housing need. They were however concerned about the needs of other Gypsy and Traveller communities in need of a pitch who have approached the family wanting to settle on their plot.

†3.6 South Mimms Gypsy and Traveller Transit Site

3.6.1 History

South Mimms is a County Council owned transit site with space for 15 pitches to accommodate for 30 trailers. It is not located within Welwyn Hatfield but it is located just to the south of the borough, within the borough of Hertsmere.

14 trailers were on site at the time of the survey (July 2011), the response rate was 40 per cent. The survey is therefore not entirely representative of all households residing at the transit site at the time of the fieldwork. Equally because this is a transit site, the answers given can only represent a snap shot of the occupiers at this time.

The South Mimms transit site is currently managed by the gatekeeper on a three year agreement. This arrangement seems to work well, as admittance to the transit site is conducted by the gatekeeper who also resides on the site. The gatekeeper carries out compatibility checks of families allowed onto the site using his knowledge of family clan names. Overall decisions on admittance are made in conjunction with Hertfordshire County Council Gypsy and Traveller Section. Transit sites in general may cater particularly for family and friends and others willing to accept a strict management regime. Families on this transit site are allowed a maximum stay for three months.

†3.7 Key findings from South Mimms Gypsy and Traveller Transit site survey

3.7.1 Need for sites

The survey showed that most families currently residing on the transit site are looking for permanent rather than temporary or transit accommodation. People interviewed on the South Mimms transit site indicated that they travelled throughout the year, but most would like to be more settled and to have a stable base.

The difficulty of finding safe places to stop on the road, the importance of getting children into schools and health reasons were the main reasons given for wishing to 'settle' from a lifestyle of continuous travelling.

Four out of the six respondents want to remain in Hertfordshire and are all on the waiting list for Holwell only, (one respondent indicated that they had registered on Welwyn Hatfield Council's Housing waiting list).

3.7.2 Travelling patterns and Local Connection

The respondents interviewed were all familiar with the site; many had been on/off for the last 12 months returning back to the Transit site. They would only leave to comply with their licence agreement which is three months maximum stay but may then be allowed to return back after 1 week (if a pitch is available).

Some respondents were travelling at the time the fieldwork was conducted (July 2011) as this is a seasonal period for Gypsy and Traveller to travel.

Some respondents have travelled for most of their lives and have never had a settled home/base before.

One household who was previously a resident of Hertfordshire County Council had to release their permanent pitch 2 years ago to care for a family elsewhere but their intentions are to remain in the area and move to the Holwell (public) site. The family are already on County's waiting list.

3.7.3 Site Management

Low levels of crime existed on site, which could be attributable to the management style and the fact that often, the same families would be allowed back onto the site providing a relative level of social stability.

Four households (but interviewed only three) were all from an extended family living on the site, all stating that they had fled from Harlow caravan site. This was their first experience of residing at South Mimms; having travelled in this direction at the community's suggestion.

3.7.4 Future Accommodation Need

The results of the survey suggest that there is a shortage of permanent provision and that there are four families residing on the transit site, (already on Hertfordshire County Council waiting list) that are in need of permanent accommodation and have indicated that Holwell is their preferred location. There is a concern that until the gap in permanent provision is addressed; any transit site provision will simply fill up with semi-permanent occupants.

†4.0 Secondary Data

†4.1 Hertfordshire County Council Waiting list

Hertfordshire County Council Gypsy and Traveller section maintains a waiting list for pitches at eleven sites across the county that it manages. One of these sites, Holwell, is located within Welwyn Hatfield. As of July 2011 the total number of people waiting for a pitch on the Holwell site only, was 24.

The Waiting list revealed out of the 24 applicants who want Holwell only; 11 were transfer applicants of which 7 are already residing on the Holwell site and 4 are residing on another site in Hertfordshire, having requested a transfer to Holwell only.

It is not clear from the waiting list if the remaining 13 applicants have any permanent abode elsewhere or whether they are currently living roadside, on illegal encampments or on unauthorised developments.

The table below demonstrates the length of time 13 of the 24 applicants have been registered on Hertfordshire County Council waiting list.

