

Needs Assessment for Travelling Showpeople

Bracknell Forest Borough Council,

Reading Borough Council,

Slough Borough Council,

West Berkshire District Council,

Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead,

Wokingham Borough Council

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1 Introduction

1.1 About this study

1.1.1 This study was commissioned as a follow-on study to the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment carried out by Tribal for The Association of Councils of the Thames Valley Region¹ (hereafter referred to as the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment for the Thames Valley Region). The specific aim of this follow-on study was to carry out an accommodation needs assessment for travelling showpeople in the county of Berkshire.

1.1.2 The Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment for the Thames Valley Region was carried out between December 2005 and September 2006 and was commissioned in response to section 225 of the Housing Act 2004, which requires all local authorities to carry out accommodation needs assessments for Gypsies and Travellers. The aims of the study were to:

- Gain a better understanding of the regional and local pattern of movements and encampments
- Inform the current understanding of accommodation and support needs as assessed by the local housing authorities
- Inform the development of future housing and planning policy at a district level
- Identify and inform the possible opportunities for cross-authority working to address Gypsy and Traveller needs

1.1.3 This study has similar aims but is specifically focused on the needs of travelling showpeople in the county of Berkshire. The study has been funded by Bracknell Forest Borough Council, Reading Borough Council, Slough Borough Council, West Berkshire District Council, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and Wokingham Borough Council.

1.1.4 Tribal would like to thank the Showman's Guild of Great Britain (hereafter referred to as the Showman's Guild) for their support and assistance throughout this study.

1.2 The brief

1.2.1 The purpose of this study was to carry out an assessment of the accommodation (including spatial requirements for storage and maintenance of fairground rides) needs of travelling showpeople in the county of Berkshire. As for the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment for the Thames Valley Region, the assessment was required to comply with the needs assessment guidance issued by the department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) for consultation in February 2006.

1.2.2 The aims and objectives of this study were to:

- Identify the current presence of showpeople in the Berkshire area, including household characteristics, the types of accommodation currently occupied, links to

¹ *Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment for the Thames Valley Region*, Tribal Consulting, 2007

the local area and/or other areas; specific accommodation requirements (including space required for storage and maintenance of vehicles/rides)

- Understand, document and quantify the accommodation and related needs (for instance for housing related support, education and health services) of showpeople in Berkshire
- Provide analysis of these needs at the county and district level
- Ensure that the coverage of the study and calculation of need arising from it comply with the draft guidance issued by CLG for needs assessments

1.3 The methodology

- 1.3.1 The methodology was based upon the CLG draft guidance and our experience of using that guidance for other Gypsy and Traveller studies.
- 1.3.2 We began by meeting with the steering group to discuss our proposed methodology and logistics, the background and local context to the work, to agree a timetable, and the required coverage of the survey.
- 1.3.3 Tribal then made contact with identified stakeholders in each of the six authorities to gather existing information about travelling showpeople in the area. The key stakeholders included Planners and the Traveller Education Services.
- 1.3.4 Tribal developed a questionnaire for the interviews with travelling showpeople. The questionnaire was developed from one already used by Tribal in the Needs Assessment for Travelling Showpeople for Buckinghamshire County Council. This in turn was based upon the questionnaire developed for the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment for the Thames Valley Region. In addition the Showman's Guild and the steering group were consulted before a final version was agreed for use in the study (see **Appendix A**).
- 1.3.5 Details of existing site based provision occupied by travelling showpeople were gathered from the Showman's Guild and contacts within each of the local authorities. The Showman's Guild provided postal addresses for each of the 18 households known to them, and mailed out an initial letter on the survey. Tribal followed up this initial contact with a further letter and a briefing note on the survey encouraging people to take part and informing them of the dates for the fieldwork. The briefing note was adapted from those used by Tribal in previous studies. A copy of the letter sent out by the Showman's Guild can be found at **Appendix B** and a copy of the letter and briefing note sent out by Tribal can be found at **Appendix C**.
- 1.3.6 The interviews took place during May 2007 when traditionally a lot of showpeople are travelling. Despite this ten interviews with travelling showpeople living in Berkshire County were carried out by Tribal. Nine of the ten interviews were face to face interviews and there was one telephone interview. Details of the approaches made to contact other travelling showpeople in the county are included in section three.
- 1.3.7 It must be stressed that the small numbers of travelling showpeople in the area and the subsequent small sample size obtained for this study do not offer high levels of reliability for the needs calculations in section five. The calculation can be very sensitive to minor adjustments in the assumptions or the supply and demand data.

2 Context for the research

2.1 The lifestyle of Travelling Showpeople

- 2.1.1 Recent CLG guidance² describes showpeople as ‘members of a community that consists of self-employed business people who travel the country, often with their families, holding fairs’. It notes that many of these families have been taking part in this lifestyle for generations.
- 2.1.2 The guidance states that showpeople require secure, permanent bases for the storage of their equipment and more particularly for residential purposes. Such bases are occupied during the winter, when many showpeople will return there with their caravans, vehicles and fairground equipment. For this reason these sites have been traditionally referred to as ‘winter quarters’. But increasingly the sites are occupied by some members of the family permanently – particularly older members of the family and school age children.
- 2.1.3 The guidance suggests that a reduction in large scale fairs has led many showpeople to diversify their employment activities and to restrict their travelling to a more local area, with a consequential need for more permanent bases on which to live and maintain their equipment.

2.2 National guidance

- 2.2.1 Circular 22/91 gives advice to local authorities about planning considerations relating to travelling showpeople. It requires local planning authorities to consider the needs of travelling showpeople when preparing their Local Plans. Since the commencement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Local Plans have been superseded by Local Development Frameworks. To provide a basis for these plans, the circular states that authorities should
- Identify existing sites (whether occupied or not) which have planning permission
 - Make a realistic assessment of the amount of accommodation required (including that made necessary by displacement)
- 2.2.2 The circular advises authorities to discuss needs with showpeople themselves at an early stage whilst Local Plans are being developed, and to seek advice from the Showmen’s Guild.
- 2.2.3 The Government’s view is that the current planning guidance for travelling showpeople has failed to deliver sufficient sites for them and it is now consulting on alternative guidance. This draws from the most recent planning guidance for Gypsies and Travellers³ which is seen to have increased the number of planning permissions granted to those groups. Changes to the planning guidance for travelling showpeople are currently being consulted upon⁴. The proposed guidance highlights the need for local authorities to assess the accommodation needs of travelling showpeople in their local area in order to feed into the preparation of Development Plan Documents (DPD), which

² *Consultation on revised planning guidance in relation to Travelling Showpeople Communities and Local Government* January 2007

³ Circular 01/06 (ODPM): Planning for Gypsies and Travellers

⁴ *Consultation on revised planning guidance in relation to Travelling Showpeople Communities and Local Government* January 2007

form part of the Local Development Frameworks, and Regional Spatial Strategies. The draft guidance proposes that, where the Inspector regards there to be insufficient allocation of sites within the DPD to meet the needs of travelling showpeople, he or she can recommend that the DPD is altered to include additional sites.

2.2.4 New measures were introduced to the Housing Act 2004 to require local authorities to undertake an assessment of the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers, including travelling showpeople, and to put a strategy in place which sets out how any identified needs will be met, as part of their wider housing strategy. In February 2006 the Government’s Gypsy and Traveller Unit issued draft practice guidance to authorities about how to conduct needs assessments. In this context the term ‘Gypsy and Traveller’ includes travelling showpeople.

2.2.5 The Government has introduced Gypsy and Traveller Site Grant which provides up to 100% funding for the establishment of new residential and transit sites whilst continuing to provide funding for the refurbishment and renewal of existing sites. In addition to this, the Housing Corporation will be able to provide funding to Registered Social Landlords for the establishment of Gypsy and Traveller sites. Sites for travelling showpeople are eligible for grant funding from this source.

2.3 Showpeople in Berkshire

2.3.1 Tribal gathered information from discussions with Showman’s Guild and local stakeholders to assist in identifying the current presence of travelling showpeople in the county of Berkshire. Below provides a brief summary of the information gathered for each local authority, this is followed by a more detailed summary of the authorities where showpeople sites were identified.

Table 1 – Initial information provided on showpeople sites

Local authority	Information gathered
Bracknell Forest Borough Council	One authorised showpeople site was identified in Bracknell. This site was known to both the local authority and the Showman’s Guild.
Reading Borough Council	One authorised showpeople site was identified in Reading. This site was known to the local authority
Slough Borough Council	No showpeople sites were identified in Slough by either the local authority or the Showman’s Guild.
West Berkshire District Council	<p>Two sites were identified in West Berkshire.</p> <p>One site was a known local authority site predominately occupied by English Gypsies. There was evidence to suggest, from the Showman’s Guild list, that this site has been used by showpeople, although it wasn’t known if this was currently the case.</p> <p>The local authority and the Showman’s Guild also identified an authorised circus site in Enbourne, West Berkshire.</p>

Local authority	Information gathered
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead	<p>Four sites were identified in RB of Windsor and Maidenhead. Two of these sites were identified as authorised private showpeople sites.</p> <p>Of the other two sites one site was a known mixed site which included Gypsy English / Romany and Travelling showpeople. The site was identified as an authorised private site.</p> <p>The last site identified in RB of Windsor and Maidenhead was a mobile home site. The Showman’s Guild list identified a travelling showperson living on this site; however the site is not a dedicated showpeople site.</p>
Wokingham Borough Council	<p>One authorised showpeople site was identified in Wokingham. This site was known to both the local authority and the Showman’s Guild.</p>

2.3.2 Our discussions with the Showman’s Guild and local stakeholders revealed five boroughs in Berkshire with showpeople living on sites. The tables below show the information Tribal has gathered on each of these sites and evidence of sites where showpeople are living but which are not showpeople specific sites.

