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Bridgend

Gypsy and Traveller

Accommodation Assessment

Final Report
February 2016



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1. Executive Summary

Introduction and Methodology

- 1.1 The primary objective of the 2015 Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) is to provide a robust assessment of current and future need for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation in Bridgend. It is a robust and credible evidence base which can be used to aid in the understanding of, and the provision of Traveller pitches and plots for the GTAA period 2016-2031, and also to support any periodical reviews of the Bridgend Local Development Plan which will run until 2021.
- 1.2 The GTAA has sought to understand the accommodation needs of the Gypsy and Traveller population in Bridgend through a combination of desk-based research, stakeholder engagement and engagement with members of the Travelling Community. In addition a range of local stakeholders were invited to sit on a Project Steering Group. A total of 4 interviews were completed with Gypsies and Travellers living on authorised sites in Bridgend, representing a response rate of 100% of occupied authorised pitches. In addition a total of 6 interviews were completed with Travellers and Travelling Showpeople living in bricks and mortar or temporary accommodation. No Travelling Showpeople yards were identified in Bridgend. In addition, no formal contact has been made by any other local authorities advising of any Gypsy and Traveller households seeking to reside in or resort to the County Borough. Whilst the GTAA has been comprehensively publicised, there has been a relatively low level of engagement, which is indicative of the low numbers of Gypsy and Traveller households that reside in or resort to the County Borough.
- 1.3 The baseline date for the study is **November 2015**.

Key Demographic Findings

- 1.4 Ethnicity data was captured from all of the households that were interviewed on the Gypsy and Traveller sites. All of the sites in Bridgend are occupied by Romany Gypsies.
- 1.5 In total the site interviews covered 12 residents living on Gypsy and Traveller sites. This was made up of 7 adults and 5 children and teenagers aged under 18. This equates to 58% adults and 42% children and teenagers. Demographic information showed a mixed range of ages across the sites, though a slightly higher proportion of the site population were younger when compared to the overall population (the settled community and the Gypsy or Irish Traveller community) of Bridgend (2011 Census).

Additional Pitch Needs – Gypsies and Travellers

- 1.6 Based upon the evidence presented in this study the estimated additional pitch provision needed for Gypsies and Travellers in Bridgend for the first 5 years of the GTAA plan period is for **no additional pitches**, and for the remainder of the GTAA plan period is for **a further 1 additional pitch**. This gives a total need for the whole GTAA plan period of 1 additional pitch. These figures should be seen as the projected amount of provision which is necessary to meet the statutory obligations towards identifiable needs of the population

arising in the area. These figures are made up of new household formation as no other components of need have been identified.

- 1.7 A detailed breakdown which sets out the components that make up this additional need, together with any other issues that have been taken into consideration are included in **Chapter 6** of this report.

Transit Sites

- 1.8 It is recommended that there is not a need for the Council to provide a permanent transit site in Bridgend. However the Council should continue to monitor the number of unauthorised encampments and continue the management approach set out in the LDP and in the Gypsy and Traveller Management Protocol through the use of short-term toleration or Negotiated Stopping Arrangements to deal with short-term transient stops.

Travelling Showpeople

- 1.9 Whilst there are no Travelling Showpeople yards in Bridgend, contact was made with a number of Travelling Showpeople living in Bridgend, the Vale of Glamorgan and Gloucester who have expressed a wish to independently develop a private yard in South Wales.

Summary

Need	Years 0 to 5	Years 6 to 15
Permanent Pitches	0	1
Transit Pitches	0	0
Travelling Showpeople Plots	0	0

2. Background and Policy Context

The Study

- 2.1 Opinion Research Services (ORS) were appointed by Bridgend County Borough Council (the Council) in September 2015 to complete a robust and up-to-date needs assessment of accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers residing and resorting in Bridgend for the GTAA plan period to 2031.
- 2.2 The study provides an evidence base to enable the Council to comply with their requirements towards Gypsies and Travellers under Section 3 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.
- 2.3 The GTAA provides a robust assessment of need for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation in Bridgend. It is a robust and credible evidence base which can be used to aid in the understanding of, and the provision of Traveller pitches and plots for the GTAA plan period 2016-2031, but also to support the periodic review of the Bridgend Local Development Plan (LDP) which will run until 2021.
- 2.4 We would note at the outset that the study covers the needs of Gypsies (including English, Scottish, Welsh and Romany Gypsies), Irish Travellers, New (Age) Travellers, and Travelling Showpeople, but for ease of reference we have referred to the study as a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA).
- 2.5 The baseline date for the study is **November 2015**.

