

**Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs  
assessment for the Thames Valley region**

**Association of Councils of the Thames Valley Region**

**15 September 2006**

Services for life

## Appendix C – Local Data – Bracknell Forest

## 8 Bracknell Forest

### 8.1 Limitations of local projections

8.1.1 Note that the estimated needs figures in this section have been developed from a set of regionally developed assumptions described in detail in section 6 of this report. The figures derived from this exercise should be used as a guide and authorities may wish to amend the assumptions used for the calculation to reflect particular local circumstances.

### 8.2 Stakeholders interviews

8.2.1 The following stakeholders were interviewed:

Rob Cummins -Housing Enabling Officer

John Waterton – Planning

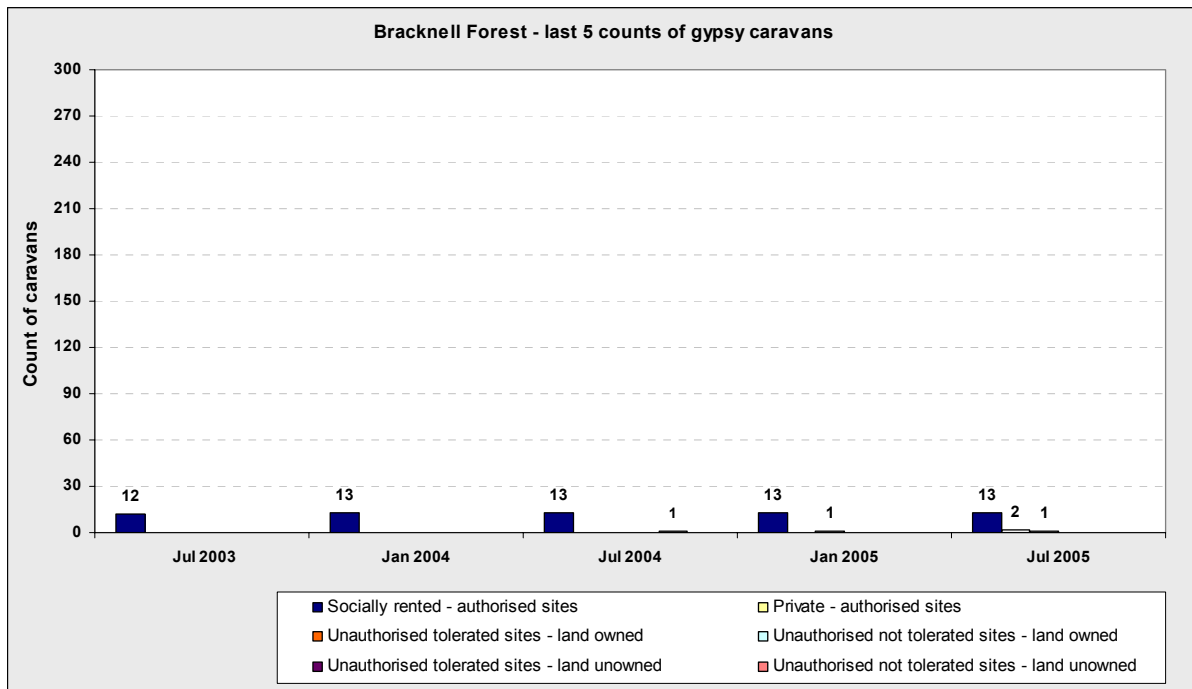
Nicola Smith-Crallan – Site Manager

Brenda Downes – Head Teacher Traveller Education Service

Pam Chomicz – Traveller Education Welfare Officer

### 8.3 DCLG count data

8.3.1 There has been very little fluctuation over the last five counts.



## 8.4 Local site information

8.4.1 The table below shows the sites within the local authority area.

Name of site	Type of site	Number of pitches	Ethnicity
East Hampstead Park	Local Authority	13	English
Ambarrow Farm Sandhurst	Private authorised		
Seven Acre Farm Sandhurst	Private authorised		

8.4.2 There are a number of housed Gypsies and Travellers in the Sandhurst area. Many have bought their own properties.

## 8.5 Unauthorised encampment data

8.5.1 From the period April 05 to March 06 there were a total of 13 known unauthorised encampments in the local authority area. Five were known to be Romany, six known to be Irish Travellers and two unknown. The duration of the encampments ranged from one to eight days and the number of caravans ranged from two to eighteen. Enforcement action is generally taken quickly and encampments tend to be on private land since the authority uses defences on their own ground.