Table 2a – Showpeople sites in Berkshire

District	Site location	Planning status and type of site	Household capacity benefiting from planning permission (supply)	Households present on the site (population)	Additional comments
Bracknell Forest	Jealotts Hill, Hazelwood Lane, Binfield, RG42	Authorised private showpeople site	17	24*	This site is split into six plots
Reading	Fairground Caravans, Scours Lane, Tilehurst, RG30 6AX	Authorised private showpeople site	11	11	This site has permission for 11 pitches in the Winter and 6 in the summer
Slough	No sites identified				
West Berkshire	Long Copse Farm, Enbourne, Newbury	Authorised private circus winter quarters	5	5	
RB of Windsor and Maidenhead	Carter's Yard, White Waltham, Maidenhead, SL6 3LW	Authorised private showpeople site	6	5*	Information gathered regarding present households was received by telephone
	Kimbers Lane Farm, Oakley Green Road, Oakley Green, Windsor, SL4 4QF	Authorised private showpeople site	6	2	
Wokingham	Pelham's Yard, Hinton Road, Hurst, RG10	Private travelling showpeople site	1	1*	
Total			46	48	
*estimate					

Figure 2b – Other sites in Berkshire with evidence of showpeople

District	Site location	Planning status and type of site	Household capacity benefiting from planning permission (supply)	Households present on the site (population)	Additional comments
RB of Windsor and Maidenhead	Brownfield Gardens Caravan Park, Maidenhead, SL6 2RL	Mobile home site	0	1	This is not a showpeople site
Total			0	1	

2.3.3 Below we have provided a short summary describing information gathered on each of the sites where we have identified showpeople living.

Bracknell Forest

2.3.4 There was one showpeople site in Bracknell Forest on Jealotts Hill, Hazelwood Lane. This site is split into six plots and is known by Hazelwood Lane, Jealotts Hill or Beaches Yard. This site is an authorised showpeople site and is known to both the Showman’s Guild and the local authority.

2.3.5 Information from the planning permissions suggests that this site, at full capacity, is permitted to be occupied by 17 households. We were unable to confirm exactly how many households were occupying the entire site at the time of interviewing. Interviews were carried out on four of the six plots and those interviewed were only able to account for households living on their plot. We have, for the purposes of this needs assessment, calculated the number of households on the entire site by adding the figures given by those plots interviewed to the data from planning permission documents for those plots not interviewed. This gives a total of 24 households.

2.3.6 The planning permissions set out terms for winter and summer households for the purposes of this study we have used the winter figure of permitted households.

2.3.7 At the time of carrying out this study the local authority planning department believed the site to be full to the capacity of the terms agreed within the planning permission. However the environmental health department suggested that there may be more caravans / plots than specified in the planning permission, which is what our survey suggests.

Reading

2.3.8 There was one showpeople site identified in Reading. The site is in Tilehurst called Fairground Caravans. This site consists of 11 winter pitches and six summer pitches. The planning permissions set out terms for winter and summer households for the purposes of this study we have used the winter figure of permitted households. The local authority confirmed that there is planning permission for this site and therefore it has been included as authorised within our needs assessment.

Slough

- 2.3.9 There were no showpeople sites identified within Slough by either the local authority or the lists provided by the Showman's Guild.

West Berkshire

- 2.3.10 Two sites were identified in West Berkshire, through the Showman's Guild list.
- 2.3.11 There is one site called Long Copse Farm in Enbourne. This site was confirmed by the local authority to have planning permission for one mobile home (occupied only by one person employed on the site) and there is also permission for four residential caravans (for other workers in agriculture or in the circus itself). There are no restrictions on the time of year when this site can be used for circus purposes. The planning permission coincides with the information provided by the solicitor representing the circus. The solicitor confirmed the site has planning permission to be used as winter quarters.. The local authority confirmed that planning is for five caravans and one mobile home and was received up on appeal.
- 2.3.12 The solicitor indicated that the business has a greater need for accommodation than is currently provided but was not able to specify the level of additional need or the number of households. The solicitor also indicated an additional temporary need that arises when acts arrive from abroad in February prior to the season starting and during periods when the business runs its circus school.
- 2.3.13 The other site is an authorised Gypsy and Traveller site but according to the Showman's Guild has been known to be used by showpeople. This site is in Burghfield Common and is called Four House Corner. We are unaware if, at time of interviewing, any showpeople living on this site and have on this basis excluded this site from our needs calculations. This site was however included in the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment for the Thames Valley Region.

RB of Windsor and Maidenhead

- 2.3.14 There were three showpeople sites identified in RB of Windsor and Maidenhead. There is one site in White Waltham called Carters Yard. Information from the local authority details this site to be lawful for residential accommodation. The site has permission for six caravans to be stationed on the site but outside the buildings. The buildings are only permitted to be used for maintenance and storage purposes, therefore excluding residential purposes. According to the planning permission, residential use of the site for more than two continuous weeks is restricted except between 15th September and 31st March. The planning permission, however, does state that other arrangements can be agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority during the restricted period. This site is an authorised site.
- 2.3.15 There is a showpeople site is in Oakley Green called Kimbers Lane Farm. The site has a capacity for six households according to information provided by the council. Council information indicates that this site has a Certificate of Lawfulness and is therefore authorised. The certificate of lawfulness was granted for mixed residential and storage of fairground rides and lorries.
- 2.3.16 The other showpeople site was identified by the local authority, but not identified through the lists provided by the Showman's Guild. The site is in Welley Road, Horton. Planning permission allows for this site to have two residential caravans, trailers and vehicles. The permission was granted in May 2007 for a temporary period of four years. This site is adjacent to a Gypsy and Traveller site called 'New Stables' and was therefore included in the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment for the Thames Valley

Region. On this basis we have excluded this site from our needs calculations to avoid double counting.

2.3.17 There are two other sites in RB of Windsor and Maidenhead that are not specifically known as showpeople sites. One of the sites is called Feathers Lane. This is a mixed Gypsy English / Romany and travelling showpeople site. This site has a capacity for 13 households; however, no interviews were carried out on this site and it is therefore unknown how many showpeople are currently occupying this site. This site was included within the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment for the Thames Valley Region. On this basis we have excluded this site from our needs calculations to avoid double counting.

2.3.18 The other site is in Maidenhead and is called Brownfield Gardens Caravan Park. This is a mobile home site and information provided by the Showman's Guild identified one registered member of the Showman's Guild to be living on this site. We have not included this household in our supply calculations although have included those living there in our population calculations as we evidenced through our interviews the presence of a show person household living on the site.

Wokingham

2.3.19 One showpeople site was identified in Hurst, Wokingham called Pelham's Yard. This site was identified through the Showman's Guild list and is known to the local authority. The local authority confirmed that this site has planning permission to use the land for storage of circus and fairground equipment. The planning permission also allows the residential accommodation of a four bed detached dwelling. Tribal made contact with this site and confirmed that a showperson is currently living on this site, however, the showperson on the site refused to take part in the survey. We have on this basis included one household for this site. This is an authorised site.

2.3.20 The different sources used to gather this information included:

- Showman's Guild records
- Interviews with professional stakeholders
- Additional information gathered during fieldwork

3 Survey Sample

3.1 Profile of the sample frame

3.1.1 The survey sample included ten interviews, of which there were nine face to face interviews and one telephone interview with travelling showpeople at four sites within the study area. Three of these sites were located in RB of Windsor and Maidenhead and one in Bracknell Forest.

3.1.2 The interviews held on the different sites were as follows:

Table 3 – Interviews by site and district

District	Site name	Interviews
Bracknell Forest	Hazelwood Lane, Binfield	7
RB of Windsor and Maidenhead	Kimbers Lane Farm, Oakley Green	1
	Carters Yard, White Waltham	1
	Brownfield Gardens Caravan Park,	1
Total		10

3.1.3 Tribal received an initial list from the Showman’s Guild comprising 18 members in the Berkshire area. All members on this list were sent an initial letter from the Showman’s Guild explaining about the work and a follow up letter from Tribal providing confirmation of dates for the fieldwork. We confirmed through neighbours and in one case, the new occupant of a house, that at least three people had moved away. Four people, all from different locations, contacted Tribal and specifically asked that we did not visit as they did not want to take part in the study. One eventually agreed to take part after a number of telephone conversations. A number of people living on Jellotts Hill in Bracknell refused to take part in the study whilst we were on site after lengthy discussions.

3.1.4 Of the remaining showpeople sites neither Scours Lane in Reading or Carter’s Yard in RB of Windsor and Maidenhead had any members of the Showman’s Guild. We were able to make contact with residents at Carters Yard through the Traveller Education Service but were not able to make any contact with the residents on Scours Lane through this or any other route.

Ethnicity

3.1.5 Of those included in the sample everyone interviewed defined themselves as showpeople.

Gender

3.1.6 Within the survey sample the overall percentage of men interviewed was higher at 60% than that of women at 40%. The table below shows a breakdown of the number of men and women included in the survey sample for each district.

Table 4 – Gender breakdown by district

Gender	Bracknell Forest	RB of Windsor and Maidenhead	Overall	
			n.	%
Male	5	1	6	60%
Female	2	2	4	40%

Age

3.1.7 The table below shows a breakdown of the age groups included within the survey sample for each district. Please note that this shows the age of the interviewee only and is not a full breakdown across all household members.

Table 5 – Age breakdown

Age bands	Bracknell Forest	RB of Windsor and Maidenhead	Overall	
			n.	%
18 – 21	0	0	0	0%
22 – 25	2	0	2	20%
26 – 30	0	0	0	0%
31 – 40	0	0	0	0%
41 – 50	2	1	3	30%
51 – 60	0	1	1	10%
61 – 65	3	0	3	30%
66 – 70	0	0	0	0%
Over 70	0	1	1	10%

Employment

3.1.8 Of those interviewed within the survey sample 50% were self employed, 20% were in full time employment. Only one of the showpeople interviewed was retired. There were two households that at the time of the survey did not include a household member in some type of employment. The table shows a breakdown of the types of employment of those interviewed.

Table 6 – Employment

Working status	Bracknell Forest	RB of Windsor and Maidenhead	Overall	
			n.	%
Self employed	3	2	5	50%
Full time	2	0	2	20%
Not employed	1	0	1	10%
Retired	0	1	1	10%
Other	1	0	1	10%

3.1.9 Interviewees were asked to describe the type of work that household members were involved in. Six of the people interviewed said that other members of their household were involved in show work. Other types of employment included machine operator, lorry driver and electrical technician.

3.1.10 A similar study carried out by Tribal on the Accommodation and Needs Assessment for Travelling Showpeople in Buckinghamshire showed similar responses. It compared with 100% of respondents defining themselves as showpeople, there was a slight difference in gender responses with the Buckinghamshire study having 56% men compared to the 60% within this study. The Buckinghamshire study showed a much more varied age response rate with 72% above age 41 and no respondents younger than 26.