4.1.1 Non-transfer applicants on the waiting list for Holwell Site only/length of time on list

Table 16

2008	2010	2011
1	5	7
Total		13

Note: Transfer applicants do not appear to have a registration date – for the 4 transfer applicants from another site and the 7 transfer applicants already resident on Holwell, although a date is noted on the comments section of the list, it is not clear if this date is referring to the registration date. It is understood that applicants are required to reregister annually.

The number of applicants waiting for a pitch has increased in 2011. It is difficult to ascertain from the list of those applicants who have been waiting since 2008, if any offers from Hertfordshire County Council were made and whether applicants have refused any offers, which does have an overall impact on the length of time an applicant is registered.

The only existing source of supply for public pitches in the borough is plot vacancies that may arise on Holwell site. No data was available to demonstrate levels of turnover. However, we understand that vacancies rarely arise, almost zero.

†4.2 Hertfordshire County Council (Encampment) Hotline Data

Hertfordshire County Council Gypsy and Traveller Section maintain an Encampment Hotline service, which coordinates information on unauthorised encampments across the county. An encampment means that Gypsy and Traveller are occupying land that they do not own, without the permission of the land owner. The Hotline service records the location, size and (where possible) duration of individual encampments and thus provides a continuous picture across the County. It is not however comprehensive, for example departure dates may not always be reported.

Unauthorised encampments can occur in a wide variety of locations (for example at the side of the road, car parks, disused land and so forth). The data does not record unauthorised developments which are different to unauthorised encampments such as land owned by Gypsy and Traveller but being occupied without the benefit of planning permission.

For the purposes of this study, unofficial encampments have been reviewed for the Welwyn Hatfield area from 2006 (since the last GTANA was carried out) until July 2011 in order to review if any consistent patterns could be observed over the last 5 years.

At the time of survey (July 2011) one unauthorised encampment was recorded in the borough, whereby the occupier stayed for two days at the entrance to the Holwell site. The family were moved to a pitch on the South Mimms transit site (in the borough of Hertsmere).

The table below demonstrates the total number of encampments, the number of caravans and the number of families on unauthorised sites recorded by the Hotline service.

4.2.1 Number of Encampments and Caravans: Study Area 2006 to 2011

Table 17

Year	Encampments	Caravans	No of Families
2006	3	13	9
2007	1	5	5
2008	1	10	0
2009	1	2	2
2010	1	1	0
2011	1	1	1

The data demonstrated on table 17 has some limitations. Family names are not always known, which makes it somewhat difficult to know if data relates to the same families passing through the borough or moving from site to site, raising the risk of double counting.

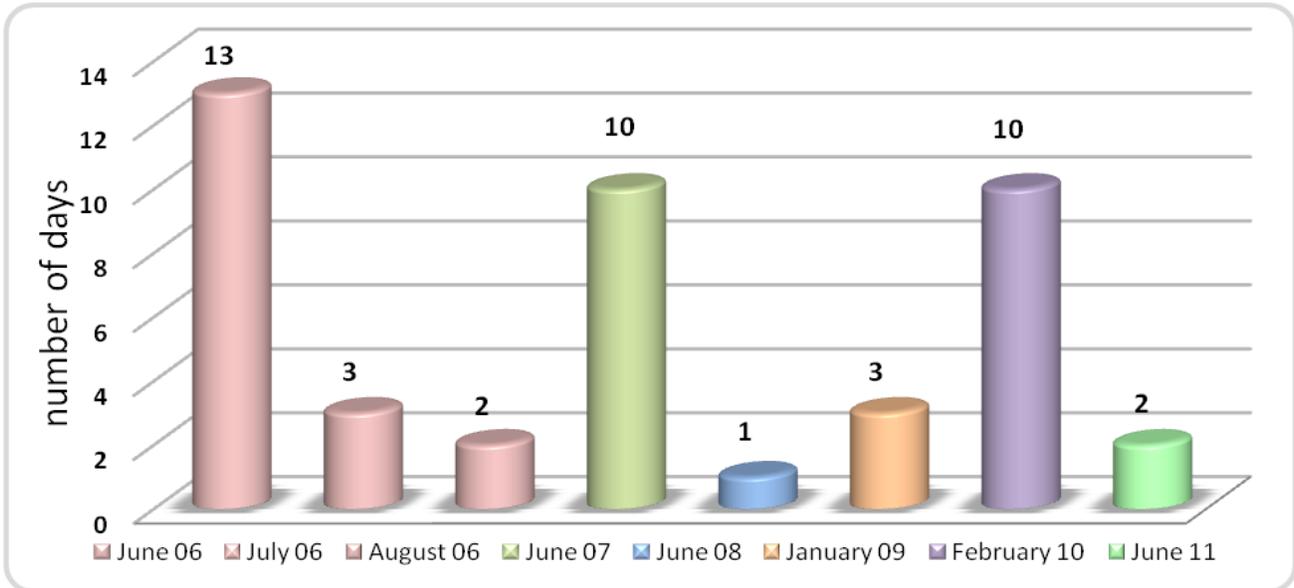
Furthermore it is not known whether families who may have been accounted for in the Hotline data may own or have now bought their own land or whether they have found a pitch on a transit site or on any other unauthorised or authorised, (private or public) site elsewhere in the country. It is not therefore reliable to conclude that the occasional presence of illegal encampments in the borough amounts to a need for additional permanent pitches/sites. It may however, suggest that a small need exists for transit provision.