Legislation and Guidance

Housing (Wales) Act 2014

- 2.6 Part 3 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 (the Act) requires that a local housing authority should carry out a new assessment of the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers residing in or resorting to its area between February 2015 and February 2016.
- 2.7 Section 102 of the Act requires that local authorities must prepare a report which they must submit to Welsh Ministers for approval that:
 - » details how the assessment was carried out;
 - » contains a summary of:
 - the consultation it carried out in connection with the assessment, and
 - the responses (if any) it received to that consultation;
 - » details the accommodation needs identified by the assessment.
- 2.8 Once approved the local housing authority must publish the assessment.

- 2.9 If need is identified in the GTAA report, Section 103 of the Act requires that a local authority must exercise its powers in Section 56 of the Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013 so far as may be necessary to meet those needs.
- 2.10 Section 106 of the Act sets out that local authorities should have regard to any guidance given by Welsh Ministers. Guidance on Undertaking Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments was published in May 2015.
- 2.11 This guidance covers the following issues:
- » Why a specific GTAA is required?
 - » What should be produced?
 - » Who needs to be consulted?
 - » What data sources need to be reviewed?
 - » Understanding the culture of Gypsy and Traveller communities.
 - » How to identify and communicate with Gypsies and Travellers?
 - » How to design, manage and undertake a GTAA?
 - » Support with partnership working and working regionally.
 - » Exploring specialist surveys, techniques and questions to be used.
 - » How accommodation 'need' is assessed?
 - » Submitting reports to Welsh Ministers.
 - » How to make provision for identified need?
- 2.12 Section 108 of the Act sets out that:
- » **Accommodation needs** - includes, but is not limited to, needs with respect to the provision of sites on which mobile homes may be stationed;
 - » **Gypsies and Travellers** – means persons of a nomadic habit of life, whatever their race or origin, including persons who, on grounds only of their own or their family's or dependant's educational or health needs or old age, have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, and members of an organised group of travelling show people or circus people (whether or not travelling together as such), and all other persons with a cultural tradition of nomadism or of living in a mobile home;
 - » **Mobile home** - has the meaning given by section 60 of the Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013.

Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013

- 2.13 The GTAA Guidance sets out the requirement that local authorities have to meet a legal duty to exercise their functions to provide mobile home pitches to meet any identified needs. These are set out in Section 56 of the Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013.
- 2.14 In this Act "*mobile home*" means:

- » *Any structure designed or adapted for human habitation which is capable of being moved from one place to another (whether by being towed, or by being transported on a motor vehicle or trailer) and any motor vehicle designed or adapted for human habitation, but does not include any railway rolling stock which is for the time being on rails forming part of a railway system, or any tent.*
- » *A structure designed or adapted for human habitation which is composed of not more than 2 sections separately constructed and designed to be assembled on a site by means of bolts, clamps or other devices, and is, when assembled, physically capable of being moved by road from one place to another (whether by being towed, or by being transported on a motor vehicle or trailer).*

Planning Circulars 30/2007 and 78/91

- 2.15 In December 2007 Welsh Assembly Government guidance on Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites was published in the form Circular 30/2007. This document formed the previous framework around which a GTAA study was to be based, and provided updated guidance on the planning aspects of finding sustainable sites for Gypsies and Travellers and how local authorities and Gypsies and Travellers can work together to achieve this aim.
- 2.16 Planning advice relating to Travelling Showpeople was provided in Welsh Office Circular 78/91 and this was not revoked by Circular 30/2007. This recognises the more specific needs of Travelling Showpeople, and in particular the requirement to provide for storage and maintenance need, as well as residential need – often on a seasonal basis. It also sets out that local authorities should be willing to discuss the needs of Travelling Showpeople at an early stage of the development plan process and to seek to *help the Showpeople to help themselves*.

Welsh Government Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites Guidance

- 2.17 In order to assist local authorities in meeting need for Gypsies and Travellers the Welsh Government published this guidance in May 2015. This is intended as a guide to assist Local Authorities in providing appropriate services at reasonable cost to the public purse for Gypsies and Travellers living on residential sites in Wales. It contains practical guidance to assist local authorities to ensure sites are fit-for-purpose. This guidance is not statutory. However, it is hoped that following this guidance will help local authorities and others in the development and improvement of Gypsy and Traveller sites in their area, and will form part of the consideration of the Welsh Government in assessing applications for Sites Capital Grant funding in relation to Gypsy and Traveller sites.

Local Plan Policies

Local Development Plan 2006-2021

- 2.18 The Bridgend Local Development Plan was adopted by the Council in September 2013. The Plan sets out the land-use planning policies of the County Borough which are used in the determination of planning applications. These policies include land-use allocations for different types of development (i.e. housing, employment, retailing, education, open space etc.) as well as criteria for assessing individual proposals. Potentially the Plan has a direct effect on the lives of every resident of the County Borough as well as major

implications for landowners. The LDP, will guide development in the County Borough up to 2021, and will be reviewed periodically.