4 Survey findings

4.1 Accommodation needs

Current accommodation

4.1.1 Of those interviewed four people owned their own plot of land and for four other people it was owned by another member of the household or family. Of the remaining two sites, one plot was owned by another showperson and the other on the mobile home site, in RB of Windsor and Maidenhead was the only site identified as being owned by the council and managed by a Housing Association. This site was not specifically for showpeople. Further information provided by the local authority showed that the mobile home site is no longer owned by the council. The site was transferred to Maidenhead and District Housing Association. However the showperson living on this site appeared to be unaware of this change in ownership.

4.1.2 Three of the respondents paid rent for the plot of land rather than owning their pitches.

4.1.3 Six of the showpeople interviewed described their current accommodation as meeting their current needs. The remaining four respondents described their current needs as not being met because their current accommodation was either too small or lacking facilities.

4.1.4 Of those interviewed whose accommodation was not meeting their current needs, three came from the site in Bracknell Forest. Two people said that this site was lacking facilities and the other person said that it was too small. Interviewees listed the facilities the site was lacking to include street lighting, better roads and sewerage systems. One interviewee also said that their plot lacked security of tenure. The issue of space on the Bracknell Forest site was focused around the number of young people wanting independence and who will require living space of their own in the future. We have acknowledged this need for housing in section 4.8.

“There are eight grandchildren coming to marrying age. One is engaged now and there is nowhere for them to live on this site or any other site”

4.1.5 One respondent from a site in RB of Windsor and Maidenhead said the site was too small and lacked an area where children could play.

4.1.6 Four of the interviewees said that they needed to move to meet their accommodation needs. Three of the four interviewees were from the Bracknell Forest site and one of these three respondents said they needed to move to a site that was authorised.

“...somewhere legal for the grandchildren and myself. This site is only legal for my parents who own the land”

4.1.7 A respondent from one of the sites in RB of Windsor and Maidenhead said they needed to move to meet their accommodation needs but because their children were settled in school they needed to stay in that area. This respondent also said that they needed to stay in the area because the fairs they travel to are based locally.

“Handy for the fairs we travel to. I’m very happy with the school, I had to fight to get kids into school.”

4.1.8 Two of the respondents from the Bracknell Forest site said they needed to move to a different area. Areas listed as possible options included:

- Other areas within Bracknell Forest

- West Berkshire
- RB of Windsor and Maidenhead
- Buckinghamshire
- Essex
- Hertfordshire
- Surrey

4.1.9 Reasons for these areas included respondents wanting to be near friends and family, including extended family.

Waiting list

4.1.10 Three interviewees from the Bracknell Forest site said that they were currently on a waiting list for accommodation. One interviewee said they were on a waiting list for social rented housing, but would prefer to live on a council site for showpeople.

“I would prefer to be on a council site rather than in a house but it needs to be a showman site.”

4.1.11 One interviewee has put a deposit down for a private site in another county. There were legal issues with this site which meant the respondent was losing money paying the legal fees and had to remain on their current site. Another interviewee said that they had put in an application for planning permission on land they owned in another county.

4.1.12 All of the respondents currently on a waiting list said that their current accommodation did not meet their needs.

Location needed

4.1.13 Interviewees were asked to identify which type of location they needed to live in. Half of the interviewees (5) said they needed a rural area outside a town / city / village and two said their preference would be to live on the edge of a town. The table below shows a breakdown of responses.

Table 7 – location needed

Location type	Bracknell Forest	RB of Windsor and Maidenhead	Overall	
			n.	%
Centre of town or city	0	1	1	10%
Edge of town or city	2	0	2	20%
Rural	4	1	5	50%
Other	1	0	1	10%
No response	0	1	1	10%

4.1.14 The respondent who replied “other” to the location type was from the Bracknell site. They said they didn’t mind the type of location but currently felt that they were too far from shops and transport.

4.1.15 Other important factors influencing the location needed were

- Quiet
- Near to hospitals, schools and doctors
- Good public transport links
- Away from towns and people
- Good road access and networks
- Secure and safe

Site facilities and conditions

4.1.16 Interviewees were asked to give their views on what facilities are needed on sites, and also asked to describe how this compared to what they already have on the site they currently live on.

4.1.17 The table below shows the number of households in each district who currently have access to the following facilities on their site.

Table 8 – List of facilities on sites within Bracknell Forest and RB of Windsor and Maidenhead

Facilities	Bracknell Forest	RB of Windsor and Maidenhead
Space for mobile home / trailer	7	1
Space for touring caravan	5	2
Amenity building with toilet facilities	2	0
Amenity building with bathing facilities	2	1
Amenity building with kitchen facilities	2	1
Amenity building with laundry facilities	3	1
Amenity building with dayroom	1	1
Amenity building with bedrooms	1	1
Storage shed	3	3

Facilities	Bracknell Forest	RB of Windsor and Maidenhead
Clothes drying space	7	2
Fresh water	7	3
Hot water	7	3
Parking space	7	3
Hook up to sewerage system	3	2
Hook up to drainage system	4	3
Hook up to electrical supply	7	3
Personal space for storage/maintenance of rides	6	2
Postal service	7	2
Fire fighting equipment	6	2
Refuse collection	7	1
Recycling facilities	7	1
Emergency phone	3	0
Separate area for storage of HGV vehicles/rides	4	0
Separate area for maintenance of HGV vehicles/rides	3	1
Access to broadband	4	1
Play area	1	0
Additional parking for visitors	4	1

4.1.18 The table below shows a count of the number of households that are in need of facilities that they don't currently have on site. All interviews were carried out on privately owned sites so many of the amenities are the responsibility of the land owner however the local authorities have responsibility for refuse collection, recycling arrangements and upkeep of adopted roads. All of the showpeople interviewed in RB of Windsor and Maidenhead sites do not have an amenity building with toilet facilities, with two of the showpeople in RB of Windsor and Maidenhead also not having an amenity building with bathing or laundry facilities.

Table 9 – List of facilities needed on sites within Bracknell Forest and RB of Windsor and Maidenhead

Facilities	Bracknell Forest	Windsor and Maidenhead
Space for mobile home / trailer	0	2
Space for touring caravan	0	2
Amenity building with toilet facilities	0	3
Amenity building with bathing facilities	0	2
Amenity building with kitchen facilities	0	1
Amenity building with laundry facilities	0	2
Amenity building with dayroom	0	1
Amenity building with bedrooms	0	1
Storage shed	3	0
Clothes drying space	0	1
Hook up to sewerage system	3	0
Hook up to drainage system	2	0
Personal space for storage/maintenance of rides	0	1
Postal service	0	1
Fire fighting equipment	1	1
Refuse collection	0	2
Recycling facilities	0	2
Emergency phone	1	1
Separate area for maintenance of HGV vehicles/rides	0	2
Access to broadband	3	1
Play area	1	3
Office for site manager	1	1
Additional parking for visitors	1	1

4.1.19 Other facilities needed included:

- Better access roads
- Street lighting
- Office space
- Workshop space
- Cable television

4.1.20 Four of the respondents said that the size of new sites should be around 6 – 10 pitches and there were two that said new sites should be around 11 – 15 pitches. One of the respondents that said the new sites should be around 11 – 15 pitches only on the basis of the sites being for ‘non-operating’ showmen. The remaining respondents said sites should be a single pitch or 2 – 5 pitches. Two interviewees didn’t respond to this question, with one giving an indication of size of the land but not the number of pitches.

“A half acre per family. Not sure how many plots, this would depend on the relationship. If extended family it could be lots.”

4.1.21 Majority of respondents were positive about the condition of their site. Four respondents said the conditions on their site were very good and four said they were good. The remaining two said they were adequate. Those that said the conditions of their site were adequate came from the Bracknell Forest site. Those people commented that they had issues with the road and the facilities not being good, including not having a flushing toilet. Two of the respondents that were positive about the conditions on their site did comment that what they have they’ve had to do themselves.

“The condition of the site is good, except for the road. Access road and the half mile plus road on the site are not made up. It is the council’s responsibility but not done.”

“The condition of the site is adequate, because I’ve had to spend money on it. The road and the lane are particularly bad. It’s the council’s responsibility but they haven’t made road up.”

4.1.22 Two interviewees had particular concerns about health and safety on the site. From a site in RB of Windsor and Maidenhead, one interviewee was concerned about children playing on the equipment. This respondent said that they needed a play area for children. The other respondent from the Bracknell Forest site was concerned with the electrics which they said ‘cut out’ if it rains.

4.1.23 Five of the interviewees felt that the layout of their site was good. The remaining interviewees split between the site being either adequate (2) or poor (2). One respondent from a site in RB of Windsor and Maidenhead said that they needed more space on the site to enable them to separate their living accommodation from their equipment.

“The layout of the site is poor. I would like to have separate living accommodation from equipment storage and a road through with vans at the back so we can bring them [equipment] in their entirety and break them up on site.”

4.1.24 Another respondent from the Bracknell Forest site commented on needing more space to allow for a separate entrance and exit road on the site.

- 4.1.25 Eight of the showpeople that were interviewed agreed that the location of their site was very good or good. The remaining two respondents came from the Bracknell Forest site and said that the location of their site was adequate. The main reasons why interviewees from the RB of Windsor and Maidenhead site thought the location of the site was very good included:
- Good rural location and quiet
 - Close to transport
 - Near amenities and schools
- 4.1.26 Although majority of the respondents from the Bracknell Forest said that the location of their site was good, some issues were raised including:
- Lack of public transport
 - Lack of nearby amenities
- 4.1.27 Interviewees were asked how they thought their current site could be improved. Suggestions included:
- More facilities including shower blocks and toilet blocks
 - Better access to public transport
 - Improved roads
 - Street lighting
 - Better organised and laid out sites.

4.2 Storage and maintenance space for fairground rides and equipment

- 4.2.1 The types of rides and equipment for which storage and maintenance space was needed varied across different households with the majority requiring at least space for an average of six rides/stalls and/or vans/lorries. These requirements ranged from a need for space for two stalls through to a need for space for 77 vehicles or pieces of equipment which in the case of one family included: 14 stalls, five small rides, 10 large rides, three strikers, one long arcade, six vintage living vans, 14 lorries, one bus, 12 staff caravans and 12 vans. Two respondents commented on having no rides/stalls and/or vans/lorries.
- 4.2.2 Interviewees were asked where they needed the storage space to be located. The majority (7) of the respondents said that the storage space needed to be with them on the same pitch. Reasons for this included:
- Security against theft and vandalism
 - Health and safety checks
 - Maintenance

“There is too much vandalism around here. Equipment needs to be here where we can caretake it.”