The number of unauthorised encampments has declined since 2007. There may be less travelling because of the difficulties involved, for example powers for landowners/the police to move families on and it is known that the South Mimms Transit site is now better used than in previous years and is fully occupied more often than not.

4.2.2 Duration of encampments

Table 18 below demonstrates the number of days unauthorised encampments remained in the borough.

Table 18



Note: No unauthorised encampments took place on months which do not appear on the chart

Table 18 demonstrates that there are no strong travelling patterns in any particular months although some of the longest stays were recorded in June (in 2006 and 2007).

What can be seen is that many encampments take place for very short periods of time (1-4 days), with less incidence of encampments for a week or longer.

It is not considered that the encampment data demonstrates that there is a clear need for any additional permanent pitches in the borough; it simply demonstrates that travelling still takes place from time to time, often for short periods of time. This may be an indicator for a small need for transit provision but as it was not possible to interview any of the households concerned (as they were not present at the time the fieldwork was carried out), it is impossible to draw any conclusions. For example, it is not known if any of these households have a permanent pitch elsewhere.

[†]**4.3 Bricks and Mortar (Registered Provider property, Welwyn Garden City)**

4.3.1 History

The respondent has resided in Bricks and Mortar for less than 1 year in a development scheme which was built in 2010, with a mixture of socially rented houses and flats. The respondent's 12 year old son suffers from multiple health complications and the respondent moved out of a permanent caravan site in order to better accommodate her son's condition.

4.3.2 General Comments

The fieldwork was conducted with the joint attendance of an education officer who has known the family for over 10 years.

The respondent is an English Romany Gypsy who has always previously resided on a caravan site. The respondent has other children; the respondent advised that her children have struggled with staying in the house. The respondent described that her children are afraid of staying upstairs on their own and that they are not used to being separated from the family at a very young age and therefore spend the majority of their time downstairs. The respondent explained that her children are often away from the house and spend a lot of time with families on site as the children feel isolated living in a house. The respondent felt very much the same but went onto say that she would have struggled to continue staying within the community due to her son's condition and the lack of understanding of this from the community.

The respondent is settled in Bricks and Mortar and has not experienced any difficulties within the local community.

4.3.3 Future Accommodation Need

The respondent was happy with her current accommodation; although she expressed the concern of her other children who have struggled to settle and remain in Bricks and Mortar. There are no concerns of overcrowding as the property was built with the family's need in mind, however the property size is not being utilised to its fullest potential as the respondents children are often staying with families on sites due to the very nature of their cultural heritage (living in a caravan/mobile home on one floor level). The respondent explained that if she had the choice she would still reside in Bricks and Mortar due to her child's condition, as a caravan/mobile home could not be adapted to meet her son's needs. Furthermore concerns around the community's' lack of understanding and support of her son's condition was something that concerned the respondent. The general feeling the

respondent expressed was that she would ideally like to own a piece of land and be able to have the choice of having only immediate family live close by. No immediate need for additional accommodation was evident.

†4.4 Travelling Showpeople (Welham Green, Hertfordshire)

4.4.1 History

There is one Travelling Showmen's site in the borough. The respondent has indicated that his family have resided on this plot of land for over 50 years. There are four generations living on this site, which is owned by the respondent's father-in-law who also resides on the site. However, the father-in-law is in poor health and did not participate in the assessment. The respondent is semi-retired from the Fairground business; his other family members who reside on the site are not involved in the Fairground business. Other extended family members who are part of the Fairground business use the six and a half acres of land for storing equipment, which was evident on site.