## 8.6 Service and needs information

8.6.1 The Supporting People strategy cites the need to understand more about the needs of Gypsies and Travellers. There are currently no Supporting People funded services for Gypsies and Travellers in Bracknell Forest. The strategy refers to challenges in identifying the needs of this group and the need to collaborate to achieve this. It also mentions the possibility of working across the Thames Valley to commissioning services. It also refers to conflict that Gypsies and Travellers often face with their neighbours and the need to identify peaceful solutions in meeting the needs of this group.

8.6.2 There were no known homelessness presentations of Gypsies and Travellers in Bracknell Forest.

8.6.3 Berkshire Traveller Education Service works across the local authority area helping to get children into schools. Children may travel further to school because they need to trust the school and get to know it. In Berkshire there are six unitary authorities and this may mean children go to school in another authority area.

8.6.4 There are no known specialist health workers in the area.

## 8.7 Local sample profile

8.7.1 The table below shows the profile of those interviewed within the sample by ethnicity and accommodation type in Bracknell Forest.

Accommodation type	Irish Traveller	English Gypsy	Other	Total
Authorised site owned by social landlord		7		7
Authorised site owned by private landlord				
Unauthorised site				
Transit site				
Roadside encampment				
Housing		2		2
<b>Total</b>		<b>9</b>		<b>9</b>

## 8.8 Survey findings

8.8.1 This section highlights any findings for the area where there are noticeable local variations from the overall regional findings.

8.8.2 Of those people wanting to develop a site on their own land very few had contacted the local authority for information about possible sites. Bracknell Forest was one of the few authorities where this had happened. It was also one of the few areas where anyone taking part in the interview was aware of the Local Development Framework.

## 8.9 Summary of need

8.9.1 The table below shows an estimated summary of need for the authority. This has been built around assumptions developed at a regional level and applied to local core data. The development of the assumptions is described in detail in chapter 6 of the report.

8.9.2 To aid the interpretation of the results Tribal has colour-coded the table using a traffic light system. Those assessments shown in green can be, Tribal think, regarded to be fairly reliable. Those in amber are largely reliable but may depend upon actions being taken by the host authority to be fully accurate (for instance bringing unused pitches back into use) or are founded upon assumptions that expressed needs or preferences will result in actions by individual households and/or that Tribal's survey sample is broadly representative. Those shown in red should be interpreted with caution as they are based on inadequate evidence and the assumptions underpinning them are open to challenge and alternative interpretation.

<b>Current residential supply</b>		
Current supply of occupied socially rented residential sites pitches in local authority area	13	Taken from the site map
Current supply of occupied authorised privately owned site pitches in local authority area	2	Taken from the site map
<b>Total households on authorised sites</b>	<b>15</b>	
Number of authorised pitches not available for letting (due to management problems, awaiting refurbishment etc)	0	Taken from information on the site map
Number of existing pitches expected to become vacant and lettable through normal annual turnover (LA and privately owned)	1	Void rate of 12% across social rented and private sites, reduced to 8% to take account of voids created by a move within the region
Number of households in site accommodation expressing a desire to live in housing	2	Number of people on authorised sites who would take up housing if offered – 12% based on results of survey.
<i>New local authority pitches already planned</i>	0	
<i>Existing applications for private site development/extension</i>	0	
<i>Additional demand for households:</i>		
On unauthorised encampments	0	Assuming 1.6 caravans per household and adjusted to take account of the proportion wishing to move to site accommodation in the region
On unauthorised developments for which planning permission is not expected	0	Total number of people on unauthorised development (none of which are expected to get planning permission) based on site map
Concealed households in the region currently in need of accommodation (backlog of need)	3	Based on 12.5% concealed households requiring site accommodation
In housing but with a need for site accommodation	3	Assumes those in housing represent 40% of total population and that 30% would take up a place on a site if offered.
<b>Estimated current backlog of need</b>	<b>6</b>	

Additional household formation 2006 – 2011	<b>4</b>	Number of new households likely to form in next five years who will wish to take up site accommodation
<b>Estimated need for additional permanent pitches 2006/11</b>	<b>10</b>	
Pitches available from current and planned supply over 2006-2011	7	Assumes:  5 vacancies arising over a five year period due to normal turnover  2 additional vacancies created through those on authorised sites taking up housing  0 planned pitches come into use  0 pitches brought back into use
<b>Indicative need for additional permanent pitches 2006-2011</b>	<b>3</b>	

**8.9.3** Please note that the figures in this table have been rounded up or down as appropriate. Calculations have used pre rounded figures which in some cases may affect totals.

**8.9.4** This assessment relates to the need for additional pitches arising from the assumed number of households in the local authority area. It may be appropriate in some cases for some or all of this need to be met at a county or regional level rather than at a district level.