“Equipment needs to be on same plot for maintenance convenience, security and health and safety.”

4.2.3 One respondent from a site in RB of Windsor and Maidenhead said that they didn't mind were their rides were kept because they were kept in a vehicle which is insured all year round.

4.2.4 Tribal asked interviewees about possible future changes to the amount and type of equipment their household would be using. Two of the respondents from the sites in RB of Windsor and Maidenhead generally said that they would decrease the amount of equipment and one commented that they might 'go out of business'

“If anything show work might go out of business with the following generation. Even my sons might give it up as depends too much on weather and is expensive to insure. I think it is a dying trade.”

4.2.5 Showpeople require space to enable them to carry out maintenance activities on the equipment. All of the interviewees listed carrying out maintenance activities which included painting, welding, electrical and other general maintenance repairs. Three of the interviewees from the Bracknell Forest site said they needed space to build up and test the rides. Another respondent from this site said they needed to build up the sites for health and safety inspections.

4.2.6 Most interviewees required the space for maintenance to be on their pitch. Interviewees stated that it is better for them to carry out maintenance on their own pitches as it is easier to work on the equipment and maintain it during the winter months and for security reasons the equipment needs to be close by. It also makes it easier if inspections are needed to be carried out on the equipment that it is close to where the accommodation is.

4.2.7 The amount of space needed for storage and maintenance varied according to the number of households on the site. Four respondents said that an acre would be needed which would include living space. Two respondents said that they would need around half an acre and one respondent said they would need two acres. The respondent needing two acres was from a site in RB of Windsor and Maidenhead and was the same household that listed having 77 types of equipment.

4.2.8 A recent study commissioned by the Showman's Guild in the North West⁵ suggested that an acre of land could accommodate an extended family of 10 showmen's homes, including room for associated vehicles and equipment. Another study carried out on behalf of the Showmen's Guild London and Home Counties branch⁶ found that accommodation will usually comprise:

- A large Showman's caravan (for parents plus one smaller child)
- A touring caravan annex for older (same sex) children
- A small mobile home or touring caravan for retired Showpeople

⁵ Power C (2007) *The accommodation situation of Showmen in the Northwest* Showman's Guild, Lancashire Section

⁶ Carried out by Ian Baseley Associates and reproduced here with their kind permission

- A touring caravan (larger operators)
- A storage and maintenance yard for showmen's vehicles and equipment

4.2.9 The latter study concluded that the land requirement for the above needs would be a minimum pitch size of 0.22 ha/0.54 acre based on the Showmen's Guild Model (Site Layout) Standards, and that in some cases this would need to be exceeded to secure an acceptable level of screening and environmental integration.

4.3 Preferred tenure of accommodation

4.3.1 Interviewees were asked to rank what they considered to be the most appropriate accommodation for their household. All of the interviewees from the Bracknell Forest site said they would prefer to live on a permanent site. Of those living on sites in RB of Windsor and Maidenhead, one person said they would prefer to live in housing (bricks and mortar). Of the remaining respondents on the RB of Windsor and Maidenhead sites one said they would like to live on a mobile home site and the other would like to build houses or mobile homes on the land they own.

4.3.2 The majority (8) of the interviewees said that the most appropriate accommodation for them would be that which was owned or managed by either themselves or their family. The remaining respondents said that a Housing Association or Council would be the preferred option.

4.3.3 Interviewees were asked to give their views on how many showpeople are living in housing. Five of the interviewees said that very few showpeople live in houses, with three interviewees saying less than half of showpeople live in houses. Of the remaining two respondents, one said about half of showpeople live in house and the one person didn't respond to this question.

4.3.4 One respondent was living in a house at the time of the interview, this was house built on a site. Three interviewees had lived in a house for over five years. Two of the respondents were brought up in a house. Reasons for moving out of housing included marrying into the business and being evicted.

"Husband was a show promoter and then we started buying equipment. We rented a house and got evicted because of the equipment we had, so we moved onto a site."

4.3.5 We asked those people who had previously lived in a house what impact they thought living in a house had on their ability to pursue their normal line of work. Of those respondents two people said that they didn't have enough space for equipment. One person said that they had to rent a separate yard for equipment.

"...lived in a cul de sac there wasn't enough space for equipment. We had to rent a yard separately in the end. It was very difficult to find and very expensive."

4.4 Local connection

Length of time lived at site

4.4.1 The table below shows the length of time that those interviewed have lived in their current accommodation by district. The majority of respondents have lived in their current accommodation for over 10 years.

Table 10 – Length of time in current accommodation

	Bracknell Forest	RB of Windsor and Maidenhead	Overall	
			n.	%
Three years - less than five years	1	0	1	10%
Five years - less than ten years	0	1	1	10%
More than ten years	6	2	8	80%

4.4.2 Interviewees were asked what their main reasons were for moving to the site they currently live on. Two respondents were born on the sites where they currently live. Reasons listed for moving to sites included being unable to access sites / accommodation in other areas (2) and being evicted from previous accommodation (1). Other reasons included:

- Site closure and relocation
- Needing permanent site with space for equipment
- Needing somewhere safe
- Previous accommodation too small
- Pitches becoming available to buy

Length of time living in Berkshire

4.4.3 All of the showpeople interviewed have lived in Berkshire for over ten years.

Family in the local area

4.4.4 Eight of those interviewed said they had other family living in the Berkshire area. Of those respondents with other family living in Berkshire, five have family living on the same site but on a different pitch. Four respondents have family living in housing (bricks and mortar) within Berkshire.

4.4.5 The table below shows a breakdown of where other family members live within Berkshire.

Table 11 – Location of other family members

	Bracknell Forest	RB of Windsor and Maidenhead	Overall	
			n.	%
On this site but a different pitch	4	1	5	50%
On a different site	1	0	1	10%

	Bracknell Forest	RB of Windsor and Maidenhead	Overall	
			n.	%
In bricks and mortar	2	2	4	40%

4.5 Working and travelling patterns and trends

4.5.1 Interviewees were asked if they have travelled for show or fair work in the last three years. The table below shows a breakdown of responses by district. Just over half (6) of showpeople interviewed have travelled in the last three years. Of those who travelled half (3) said they travelled on average more than five times each year, with the remaining three only travelling once on average.

Table 12 – Travel for show or fair work

	Bracknell Forest	RB of Windsor and Maidenhead	Overall	
			n.	%
Yes	4	2	6	60%
No	3	1	4	40%

4.5.2 Two of the four respondents that no longer travelled did say they had children who travelled to the fairs.

4.5.3 The majority of showpeople interviewed travel mostly during the summer months. Both showpeople living on the sites in RB of Windsor and Maidenhead commented that they travel between March and October. Two showpeople living on the Bracknell Forest site said they generally go out on weekends. Showpeople don't always 'stay out' for the whole summer. Of those respondents who travel half said that they only normally stay away for less than one week.

“The fair goes out from March to October. Sometimes we commute. Daughter in law comes back to get kids in school. I come back to the yard but the fair stays out.”

“We travel each week in the summertime.”

“It’s not my main work though at odd weekends I go to help out..”

4.5.4 The table below shows a breakdown of the length of time interviewees normally stay away each time they travel.

Table 13 – Length of time away each time travelling

	Bracknell Forest	RB of Windsor and Maidenhead	Overall	
			n.	%
Less than a week	3	0	3	50%
Four weeks to less than 3 months	1	0	1	17%
Three months and over	0	2	2	33%

4.5.5 All of the interviewees that have travelled for show / fair work in the last three years said that other members of their household travel with them when they go to shows / fairs.

4.5.6 All of the showpeople interviewed that have travelled for show / fair work in the last three years said that they had a similar pattern of show / fair work every year. All of showpeople that travel said that they wouldn't give up their current accommodation when travelling to show / fair work. One interviewee commented that the reason they didn't give up their current accommodation was because their pitch was family owned and another said it was because they would occasionally return to the site.

4.5.7 The interviewees were asked whether they thought that patterns of travelling for show or fair work are likely to change in the next five years. Three respondents said that they would still have a similar pattern of sending out rides although one person said that may try different places. One respondent said that they would keep going but commented on the high expense of show / fair work.

“Keep going to fairs. If we don't we will lose our space or rights but often very quiet and not making much money. Also it is expensive to travel into London with charges.”

4.5.8 One respondent said that showpeople who stop going to fairs do return to the work at any time.

“Not sure. As showmen could be out of it [show or fair work] for years and then go back.”

4.5.9 One respondent said they would not be able to travel as much due to health reasons.

Dependency on work in local area

4.5.10 Interviewees were asked to list all the different places they travelled to for show or fair work in the last three years. Six of the interviewees who said that they had travelled in the last three years listed a range of places to which they'd been. We have consolidated this extensive list into counties.

4.5.11 On average showpeople interviewed said they had travelled to six different places during the last three years. The highest number was 14 places and the lowest two places.

4.6 Experience of using health, education and training, and housing services

4.6.1 All of showpeople interviewed said that they have used local health, education, support or advice services.

4.6.2 The types of local health services used included:

- GP (8)
- Hospital (5)
- Dentist (4)
- Private clinics (1)
- Optician (1)
- Private medical insurance (1)

4.6.3 One respondent from the Bracknell Forest commented that a local GP refused to register them because of other members of the village.

“The GP in the district refused to have us because the village will be against us.”

4.6.4 Another respondent was unable to use local health services because of health reasons meaning the respondent had to attend a certain hospital.

4.6.5 Seven of the ten showpeople interviewed have either used or are using local education services. One interviewee said that when their children were travelling they were provided with education packs. Information on education services was obtained from the Traveller Education Service by one interviewee. Two interviewees commented on using private education services either while travelling or as permanent option.

4.6.6 Four interviewees commented on using support and advice services. These services included job advice centres and Citizens Advice Bureau.

4.6.7 Six interviewees said that the quality of the local services they used was good or to their satisfaction. Some of the issues with local services were a result of the poor road structure at the site in Bracknell Forest.

“Postmen and dustmen have threatened to stop coming here because of the lane being in such poor repair.”

4.6.8 Four interviewees said the quality of local healthcare services was bad.

“My cousin’s husband, who lives on this site, has a brain tumour and he couldn’t be transported to hospital by ambulance as quickly as he should have been because the road is bumpy...”

“One of my daughters lives in a house and is not happy with healthcare for her children. She used to live outside of Berkshire where the service was much better, much more proactive.”