4.4.2 General Comments

The fieldwork was carried out in joint attendance with the Health Visitor for this area.

The respondent and his family have been part of the Travelling Showman's Guild for over 40 years. The respondent is very well established amongst the village community where the site is located. The site is still used as a business ground for the respondent's extended family members to store equipment and vehicles.

The family are well accommodated by the large piece of land they own, the respondent has 10 members of his family residing on the site with 7 caravan/mobile home's shared between the family households (2 mobile homes and 5 caravan trailers). The respondent explained that over the years the family have been able to accommodate their growing children, (although two children have moved away, one living in Bricks and Mortar and the other living on a Travelling Showpeople site outside the Borough). The respondent expressed concern that although they do have ample space for their growing family, there is uncertainty as to who will acquire the land once the father-in-law passes on. For this reason, the family are unsure about whether they will be in a position to accommodate their growing grandchildren in the future.

The site has good safe and convenient access to the road network and is conveniently located for schools and other community facilities. The respondent's son-in-law works locally and the local connection to work and family makes this site ideal for the family to continue residing on the site.

4.4.3 Future Accommodation Needs

The respondent indicated there may be a need for additional accommodation to meet the long term needs of his granddaughter or future grandchildren(s). The respondent felt that 10 years was a realistic time frame as the respondent's grandchild is currently very young. The respondent expressed the view that separate sites should be built for Travelling Showpeople to either settle permanently or for Transit sites to be developed in order to help Travelling Showman to stop temporarily during their travelling periods to another fairground. The respondent's daughter felt that if she could acquire her own private land, where it was isolated, it would be ideal for her growing family. The respondent's daughter did not wish to move to Bricks and Mortar although expressed that this may be the reality for her growing family. No overcrowding concerns were raised; there is no immediate need for the family to acquire a home of their own although there would be a newly forming household in about 10 years time.

The Travelling Showmen's Guild were contacted as part of this assessment but had no comments to make on the future accommodation needs of the occupants of this site. The Travelling Showmen's Guild was a key stakeholder for the Single Issue Review of the East of England Plan in 2009. Welwyn Hatfield was not identified at this time as a specific location where additional plot provision for Travelling Showpeople was currently required.

†5.0 Conclusions

†5.1 Assessment of Future Accommodation Needs

The following components have been considered in reaching a conclusion on the estimated requirement for additional Gypsy and Traveller pitch provision in the borough.

†5.1.1 Household formation from within the existing Gypsy and Traveller population currently living on permanent sites in the borough

Responses to the fieldwork indicate that there is a potential for a total of 12 newly forming households (all currently aged 16 or over, [†]refer to table 6) currently resident on one or other of the borough's permanent sites (public and private) that will have a need to form their own households, either now or in the next 5 years. During this 5 year period, some of these newly forming households may move out of the area (although recent regional planning processes and successive governments have highlighted that there is a general shortage of pitches) and some may form households with another person, for example through marriage. It is not considered that each and every individual will necessarily equal the need for a new pitch but there is strong evidence to suggest that there is a demand (and

a need) for further pitch provision. Responses to the fieldwork suggest that the ability for newly forming households to remain living in the local area is a priority for many families. In addition to these 12 newly forming households, there is the potential for a further 7 newly forming households (aged 11-15) (↑refer to table 6) who, as they reach adulthood, are also likely to form new households. An allowance for future demographic growth and household formation is demonstrated in ↑table 19.

↑5.1.2 **Waiting List Data for public pitches (backlog)**

The County Council's waiting list reveals that there is currently a demand for 93 pitches across the county. Of these, 24 are waiting for a pitch to become available on the Holwell site only.

However, 7 of these applicants already reside on the Holwell site (for example households may apply to transfer to a larger pitch on the same site) and a further 4 are living on another permanent site in Hertfordshire. In order to avoid the possibility of double counting with the outputs outlined in 5.1.1 above, which arose through the fieldwork, all those on the waiting list who also currently live on the Holwell site have been deducted from this data source 5.1.2. Further, no allowance has been made for the 4 applicants who already have a permanent base elsewhere in Hertfordshire. This is because numerically speaking, transferring from one pitch/site to another results in no new net need, although it may suggest a need for a better supply of larger pitches to be made available to meet the accommodation needs of larger families. This may need to be on a new site if the likelihood of suitable transfers becoming available appears unlikely to arise.