4.6.9 Interviewees were asked how they travelled to local services. The majority of the services listed were health services, with majority of interviews travelling by car to the doctor, dentist or hospital. Most of the interviewees who travelled by car to the GP said they

travelled three to four miles to get there, the distance to the hospital was longer, between five and twelve miles. The distance travelled to the dentist differed by district. In Windsor and Maidenhead the distance was varied with one interviewee travelling four miles and one travelling 25 miles both by car. In Bracknell Forest the distance was also varied with one interviewee travelling three miles by car and another two travelling 13 and 15 miles by car. Only two interviewees mentioned travelling to educational services; one travelled two miles and one travelled six miles.

4.6.10 Interviewees were asked whether there was anything that would put them off using local services. Only two respondents said there was something that would put them off using local services these included mixed wards in hospitals.

4.7 Household characteristics and relationships

4.7.1 The table below shows a breakdown of the size of households. Majority of households contain two members. The remaining households show two households containing three members and one household containing one member.

Table 14 – Household size

Size of households	TOTAL (n.)	TOTAL (%)
1 member	1	10%
2 members	7	70%
3 members	2	20%

4.7.2 The matrix below shows the range of household compositions for those taking part in the survey. Only two households interviewed contained children under 18 years of age.

Table 15 – Household composition

		Children (under 18)		
		0	1	2
Adults	1	1	0	0
	2	7	2	0

4.7.3 The average household size based on table 15 above is 2.1. This is lower than an average of 4.1⁷ for travelling showpeople’s families found during research by Ian Baseley associates on behalf of the Showmen’s Guild in London and Home Counties. A similar showpeople needs assessment study for Buckinghamshire⁸, carried out by Tribal, showed

⁷ Reproduced here with kind permission of Ian Baseley Associates

⁸ *Showpeople Accommodation Needs Assessment for Buckinghamshire County Council*, Tribal Consulting, 2007

a higher average household size of 3.3. The average from this survey is also lower than the average household size of 3.82 for the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment for the Thames Valley Region⁹ and lower than the average household of size of 2.48 for the general population within Berkshire area¹⁰.

4.7.4 Interviewees were asked whether it was important for them to live with other households on their current site. The table below shows a breakdown of responses. Half of respondents felt it was important for them to live with other households on their current site. Most (4) of these respondents said they would want to live with family and extended family and spoke of the importance of the support and help they receive from the other members of their household.

Table 16 – Importance of living with other households on current site

	Bracknell Forest	Windsor and Maidenhead	Overall	
			n.	%
Yes	4	1	5	50%
No	2	0	2	20%
No response	1	2	3	30%

4.8 Rate of new household formation and future accommodation requirements

4.8.1 Two interviewees listed members of their households as needing separate accommodation now. Both need separate accommodation for one household each. Therefore there are currently two concealed households which is equivalent to a concealed household rate of 20%. This compares to 12.5% found in the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment for the Thames Valley Region, and 27% found in a study of Showmen’s accommodation needs in the Northwest¹¹. One concealed household was from the site in Bracknell Forest and one from a site in RB of Windsor and Maidenhead.

4.8.2 As previously mentioned in section 4.1 although we only identified two concealed households in the interviews we carried out, one interviewee did make reference to there being a number of young people living on their site that would require their own separate accommodation in the future. This evidence of concealed households has not been included in our needs calculations as we were unable to gather specific data on these young people.

⁹ *Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment for the Thames Valley Region*, p.33, Tribal Consulting,2007

¹⁰ Berkshire census briefing 2003 – www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/census-2001-key-statistics-household-variables.pdf [accessed 14.06.07]

¹¹ Power, C (2007) *The accommodation situation of Showmen in the Northwest* Showman’s Guild, Lancashire Section

- 4.8.3 Another interviewee, from one of the sites in RB of Windsor and Maidenhead, said that one member of their household would not need separate accommodation now but will within the next ten years. This is equivalent to a household growth rate of 10% over ten years, which is considerably lower than 17% over five years (equivalent to 34% over a ten year period) found in both the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment for the Thames Valley Region and the Needs Assessment for Travelling Showpeople for Buckinghamshire County Council. .
- 4.8.4 Caution must be taken when undertaking studies with such small numbers since the data gathered may not be representative of the wider population. Furthermore small numbers must be treated with caution as small shifts can result in large percentage changes which can lead to the possibility of distortions. This study indicates a relatively low level of household growth compared to other studies. A percentage growth rate of 56% over a ten year period was found during a survey for travelling showpeople in the Leicestershire Gypsy and Traveller needs assessment¹² and other studies in the area carried out by Tribal show higher rates.
- 4.8.5 Of those concealed households needing separate accommodation one needs an authorised permanent site, one needs housing (bricks and mortar) and the one respondent didn't know the type of accommodation needed for their concealed household. Two of the concealed households would prefer to manage the accommodation themselves and again, as with the type of accommodation, the same respondent was not able to comment on management preferences.
- 4.8.6 The table below shows a breakdown of where those households who need separate accommodation now, or who expect to need separate accommodation over the next ten years, would be willing to live compared to where they currently live.

Table 17 - Areas where concealed households that need to move both now and the next ten years are willing to live

Current site location ↓	Willing to live						
	Bracknell Forest	Reading	Slough	West Berkshire	Windsor and Maidenhead	Wokingham	Other county
Bracknell Forest	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Windsor and Maidenhead	0	0	0	0	2	0	0

- 4.8.7 The table above shows that those concealed households currently living in Windsor and Maidenhead needed to remain in RB of Windsor and Maidenhead. Reasons listed for this

¹² Niner P (2007) *Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Gypsies' and Travellers' Accommodation Needs Assessment Final Report* Centre for Urban and Regional Studies

included being near family and friends, employment, close to transport routes and having lived here before.

“It’s where they’ve been all their life. It’s where they work as well.”

- 4.8.8 The one concealed household in Bracknell would be willing to live in West Berkshire or in another county (Surrey). Reasons for wanting to be in this location included being near family and friends, employment, to give care or support and having lived here before.
- 4.8.9 It must be stressed that any details on concealed households’ covers only the sites that participated in this study i.e. those located in Bracknell Forest and RB of Windsor and Maidenhead. It must not be assumed that sites on other authorities within the Berkshire County have no concealed households.
- 4.8.10 None of the households needing separate accommodation now or in the next five years are currently on a waiting list.

4.9 Need for transit sites/temporary stopping places

- 4.9.1 Initial discussions with stakeholders did not reveal any evidence of unauthorised encampments by travelling showpeople and no encampments were identified by local authority or community contacts during the period in which the survey interviews were being undertaken. There was however evidence from the interviews that patterns of work are changing with more attendance at local fairs and less long periods out on the road reducing the need for temporary stopping places. There was some evidence that there may be a need for some temporary stopping places for circus people in the West Berkshire area but it was not possible to quantify this.
- 4.9.2 The need for transit sites and temporary stopping places within the area are more likely to arise from those from outside the county travelling through the county and there was no evidence of this gathered during the study.
- 4.9.3 None of the interviewees from our survey identified a need for temporary accommodation.
- 4.9.4 A study commissioned by the Lancashire branch of the Showmen’s Guild¹³ reported that during the working season (mainly March to November), showmen often require secure places to stay whilst travelling with large fairground equipment for up to three or four days between one fair’s end and the next day’s fair date (so as to avoid an expensive and often logistically difficult return to the permanent site for a very short period). The supply of such ‘sites’ was reported to be diminishing.

¹³ Power C (2007) *The accommodation situation of Showmen in the Northwest* The Showmen’s Guild, Lancashire

5 Calculation of need

5.1 The methodology

5.1.1 In its guidance 'Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments' the CLG has provided a framework for the assessment of the need for new site accommodation. The CLG guidance recommends that the calculation of pitch requirements is based upon five core variables:

- Current supply
- Current demand
- Concealed households
- Transfers from Housing
- Family Formation

5.1.2 This section of the report brings together the findings from the stakeholder interviews, literature review and the findings from the analysis of survey data to give an estimate of the need for additional site provision.

5.1.3 We have detailed below the basis upon which each assumption has been developed, drawing on both the survey findings and the results of other similar research where relevant.

5.1.4 It must be stressed that the small numbers of travelling showpeople in the area and the subsequent small sample size obtained for this study do not offer high levels of reliability for the needs calculations. The calculation can be very sensitive to minor adjustments in the assumptions or the supply and demand data.

5.2 The overall population to which the survey findings apply

5.2.1 When working with less than a 100% sample it is necessary to extrapolate up from the survey findings to the overall population to whom the survey findings apply in order to get an overall picture of need. Tribal's estimates of the overall population of showpeople in the study area are built up as follows. Please note that the 'households' referred to below do not include separate counting of concealed households (for instance parents and a married son and daughter in law would count as one household) as these have been accounted for later in our calculations (see 5.7).

5.2.2 Population living on lawful/authorised private sites – this figure is derived from the 'site map' (see figures 2a and 2b) which has been built up from information provided by the local authorities and the Showman's Guild together with evidence from the Tribal survey. We have assumed those for which planning status is currently unknown are lawful/authorised sites and calculated needs on this basis. Should this prove to be incorrect the needs assessment would need to be recalculated. Therefore on this basis we have assumed that there are 41 households on lawful/authorised sites in the county. (This figure is derived from the total in the supply column in figure 2a but subtracting pitches to account for under occupation on one site).

5.2.3 As not all these households were interviewed we need to assume the total population within them. To do this we have multiplied the number of households by the average household size derived from the survey (2.1) to give a population figure of 86 living on lawful/authorised sites.

- 5.2.4 Population living on unlawful/unauthorised developments – We were not made aware during the local stakeholder interviews, interviews with showpeople or discussions with the Showman’s Guild of any current or previous incidence of unlawful/unauthorised developments involving showpeople. There are however an estimated 7 households living on a site which constitutes overcrowding since they go beyond the numbers within the stated planning permissions. For the purposes of the needs calculations these 7 households have been categorised as unauthorised. The estimated population figure for this group is 15.
- 5.2.5 Population living in unlawful/unauthorised encampments – We were not made aware during the local stakeholder interviews, interviews with showpeople or discussions with the Showman’s Guild of any current or previous incidence of unlawful/unauthorised encampments involving showpeople.
- 5.2.6 Population living in housing – Although we did not interview any households currently living in housing during the survey we did reveal anecdotal evidence of showpeople currently living in housing. Nine of those interviewed agreed that some showpeople live in houses and throughout the survey four interviewees said that other family members lived in housing. On this basis we have estimated that 5% of households live in housing in the county, and of this 30% would have a need for site accommodation. This 30% is based on the figure used in the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment for the Thames Valley Region. Therefore on this basis we have assumed that there are 2.5 households living in housing in the county.

Table 18 – Summary of showpeople population figures (estimate)

	Households	Estimated population	% of showpeople population
Authorised showpeople private sites (as per planning permission)	41	86	79%
Authorised showpeople private sites (overcrowding)	7	15	14%
Authorised private sites (not dedicated showpeople sites)	1	2	2%
Housing	2.5	5	5%
Total	51.5	108	100%

5.3 Current supply

- 5.3.1 We have assumed that all sites identified in the site map (see Figure 2a) are lawful/authorised and available for use by showpeople.
- 5.3.2 We are not aware of any unused sites or pitches that are lawful/authorised for use by showpeople, or of any planned extensions to existing sites.
- 5.3.3 We have assumed a vacancy rate of 4% per year. The Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment for the Thames Valley Region and Nottinghamshire

Gypsy and Traveller needs assessments both (using different sources of information) found a vacancy rate of 8%. For this study however there was very limited evidence of turnover and population movement so we have made the assumption that the turnover would be at a lower level of 4%.

5.4 Demand arising from unauthorised developments

5.4.1 Although there were no unlawful or unauthorised sites identified within this study, we have identified overcrowding on sites where planning permission is granted for a smaller number than those present. In accordance with CLG guidance we have assumed that these households are in need of site accommodation.

5.5 Demand arising from unauthorised encampments

5.5.1 The study did not identify any specific need for emergency stopping places in the county for showpeople working in or passing through the county although there were indications that there may be some demand for temporary arrangements for circus people in the West Berkshire area (see 4.9). However, as we were unable to interview any households in this situation during the time of the survey, and there appear to be no formal records of these 'encampments', it is difficult to draw conclusions.

5.5.2 For this reason we have not drawn any conclusions on the need for emergency stopping places in the county of Berkshire from this study and suggest that this should be a particular focus of future monitoring activity.

5.6 Demand arising from other sources

5.6.1 We have some evidence of travelling showpeople living in housing in the county and have assumed that the population living in housing is 5% of the population. We have also assumed that 30% of those living in housing would take up a place on a site if available. This is based on the assumption used in the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment for the Thames Valley Region.

5.7 Concealed and future emerging needs

5.7.1 Section 4.8 describes the survey findings in relation to currently concealed households and anticipated household growth over the next ten years. The rate of concealed households is higher than that found in the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment for the Thames Valley Region. This may be due to the small size of our sample or due to a greater shortage of sites for showpeople compared to those groups. Although higher rates were found by other studies of showpeople's needs, this may also be due to greater shortages of sites in those areas. For these reasons we have used the local survey finding of 20%.

5.7.2 The household growth figure found in the survey of 10% over ten years is lower than that found in the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment for the Thames Valley Region and lower than the rate found in a study in Leicestershire where the household growth for showpeople was assumed to be 56% over a ten year period¹⁴. In the absence of alternative more reliable evidence we have therefore used the percentage suggested by the survey findings.

¹⁴ *Niner P (2007) Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Gypsies' and Travellers' Accommodation Needs Assessment Final Report Centre for Urban and Regional Studies*

5.8 Distinguishing between need and preferences

5.8.1 One of the issues that arise in relation to assessment of the accommodation needs of travelling showpeople needs is the extent to which households should be entitled to have their needs met for accommodation through site based provision rather than through conventional housing. The CLG guidance infers that the primary need will be for site based accommodation.

5.9 Summary of needs for the Berkshire area

5.9.1 The table below shows the results of the needs assessment at county level, using the assumptions set out above and based around the CLG guidance.

5.9.2 Once again it must be stressed that the small numbers of travelling showpeople in the area and the subsequent small sample size obtained for this study do not offer high levels of reliability for the needs calculations. The calculation can be very sensitive to minor adjustments in the assumptions or the supply and demand data.

Table 19 – Accommodation needs assessment for the county

CURRENT RESIDENTIAL SUPPLY		
A Current supply of socially rented residential site pitches in county	0	Based on information from local authorities
B Current supply of lawful/authorised privately owned site pitches in county	46	Based on data from the survey and the local authorities (see table 2a)
C Total pitches on lawful/authorised sites (A + B)	46	
D Number of lawful/authorised pitches not available for letting (due to management problems, awaiting refurbishment etc)	0	
E Number of available pitches (C – D)	46	
F Number of existing pitches expected to become vacant and lettable through normal annual turnover (LA and privately owned)	1.8	Based on an assumption that 4% of private pitches will become vacant each year
G Number of households in site accommodation expressing a desire to live in housing	1	Number of households on authorised sites who would take up housing if offered (as per survey findings 4.3.1)
H New local authority pitches already planned	0	There are no known new sites planned at present
I Existing applications for private site development / extension	0	There are no known plans for site development or extension at present
J Net Available Supply (F + G + H + I)	2.8	

CURRENT DEMAND		
K Households on unlawful/unauthorised encampments	0	No record of unlawful/unauthorised encampments involving showpeople
L Households on unlawful/unauthorised developments	7	Total number of households living on authorised sites outside the terms of the planning permission for that site
M Concealed households in this study area currently in need of accommodation	9.8	Based on 20% concealed households (based on survey findings) requiring site accommodation from a total assumed number of 49 households.
N In housing but with a need for site accommodation	0.8	Based on 30% of estimated 2.5 households living in housing
O Demand (K + L)	7	
P Estimated current backlog of need (M + N + O)	18	
Q Additional household formation 2007 – 2017	4.9	Number of new households likely to form in next ten years who will wish to take up site accommodation. Based on 10% household growth taken from the survey
R Estimated need for additional permanent pitches 2007/17 (P + Q)	23	
S Pitches available from current supply over 2007 – 2011	19	Assumes: Vacancies arising on lawful/authorised sites over a ten year periods due to normal net turnover of 4% (F X 10 = 18) + Additional vacancies created through those on authorised sites taking up housing (G = 1)
T Indicative need for additional permanent pitches 2007 – 2017 (R – S)	4	

5.9.3 Please note that the figures in this table have been rounded up or down to one decimal place as appropriate. Calculations have used pre rounded figures which in some cases may affect totals.

6 Concluding remarks

6.1 Local needs

- 6.1.1 The results of the survey appear to have confirmed the assumptions contained within recent CLG guidance on the lifestyle and needs of travelling showpeople, namely that many showpeople now need site accommodation for more than the winter period and prefer to have permanent accommodation which they can return to in-between fairs as much as possible. This was considered particularly important in order to ensure that the children receive an education. In some cases it had been a challenge to get children into local schools and maintaining regular attendance was considered important by family members.
- 6.1.2 There was an expressed desire to continue with the traditional lifestyle amongst the majority of respondents. Even those who no longer work within the show or fair business consider it important to live on a site and there was a suggestion of the need for site for non operational showpeople.
- 6.1.3 The majority of the interviewees reported long connections with the county and all reported travelling to fairs in their own district as well as adjoining districts in many cases. This indicates strong local connections.
- 6.1.4 Although there was some evidence of people wishing to move to other areas of the country, the majority of those expressing a wish to move wanted to stay in the same area, and often on the same site. The survey was unable to reveal the extent and impact of inward migration, and so we have not attempted to quantify the need for site provision in the county from people currently living outside the region. The factors affecting inward and outward migration can be highly unpredictable and open to a variety of influences. This will include enforcement action in authorities some miles away as well as in neighbouring areas (which may prompt family members to come to the region) as well as the availability of new site provision.
- 6.1.5 Where there are established communities it is highly likely that new households forming from those communities will wish to remain in the immediate area, and often on the same site as the rest of their family. It may be possible to cater for some of this need through extensions to existing lawful/authorised sites.
- 6.1.6 As for Gypsies and Travellers, many showpeople interviewed expressed a strong desire to live together with other members of their family and, if not, with other showpeople. It is possible that this need is greater than an attachment to a particular local area for some households. Nevertheless those with sick or disabled members in their household or school age children in particular expressed a need for a settled base from which to receive education, health care and help from other showpeople.
- 6.1.7 The accommodation needs assessment has suggested a need for an increase in the number of pitches on permanent lawful/authorised sites over the next ten years of around four pitches. It should be noted however that the overall assessment is based on assumptions that have been developed with a small sample frame and extrapolation from small numbers should be treated with caution. Furthermore there were indications from the fieldwork that the numbers of concealed households may be much higher than the numbers reflected in this study (see 4.8.2). We were not able to quantify this through specific interviews and so have only based our needs calculations on data gathered from households taking part in the interviews.
- 6.1.8 It should be noted that the estimated need for an additional four pitches is based on current planning permission that exists for the winter months. There was evidence from the fieldwork that for many travelling showpeople in Berkshire the need for site

accommodation exists throughout the year in order to enable children to access education. Therefore the estimate of need during the non winter months would be greater than the estimated four pitches. This need can be addressed by authorities granting year round planning permission for those site which currently only have permission to reside during the winter months.

6.2 Preferred tenure

6.2.1 Although there was some evidence that a small number of showpeople in the area live in housing there were consistent messages from respondents to the survey that it is site based accommodation and not housing that is needed to meet the needs of travelling showpeople. The survey results further suggest that it is assistance to identify sites for owner occupation that travelling showpeople want rather than rented provision from the public or private sectors although there was some limited aspiration to be housed on a council site developed specifically for showpeople and some evidence that some showpeople the area may have lived on mixed council owned and managed sites.

6.2.2 Given the expressed interest in owner occupation, the Berkshire councils may wish to engage the Housing Corporation in discussions about how travelling showpeople in the county might be assisted to pursue low cost site development options along the same lines as low cost home ownership models.

6.3 Site design

6.3.1 The survey findings highlight the importance placed by travelling showpeople on being able to store their rides, etc close at hand on their site. The Showman's Guild has recommended that pitch sizes of 100' by 150' are required to accommodate these needs.

6.3.2 The CLG is about to consult on site design guidance for Gypsy and Traveller sites which also mentions the need to take account of storage for fairground rides and equipment when planning sites for travelling showpeople.