This leaves 13 households who are waiting for a pitch on Holwell who are residing elsewhere. However, the waiting list does not necessarily confirm if these 13 households currently reside on any other permanent sites or whether they have no permanent abode and cannot therefore be wholly relied upon to determine whether or not all these households have a need to live in the borough, even though they have indicated a strong desire to do so. It is not considered a given to conclude that all these 13 households must live on the Holwell site if pitches were to become available although there can be no guarantees that 13 pitches will actually become available given the largely settled nature of the site. It may be the case that some of these 13 households will be able to find an alternative accommodation solution. However, an implication could be drawn that these 13 households would not have applied to live only on the Holwell site if a more suitable accommodation solution had been available to them elsewhere. If a new site were to be provided with larger pitches, this would allow for some movement between sites/pitches and smaller pitches that would then become vacant could then be used to meet some of the

demand for pitches from the waiting list. A maximum allowance for 13 additional pitches has been made which is considered sufficient to meet the need and demand for new pitches, provided pitches are of a suitable size.

In addition, there are additional households on the waiting list, who are waiting for a pitch to become available either at the Holwell site or at other sites across the county. This is a countywide waiting list, covering 11 permanent sites and 1 Transit site across Hertfordshire. It is not the role of the one local authority site to provide for the accommodation needs of all those wishing to live in Hertfordshire. No allowance is therefore made for any additional pitch requirement arising from these applicants who have indicated that they are willing to live elsewhere.

Fieldwork on the Transit site at South Mimms indicates that there is a demand for 4 pitches from families currently residing here. However, these are already on the waiting list (see 5.1.2 above) and so no additional allowance is made for accommodation need for those households resorting to the area.

†5.1.3 Illegal Encampments

It is not considered that the information available from the Encampments Hotline list can be robustly relied upon as an indicator for a need for pitches. The recorded data contains limited information; it is not possible to tell if families have permanent sites elsewhere. Further, most encampments recorded in the borough have taken place for short periods of time and in infrequent patterns. However this might be indicative of a small need for transit provision in the county.

It is not possible to distinguish from the Hotline list if any family has a need to remain on a site locally or has a need for a temporary stopping off place overnight or for slightly longer periods of time during a journey to and from elsewhere.

As no illegal encampments were present at the time of the fieldwork, no families could be interviewed to ascertain if any permanent or transit pitches were needed in the borough.

†5.1.4 Unauthorised Developments

Unauthorised developments present in the borough at the time of the fieldwork comprised the following sites:

- Foxes Lane, Welham Green: Planning permission refused for the retention of use as a gypsy site, comprising of 3 static caravans and parking for 3 touring caravans. (Site then occupied).
- 17 The Avenue, Welwyn: 3 – 5 caravans (no application submitted).

Both these sites are located in the Green Belt where, in planning policy terms, there is a presumption against inappropriate development.

Subsequent to the fieldwork taking place, the planning appeal for the Foxes Lane site was allowed, (planning permission granted for 3 pitches). The Inspector noted that the family had a local connection to Hertfordshire and wished to stay in the area and that there was little prospect of finding a permanent base outside the Green Belt that would be financially achievable. As it was considered unlikely that the authority would be in a position to make alternative sites available within, at least, the next 3 years, permanent planning permission was granted and the permission was not conditioned to be for the use of any particular family. No allowance is made in this assessment for additional pitch provision within the next 5 years.

In the case of 17 The Avenue, as no application had been submitted at the time of this assessment, it is not known what case the applicant will make to justify why planning permission should be granted in a location where such development would not normally be permitted. Therefore, it is not considered appropriate to conclude that there is any robust evidence to demonstrate that this site needs to be located in the borough, as opposed to in any other location. No allowance has therefore been made for additional pitch requirements as a result of unauthorised development in the borough.

†5.1.5 Doubling Up

As part of this assessment, we have been made aware of 5 families who are doubled up, (two separate households sharing one pitch on the borough's public site). 4 of these families are registered on the waiting list. To avoid double counting in 5.1.2, no additional allowance has been made for these 4 households. No information is available on the 5th family and in the absence of any evidence that there is a need for permanent accommodation for this household to remain in the local area; no additional allowance has been made. There were also indications that different generations from the same families may be doubling up on pitches at the Barbaraville (private) site although it was not possible to identify a specific quantum. Again, families are able to apply to the waiting list for a pitch on the public site so there may be a risk of double counting.

†5.1.6 Unsuitably Housed (overcrowded households)

The survey asked respondents living on authorised sites (public and private) to indicate if they considered themselves to be overcrowded by pitch size. 11 respondents said “yes”, 30 said “no” and 1 responded “don’t know”.

However, 2 of the 11 respondents who stated “yes” to overcrowding did not demonstrate a need for an additional pitch to meet the accommodation needs of any newly forming households in the next 5 years. Their overcrowding was determined by the inadequate size of their pitch for their needs rather than the need for an additional pitch. This need could be met if larger pitches were to become available within an existing site and a family were to transfer from a smaller pitch. The smaller pitch would then become available for re-letting. Numerically speaking, transfers result in no additional pitch requirement. However, larger pitches become available infrequently as most families are settled with no plans to move away. Any new site/pitch provision will need to consider the benefit of providing for sufficiently large pitches from the start to enable family growth to be accommodated over time. The 9 overcrowded households who did demonstrate a need for an additional pitch are already accounted for in paragraph 5.1.1, where the need is required to be met in the next 5 years, or where part of the demographic growth component.

Conversely, 6 out of the 30 respondents who said “no” to living in overcrowded conditions also indicated a need for a separate pitch for existing family members who would need to form their own household within the next 5 years. These newly forming households are accounted for in paragraph 5.1.1.

†5.1.7 Bricks and Mortar

Whilst the Council worked together with partner agencies to include households living in bricks and mortar in the fieldwork, we were only able to conduct a ‘face to face’ survey with one household living in bricks and mortar in Welwyn Hatfield. As this is such a small sample, this data cannot be considered as being representative. No evidence was gathered to demonstrate that a need exists for additional pitches to meet the accommodation needs of Gypsy and Traveller currently living in bricks and mortar to move to a pitch on a caravan site. Gypsy and Traveller who wish to reside on a public site may of course apply to the Hertfordshire County Council Waiting List for a pitch. It has also not been possible to assess accommodation flows between sites and bricks and mortar in order to identify any clear trends.

†5.1.8 Supply of pitches

Pitches rarely become available on the public site (Holwell) and no data was available at the time of this assessment to demonstrate annual turnover. The private sites in the borough are currently occupied to capacity. A recent planning appeal has resulted in the provision of 3 additional pitches in the borough. However, this will not meet the accommodation needs of any of the households who took part in the fieldwork. In the absence of any planned future sites, no allowance has been made for site supply at the current time, although this could be affected by future, as yet unknown, decisions.

Household formation through demographic growth is likely to result in the need for additional accommodation needs beyond the next five years, primarily due to the high proportion (61 children between the ages of 1-15 years old children present on sites, representing 44 per cent of the total population. At present, the best assumption to be made for a period when the current backlog of site need has been cleared is **household growth rate of 3 per cent a year compound**¹. This gives an indication of long-term requirements and counters any possible perception that Gypsy and Traveller need can be met on a once-and-for-all basis.

†5.1.9 Travelling Showpeople

Response to the fieldwork indicated that the existing Travelling Showmen's site is occupied by an extended family of ten, which includes a couple and a child under the age of 5. Responses suggest that there would be a need for one additional plot in approximately 10 years time. The respondent felt that 10 years rather than five years was a realistic estimate for the timescale within which this need would arise. The respondent would not consider moving to a caravan site with Gypsy and Traveller and expressed a desire to own their own land. The respondent expressed that his close family had moved to Bricks and Mortar and that this may be the only viable option for the new family forming household if no suitable alternative plot provision is made. No indication of overcrowding was expressed.

^{†1} Page 42, Communities and Local Government (March 2007); Preparing Regional Spatial Strategy reviews on Gypsy and Traveller by regional planning bodies.
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/321445.pdf>

†Table 19 Estimate of future requirement for additional pitches to meet the accommodation needs of Gypsy and Traveller residing in or resorting to the local area.