6.4 Transit/emergency stopping places

6.4.1 This study did not identify any clear evidence of a need for additional stopping places in the county or adjoining areas although there was some anecdotal evidence of need for circus people in West Berkshire. There can be logistical difficulties (as well as considerable expense) associated with interviewing a sufficient sample of households engaged in unauthorised camping due to the need to have interviewers available to carry out those interviews at short notice during the complete working season. A more pragmatic approach may be for the councils to begin to keep formal records of such encampments when they occur, and where possible, interview the households involved to gain a more accurate picture of their needs.

6.5 Involving the local community

6.5.1 In deciding how to respond to the needs identified during this study the authorities should involve the local communities to ensure that the solutions identified will work in practice and adequately reflect the needs and preferences of the intended recipients. This could involve, for instance, involving community and/or Guild members in site identification and design, developing standards for site facilities and management, and development of service models.

Appendix A – Survey Form

Berkshire Show Peoples' Needs Assessment

Initials of interviewer.....

Date of interview.....

District.....

Site name/location.....

Number of households on site.....

Layout of site e.g. *linear, circular, horseshoe, L shape*.....

Please use the comments page at the back of this questionnaire for any additional information that may come up in the interview

Please try and capture comments made during the interview as we may use them as quotes to illustrate points

A. Accommodation

1. Who owns this plot of land?

Me		1
Another member of my household		2
Myself jointly with other members of my family		3
Another Show Person		4
Private landowner/landlord		5
Don't know		6
Other (please explain below)		7

2. Do you pay rent for the plot?

Yes		1
No		2

3. How long have you lived on this site? *If you are often away for periods for fairs please state when you first started using this site*

Less than a month		1
One month – less than 6 months		2
6 months – less than a year		3
One year – less than two years		4
Two years – less than three years		5
Three years – less than five years		6
Five years – less than ten years		7
More than ten years		8

4. What were your main reasons for moving to this site?

To be near family and friends		1
Employment		2
To give care or support		3
To receive care or support		4
Unable to access sites/accommodation in another area		5
To take up health services in this area		6
To take up education for the family in the area		7
Disability		8
Cultural reasons		9
Close to transport routes (e.g. major roads)		10
Eviction – (required to move by police, local authority, landowner or landlord)		11
Have lived here before		12
Close to amenities		13
Other (please describe below)		14

5. How long have you lived in Berkshire?

Under 6 months		1
Over 6 months – 1 year		2
Over 1 – 3 years		3
Over 3 – 5 years		4
Over 5 – 10 years		5
Over 10 years		6

6. Do you have family living in Berkshire (*who are not part of your existing household*)?

Yes, on this site but different plot		1
Yes, on a different site		2
Yes, in bricks and mortar		3
No		4

7. Which of the following would you consider to be the most appropriate accommodation for your household? *(Please rank them in order of preference if possible – 1= most attractive option)*

Permanent site		1
Temporary site		2
Housing (bricks and mortar)		3
Grouped housing		4
Other (please describe below)		5

8. Who would you prefer to own/manage this accommodation? *(Please rank them in order of preference if possible – 1= most attractive option)*

Council		1
Housing association		2
Me or my family		3
Another Show Person		4
Private landowner/landlord		5
Other		6
Don't know		7

9. Does your current accommodation meet your current needs?

Yes		1
No		2

If "no" to question 10 please describe why your accommodation doesn't meet your needs? *Tick all of those that apply*

- 10.

Too small		1
Lacking facilities		2
Don't want to be in this location		3
Don't like the management of the site		4
Other (please describe below)		5

11. Do you need to move to meet your accommodation needs?

Yes		1
No		2
Comments		

--

If yes go to question 12 and if no go to question 16.

12. Do you need to move to a different area?

Yes		1
No		2
Don't know/unsure		3

13. If so, where do you need to live? *(Please tick any district that applies)*

Bracknell Forest		1
Reading		2
Slough		3
West Berkshire		4
Windsor and Maidenhead		5
Wokingham		6
Other county (please specify)		7
Other county (please specify)		8
Other (please specify)		9

14. What is your main reason for needing to be in that location? *(Tick all that apply)*

To be near family and friends		1
Employment		2
To give care or support		3
To receive care or support		4
Unable to access sites/accommodation in another area		5
To take up health services in that area		6
To take up education for the family in the area		7
Disability		8
Cultural reasons		9
Close to transport routes (e.g. major roads)		10
Eviction – (required to move by police, local authority, landowner or landlord)		11
Have lived there before		12
Close to amenities		13
Other (please describe below)		14

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15. Would it be important for you to live with other households on your current site?

Yes		1
No		2
Don't know/unsure		3
<i>If yes please explain why</i>		

16. How many rides/stalls does your **individual household** need storage space for?

	<i>Insert number</i>	
Stalls		1
Small rides		2
Large rides		3
Other (please specify)		4

17. Where does that storage space need to be and why?

18. Do you think your family will make any changes in the amount and type of equipment they will be using in the future? If yes please say what you think these changes may be.

19. What type of maintenance activities do you need space for on your plot?

20. Where does this maintenance space need to be and why?

--

21. Can you provide an estimate (in feet and inches or meters) of the amount of space you need for storage and maintenance?

--

22. Are you currently on a waiting list for accommodation? (*Tick all that apply*)

No		1
Social rented site - local authority (please specify which one)		2
Social rented site (housing association)		3
Private site		4
Private landlords list		5
Waiting list for social rented housing		6
Other (please describe below)		7

23. What type of location do you need to live in?

Centre of town or city		1
Edge of town or city		2
Village		3
Rural (out of town/city/village)		4
Other (please specify)		5

24. Is there anything else about the location that would be important?

--

B. Sites facilities and conditions

We would like to know your views on what amenities are needed on sites, and how this compares to what you have on the site you live on
(Remember to use the back page for any additional information given)

1. Please indicate what facilities you have now and what you think are needed on **individual plots** on sites for Showpeople *tick all that apply*

	Have now	Need
Space for mobile home/trailer	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Space for touring caravan	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Amenity building with toilet facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Amenity building with bathing facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Amenity building with kitchen facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Amenity building with laundry facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
Amenity building with dayroom	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
Amenity building with bedrooms	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
Storage shed	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 9
Clothes drying space	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 10
Fresh water	<input type="checkbox"/> 11	<input type="checkbox"/> 11
Hot water	<input type="checkbox"/> 12	<input type="checkbox"/> 12
Parking space	<input type="checkbox"/> 13	<input type="checkbox"/> 13
Hook up to sewerage system	<input type="checkbox"/> 14	<input type="checkbox"/> 14
Hook up to drainage system	<input type="checkbox"/> 15	<input type="checkbox"/> 15
Hook up to electrical supply	<input type="checkbox"/> 16	<input type="checkbox"/> 16
Personal space for storage/maintenance of rides i.e. (on own plot)	<input type="checkbox"/> 17	<input type="checkbox"/> 17

2. Please indicate what additional facilities are needed on a site and what you have now

	Have now	Need
Postal service	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Fire fighting equipment	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Refuse collection	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Recycling facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Emergency phone	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Separate area for storage of HGV vehicles/rides	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
Separate area for maintenance of HGV	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 7

vehicles/rides		
Access to broadband	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
Play area	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 9
Communal meeting area	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 10
Office for site manager	<input type="checkbox"/> 11	<input type="checkbox"/> 11
Additional parking for visitors	<input type="checkbox"/> 12	<input type="checkbox"/> 12
Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> 13	<input type="checkbox"/> 13
Please provide additional detail below where required		

3 What size do you think new sites should be?

Single plot	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
2 - 5 plots	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
6 – 10 plots	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
11 – 15 plots	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
16 – 20 plots	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
21 – 25 plots	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
26 – 30 plots	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
Over 30 plots	<input type="checkbox"/> 8

4. What are your views on the conditions of the site you live on now?

Very Good	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Good	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Very Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
<i>Comments</i>	

5a. Is there a repairs service?

Yes		1
No		2
Don't know / unsure		3

5b If yes, what do you think about the repairs service?

Very Good	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Good	<input type="checkbox"/> 2

Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	4
Very Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	5

6. Do you have any particular concerns about health and safety on the site?

Yes		1
No		2

If yes, add detail here:

7. What do you think about the layout of the site?

Very Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	4
Very Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	5

Comments

8. What do you think about the location of the site?

Very Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	4
Very Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	5

Comments

9. How could your current site be improved?

C. About you

1. Gender	Male	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
	Female	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
2. Age	18 – 21	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
	22 – 25	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
	26 – 30	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
	31 – 40	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
	41 – 50	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
	51 – 60	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
	61 – 65	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
	66 – 70	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
	Over 70	<input type="checkbox"/> 9
3. In which group do you feel you belong?	Show People	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
	Irish Traveller	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
	New Traveller	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
	English Gypsy / Romany	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
	Scottish Traveller	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
	Welsh Gypsy	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
	Other (please describe below)	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
Other		
4. Working Status (<i>tick any that apply</i>)	Self employed	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
	Full time employment	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
	Part time employment	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
	Not employed	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
	Retired	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
	Semi-retired	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
	Other (please describe below)	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
Other		

4. If yes please provide details

	Household 1	Household 2	Household 3
Number of adults			
Number of children			

5. How many members of your household do not need separate accommodation now but are likely to need it within the next 10 years?