Component of need		Number
†5.1.1	Need for additional pitches in next 5 years as a result of household formation from within the existing population on permanent sites (public and private) (households over 16 yr old)	12
†5.1.2	Waiting List (backlog) Demand for pitches on the borough's public site	13
†5.1.3	Illegal encampments	0
†5.1.4	Unauthorised developments	0
†5.1.5	"Doubling Up" of pitches Allowed for in paragraph 5.1.2	0
†5.1.6	Unsuitably housed (overcrowded households). Allowed for in paragraph 5.1.1	0
†5.1.7	Bricks and Mortar (no evidence of need identified)	0
†5.1.8	Supply of pitches	0

Estimated need for additional pitches in the next 6-15 years as a result of future demographic and household growth (based on 3 per cent compound growth on all permanent sites at 2011 ² and assuming the need to 2016 has been met)	29
--	-----------

Planned supply of additional pitches (at 2011)	0
Annual vacancy rates on permanent sites	0
Net need (2011/12 -2015/16)	25
Net need (2016/17 – 2025/26)	29

5.1.10 Preferred tenure of future sites

Of the 16 respondents who considered that there would be a need for additional pitch provision (†refer to table 5) to meet the accommodation needs of 19 newly forming households 10 were unspecific as to whether this should be private or public provision (answering "either" or "don't know"), 2 expressed a wish to own their own pitch/site and 4 wanted to rent from the council).

†₂ Baseline pitch numbers at 2011 comprise the following: Holwell (39), Barbaraville (11), Four Oaks (5), Foxes Lane (3). Total 58 pitches

As part of the assessment, questions were not directly asked on income or the ability to purchase land. However, data held by the Council indicates that all households on the largest private site, and all but one household on the borough’s public site, are in receipt of housing benefit. There is a very high probability therefore that few, if any, of the newly forming households will be able to afford to purchase land to make provision for their accommodation needs on a private site. The need appears to be for site or sites owned or managed by a registered social housing provider.

5.1.11 Type of pitch/site

The greatest assessed need is for permanent pitch provision. Whilst many respondents expressed a desire to own their own site/pitch, in reality, few could afford this option.

Although a need was expressed for transit provision, it was not possible to ascertain the scale of any perceived need. This is partly due to the fact that there is little evidence of any illegal encampments in the borough, especially over the last 3 years. Further, respondents indicated that it is the lack of permanent pitches that is more pressing with transit pitches being used on a more settled basis. There was spilt opinion as to whether if new transit sites were to be provided, whether they should be managed privately by the Gypsy and Traveller community or by a local authority/registered provider. No exact quantum has been identified at the current time. Responses indicate that some of those residing on the existing transit site at South Mimms would prefer to settle on a permanent site.

5.1.12 Travelling Showpeople

As described in paragraph 5.1.9 the existing extended family living on the borough’s travelling showmen’s site identified a need for one newly forming household although this is unlikely to be required for at least 10 years (post 2021).

Table 20

Component of need		Number
†5.1.9	Travelling Showpeople	1 (in approx. 10 years)

Public and Private Site(s).....Date.....
Plot Number

1. How many years have you lived on this site?

Less than 2 years	<input type="text"/>	2 – 5 years	<input type="text"/>
6 – 10 years	<input type="text"/>	11 years or more	<input type="text"/>

2. Please indicate how many static mobile home(s)/ caravan trailer(s) you have on this site.

Number of static mobile homes	<input type="text"/>	Number of caravan trailer(s)	<input type="text"/>
-------------------------------	----------------------	------------------------------	----------------------

3. How many bedrooms does your mobile home(s)/caravan trailer(s) have?

Mobile Home 1	<input type="text"/>	Caravan Trailer 1	<input type="text"/>
Mobile Home 2	<input type="text"/>	Caravan Trailer 2	<input type="text"/>

4. Do you rent or own your mobile home(s)/caravan trailer(s)?

Mobile home(s): Rent	<input type="text"/>	Caravan Trailer(s): Rent	<input type="text"/>
Mobile home(s): Own	<input type="text"/>	Caravan Trailer(s): Own	<input type="text"/>

5. Do you think there's a need for more transit sites in your local area?

Yes <input type="text"/>	No <input type="text"/>	Don't know <input type="text"/>
--------------------------	-------------------------	---------------------------------

6. Do you still use your caravan trailer(s) for travelling?

Yes, regularly <input type="text"/>	Yes, occasionally <input type="text"/>	No longer travel <input type="text"/>
-------------------------------------	--	---------------------------------------

7. Please indicate your household composition including health and mobility issues? (names are not required)

	Relationship to respondent	Age	Sex (M/F)	Health Issues Y/N	Mobility Problems Y/N
Person 1					
Person 2					
Person 3					
Person 4					
Person 5					
Person 6					
Person 7					
Person 8					
Person 9					

8. Please tell us what your health issues or mobility problems are?

.....

.....

.....

.....

9. Do you consider yourself to be overcrowded?

Yes No Don't know

10. What would help with your housing?

.....

.....

.....

.....

11. In addition to your existing family needs, are any of your family currently living with you, likely to need to set up their own separate home within the next 5 years? (e.g. son or daughter, a parent)

Yes No Don't know

12. If yes what type of home would they prefer?

Caravan Site		Housing Type	
Private/Own		Private Rented	
Council		Council	
Either		Buy	
		Other	
		Either	

13. Where would they need to live and why?

Where:

.....

Why:

.....

14. Have you, or a family member who lives with you, previously lived in a house, flat or bungalow but moved out to live in a caravan?

Yes

No

Please tell us why you moved from the house/flat/bungalow:

.....

.....

15. Would you or a family member consider applying to be on the waiting list for housing?

Respondent:

Yes

No

Don't know

Family member: Yes

No

Don't know

Already on the waiting list

.....

.....

.....

South Mimms Transit Site	Date
--------------------------	------------

1. How long have you been on this site?

.....

.....

2. Where have you travelled from?

.....

.....

.....

3. Why have you travelled to this area?

On holiday short stay residence	Family connection	Work	No permanent residence
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please specify

.....

.....

.....

4. How often do you come to this transit site?

Regularly	Occasionally	First Time
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. Please indicate how many caravan trailer(s) you have on this site.

Number of caravan trailer(s)

6. How many bedrooms does your caravan trailer(s) have?

Caravan Trailer 1	<input type="text"/>	None	<input type="text"/>
Caravan Trailer 2	<input type="text"/>		

7. Do you rent or own your caravan trailer(s)?

Caravan Trailer(s): Rent

Caravan Trailer(s): Own

8. Do you think there's a need for more transit sites in general?

Yes No Don't know

9. Please indicate your household composition including health and mobility issues? (names are not required)

	Relationship to respondent	Age	Sex (M/F)	Health Issues Y/N
Person 1				
Person 2				
Person 3				
Person 4				
Person 5				
Person 6				
Person 7				
Person 8				
Person 9				

10. Please tell us what your health issues or mobility problems are?

.....

11. Do you have a permanent pitch/home of your own elsewhere?

Yes to Home No to Home

Yes to Pitch No to Pitch

11 a. If Yes

Where.....

11 b. If no – How long have you been without permanent residence?

.....

12. In addition to your existing family needs, are any of your family currently living with you, likely to need to set up their own separate home within the next 5 years? (e.g. son or daughter, a parent)

Yes No Don't know

12 a. If yes what type of home would they prefer?

Caravan Site		Housing Type	
Private/Own		Private Rented	
Council		Council	
Either		Buy	
		Other	
		Either	

13. Where would they need to live and why?

Where:

 Why:

14. Have you, or a family member who lives with you, previously lived in a house, flat or bungalow but moved out to live in a caravan?

Yes No

14 a. Please tell us why you moved from the house/flat/bungalow:

.....

15. Would you or a family member consider applying to be on the waiting list for either housing or a pitch?

Respondent: Yes No Don't know
 Family member: Yes No Don't know
 Already on the waiting list

.....

**The Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople
Accommodation Needs Assessment Report is available
to view and download from the Council's website
www.welhat.gov.uk**

Or alternatively please contact our council offices:

**Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
The Campus
Welwyn Garden City
Hertfordshire
AL8 6AE**

Tel: 01707 357000

**Email: housingandcommunity@welhat.gov.uk or
planningpolicy@welhat.gov.uk**

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