Number of additional households	
---------------------------------	--

6. What type of accommodation does/will that separate households need?

Authorised permanent site		1
Housing (bricks and mortar)		2
Don't know		3
Other (please describe below)		4

7. Who would they prefer to manage this accommodation?

Council		1
Housing Association		2
Manage themselves		3
Another Show Person		4
Private landowner/landlord		5
Other		6
Don't know		7

8. Where do they need to live? *(Please tick any district that applies)*

Bracknell Forest		1
Reading		2
Slough		3
West Berkshire		4
Windsor and Maidenhead		5
Wokingham		6
Other county (please specify)		7
Other county (please specify)		8
Other (please specify)		9

9. What is their main reason for needing to be in that location? (*Tick all that apply*)

To be near family and friends		1
Employment		2
To give care or support		3
To receive care or support		4
Unable to access sites/accommodation in another area		5
To take up health services in that area		6
To take up education for the family in the area		7
Disability		8
Cultural reasons		9
Close to transport routes (e.g. major roads)		10
Eviction – (required to move by police, local authority, landowner or landlord)		11
Have lived there before		12
Close to amenities		13
Don't know		14
Other (please describe below)		15

10. Are they currently on a waiting list for accommodation in that area? (*Tick all that apply*)

No		1
Social rented site (local authority)		2
Social rented site (housing association)		3
Private site		4
Private landlords list		5
Don't know		6
Other (please describe below)		7

E. Show work patterns

1. Have you travelled for show or fair work in the last three years?

Yes		1
No		2

2. If yes, how many times do you travel on average **each year**?

Once		1
Twice		2
Three times		3
Four times		4
Five times		5
More than five times		6

3. What times of year do you travel?

4. Please tell me about **all** of the different places you travel to:

5. How long do you normally stay away for each time?

Less than a week		1
One week to less than two weeks		2
Two weeks to less than three weeks		3
Three weeks to less than four weeks		4
Four weeks to less than 3 months		5
Three months and over		6

6. Do other members of your household travel with you when you go to shows/fairs?

Yes		1
No		2
Please explain		

7. Do you have a similar pattern of show and fair work every year?

Yes		1
No		2

8. Do you give up your current accommodation when you travel for show and fair work?

Yes		1
No		2
Don't know/unsure		3

Please explain

9. Do you experience any difficulties securing a plot when you return from show or fair work?

Yes		1
No		2
Sometimes		3

Please explain

10. Do you think that patterns of travelling for show or fair work are likely to change in the next ten years?

Yes		1
No		2
Don't know		3

Please explain

F. Views and experience of living in housing

1. We know that Show People sometimes live in housing – which of the following statements is closest to your idea about how many that is?

Most Show People now live in houses		1
More than half of Show People now live in houses		2
About half of Show People now live in houses		3
Less than half of Show People live in houses		4
Very few Show People live in houses		5

2. Have you ever lived in a house

Yes		1
No		2

If no, move on to Section (H). If yes, go to question 3.

3. For how long did you live in a house?

Less than 6 months		1
Between 6 months & a year		2
1 – 2 years		3
3 – 5 years		4
More than 5 years		5

4. Why did you live in a house?

No sites available at time		1
Needed to be near family/friends		2
Wanted to be near schools		3
Health reasons		4
Thought it would be a good experience		5
Other		6

5. Why did you move out of the house?

Site became available		1
Wanted to be near friends & family		2
Harassment from neighbours		3
Missed the traditional lifestyle		4
Employment		5
Other		6

6. How long ago did you live in a house?

Less than 6 months		1
Between 6 months & a year		2
1 – 2 years		3
3 – 5 years		4
More than 5 years		5

7. Have you moved from a house to a site more than once?

Yes		1
No		2

8. What impact, if any, did living in a house have on your ability to pursue your normal line of work? *e.g. were you able to find a place to store your ride(s)*

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H. Health, education, support and advice services

1. Do you now or have you in the past used any local health, education, support and advice services? If so which ones?

Yes		1
No		2

	Name of service (s)
Health	
Education	
Support & advice services	
Other	

2. Were any of the services you have used particularly good? If so which service(s) and what was good about the service?

--

3. Were any of the services you have used particularly bad? If so which service(s) and what was bad about the service?

4. How far do you travel to services?

Name of service	Miles or	Number of minutes travel	By foot or	Car or	Public transport

5. Is there anything that puts you off using local services? If so please describe.

I Feedback

1. Would you be interested in finding out about the results of this survey?

Yes		1
No		2

If no, end the interview here

2. If yes, how can we send the results to you?

By post (<i>take details of postal address on separate page</i>)		1
By email (<i>take email address on separate page</i>)		2
Other (please explain		3

--	--	--

Any additional comments or notes

Please use this section to add any additional information that comes up in the interview

Appendix B – Letter from Showman’s Guild

**SHOWMEN'S GUILD OF GREAT BRITIAN
LHC SECTION
VICTORIA HOUSE
MAIN STREET
HANWORTH
MIDDLESEX
TW13 6SU**

Tel 020 8893 8993 Fax 020 8893 3037 email george@irvinleisure.co.uk

Mrs E James J A James Miss L James
6 Hazelwood Lane
Jeolotts Hill
Bracknell Berkshire RG42 5NE

30th April 2007

Dear Mrs James, Mr James and Miss James,

You will have read in the World Fair that new guidelines have been produced by the government on Planning for Showpeople which will be a big help to those of our members who are looking for new yards. These guidelines will also be a great help for the children of showpeople who will want yards in the future and so we have strongly supported them. Those Guild members who are in established yards now many not think this concerns them now, but no one knows what the position will be in the future so everyone should welcome them.

A major part of these new guidelines is around Councils having to allow planning permission for yards where there is a need for them, and as you will now from the Worlds Fair, all around the country Travelling Showpeople are being interviewed for what are called "Needs Assessments". These interviews are being carried out by trained interviewers and are completely confidential. The results of these interviews will help the Government, local councils and the Guild build up an accurate picture of the likely need for new yards over the next 5 to 10 years so this is most important.

We ask all our members to take part in these interviews, and on May 15th and 17th interviewers want to meet families in Berkshire to help get the picture from that county. I am writing to let you know this is happening; to enclose a letter from the company arranging the interviewers; to tell you that the Guild asks you to support this exercise and take part even if you and your immediate family have no problems at the moment; and to say that you can contact me directly if you want to ask for more information on this before the interviewers contact you to arrange a convenient time to call on you. We hope you agree to take part because you will be helping all Showmen, and if you do there is no need for you to answer any questions that you decide not to. The more accurate the picture of the position of Showmen in Britain, the better we can ensure that our members, and in particular those young people who will want their own places soon, get planning permission for suitable land that they may buy in the future.

I attach a list of the names and addresses we have for Berkshire so please check this and see if there is anyone we have missed, or if there is anyone on the list who has moved recently. This will help save everyone's time.

On behalf of the London Section and the National Planning Committee we thank you for taking part in this survey.

Yours sincerely,

Ray Smith
Secretary of Planning Cttee SGGB LHC

4535 R C Beach 50 Liddell Way Ascot Berks SL5 9UX

3769 B L Crick Kenilworth Windsor Road Ascot Berkshire

4587 V O H Farr No 2 Hazelwood Lane Jeolotts Hill Bracknell Berks RG42 5NE

4786 C E Holloway 1 Hazelwood Lane Jeolotts Hill Bracknell Berks RG42 5NE

5402 J Lorenzo-Crick 1 Hazelwood Lane

4381 E J White 1 Hazelwood Lane

4763 M D Lock 5 Hazelwood Lane

5085 B Searle 5 Hazelwood Lane

3817 Mrs E James 6 Hazelwood Lane Jeolotts Hill Bracknell

4830 J A James

5025 Miss L James

4386 J W Peters 4 Beeches Yard Hazelwood Lane Jealotts Hill

4188 J H Roberts 2 Hazelwood Lane Jeolotts Hill

3982 J C Jones 53 Brownfield Gardens Maidenhead Berkshire SL6 2RL

4865 G W Pelham 12 Hinton Road Hurst Reading Berkshire

5080 P J Whittle 2 Four House Corner Burghfield Common Reading Berks

4576 Mrs L Stevens Kimbers Lane Farm Oakleigh Green Road Oakley Green Windsor

5463 Miss L Stevens Kimbers Lane Farm

Appendix C – Briefing note

T R I B A L

Name
Address

Our ref:
Date:

Dear

Recently, you should have received a letter from the Showmen's Guild about local Councils finding out what the needs of Travelling Showmen are. The letter explained how, up until now Showmen have not been asked about what kind of yards and services are needed and how many should be planned for the future.

We are experienced, independent interviewers who have visited sites in other parts of the country and we would very much like to interview you about housing and service needs.

We will be in your area next Tuesday and Thursday (15th and 17th May) and will call on you between 10.30am and 4.00 pm.

If there is a particular time that would be most convenient for you, or if you have decided that you do not want to take part in this research then please do not hesitate to telephone us on the number below.

We look forward to meeting you next Tuesday or Thursday.

Yours sincerely

Janet Clark / Helen Kemp

Tribal Consulting
87-91 Newman Street
London W1T 3EY

T 020 7323 7110

F 020 7323 7111

E info.consulting@tribalgroup.co.uk

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Company registered in England and Wales No: 04268468

Briefing note

Assessing the accommodation needs of Show People in the Berkshire

This note explains that a survey is taking place now which affects you, and which we hope you will want to get involved in.

Increasing and improving sites

The Government wants local Councils to ensure that all members of the community have fair access to suitable accommodation, education, health and welfare provision. The Government recognises that an assessment of travelling showpeople's accommodation needs is an important part of the assessment of general accommodation needs. Councils must therefore assess the accommodation needs of the travelling communities living in their area and seek to identify the appropriate level of site provision in the relevant locations as part of their wider housing strategies.

Providing better education, health and support services

At the same time as assessing accommodation needs, Councils are also expected to assess wider needs, for instance to see whether better access to education, health and other support services could be provided.

An opportunity to influence future provision

A survey is now about to take place in your area. It is a real opportunity to get across to the Council the improvements in accommodation, and access to health, education and other services that you want for you and your family members. It is very important that enough information is collected to demonstrate very clearly the needs of Show People in the area.

How the survey will be conducted

The local Councils in Berkshire have appointed our company, Tribal, to find out about the needs of Show People in the area. We plan to visit your site, or do home visits in your area soon to talk to you directly and hear what you have to say.

We are a completely independent research organisation. When reporting the results to the councils we will ensure that they are anonymous. In other words, our report will not identify details about particular individuals or households.

Each interview will be done individually by household. We have a list of questions about you and your family's needs which have been drawn up with the help of the Showman's Guild.

The interview takes about 30 minutes, and if there are any questions you prefer not to answer, that will not be a problem.

What happens next?

Once the survey work is completed, Tribal will prepare a report to go to the Berkshire councils. In the report we will use the information we have collected during the survey to show the needs for new sites/plots across the county, and what other improvements appear to be needed in respect of other services, such as health, education and advice and the support which is needed.

Each Council will make its own arrangements for discussing the findings of the report with your community, explaining the planning and policy changes they are considering, and consulting with you where necessary on your views.

Arranging an interview

We hope to interview as many households during this survey as possible. We have set aside the following dates, though may be able to arrange other mutually convenient dates if necessary.

Tuesday 15th May 2007
Thursday 17th May 2007

If you would like to book an appointment for an interview, please ring **Janet Clark** on **020 7323 7110**.

Tribal Consulting Ltd
87-91 Newman Street
London W1T 3EY