- 2.19 The LDP has a specific policy COM6 relating to Gypsy and Traveller Sites. It also recognises that Bridgend County Borough is not an area in which any sizeable numbers of gypsies and travellers have resided, or resort to.

Policy COM6 - Gypsy and Traveller Sites

Sites and/or pitches to accommodate gypsies and travellers residing in or resorting to the County Borough will be permitted where they satisfy the following criteria:

1. There is an identified need for a site and/or pitch;
2. In sequential order of preference it has been demonstrated that there are firstly no suitable sites or pitches available within existing settlement boundaries; or secondly that a site or pitch cannot be located within the curtilage of an existing development within the countryside;
3. Are well related to community services and facilities;
4. Capable of being served by utilities including waste disposal and recovery;
5. Can accommodate residential and home-based business uses without detriment to amenity and character of the area;
6. Capable of being screened and suitably landscaped to a standard compatible with either its urban or rural surroundings; and
7. Provide an appropriate layout, in terms of pitches, amenity buildings, hard standings and open spaces.

As a supplement to the Bridgend County Borough Local Housing Market Assessment (2009) a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment was commissioned. Its purpose was to assess the need for permanent residential and transit pitches for Bridgend's Gypsy and Traveller population. The report concluded that there was no evidence to suggest a need for a residential site; however it did identify a need for 6 transit pitches within Bridgend County to to 2021. The report recommended that the Council consider if the provision of a transit site would be suitable or whether a management solution would be a more effective and preferred option. The Council is developing a management solution by means of a structured and tolerant 'peripatetic' service coordinated by the Local Authority in partnership with the Police and other agencies.

- 2.20 The Bridgend County Borough Protocol for the Management of Unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller Encampments was published in June 2012

Rural Exception Policies

- 2.21 Local authorities can also authorise private sites in rural areas under a rural exceptions policy. Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites notes that:

'If the Accommodation Needs Assessment shows that new sites are needed, in rural areas your council should think about having a 'Gypsy and Traveller caravan rural exception site' policy in the Local Development Plan. This type of policy allows new sites to be developed on land which is next to a village or town, but where new housing would not normally be allowed. Councils can use rural exceptions policies for affordable housing for people who already live in the area, or for people who have links with local families or jobs.'

2.22 In response to this the Policy ENV1 "Development in the Countryside" of the adopted Bridgend LDP identifies the provision of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation as an exception to strictly controlling development in the countryside.

Definition of Key Terms

2.23 The 2015 GTAA Guidance contains common definitions that have been used in the Guidance and that will also be used in the GTAA Report. These are set out in the table below:

<p>Gypsies and Travellers</p>	<p>(a) Persons of a nomadic habit of life, whatever their race or origin, including:</p> <p>(1) Persons who, on grounds only of their own or their family's or dependant's educational or health needs or old age, have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, and</p> <p>(2) Members of an organized group of travelling show people or circus people (whether or not travelling together as such); and</p> <p>(b) All other persons with a cultural tradition of nomadism or of living in a mobile home.</p> <p>Source: Section 108, Housing (Wales) Act 2014</p>
<p>Residential site</p>	<p>A permanent residential site can be privately owned or owned by the Local Authority. This site will be designated for use as a Gypsy and Traveller site indefinitely. Residents on these sites can expect to occupy their pitches for as long as they abide by the terms of their pitch agreements, under the Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013.</p> <p>Working space may also be provided on, or near, sites for activities carried out by community members.</p>

Temporary residential site	These sites are residential sites which only have planning permission or a site licence for a limited period. Residents on these sites can expect to occupy their pitches for the duration of the planning permission or site licence (or as long as they abide by the terms of their pitch agreements, under the Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013 – whichever is sooner).
Transit site	<p>Transit sites are permanent facilities designed for temporary use by occupiers. These sites must be designated as such and provide a route for Gypsies and Travellers to maintain a nomadic way of life. Individual occupiers are permitted to reside on the site for a maximum of 3 months at a time.</p> <p>Specific terms under the Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013 apply on these sites. Working space may also be provided on, or near, sites for activities carried out by community members</p>
Temporary Stopping Place	<p>Also known as a ‘stopping place’, ‘Atchin Tan’, or ‘green lane’, amongst other names. These are intended to be short-term in nature to assist Local Authorities where a need for pitches is accepted, however, none are currently available. Pro-actively identified temporary stopping places can be used to relocate inappropriately located encampments, whilst alternative sites are progressed.</p> <p>Temporary stopping places must make provision for waste disposal, water supply and sanitation at a minimum.</p>
Residential pitch	Land on a mobile home site where occupiers are entitled to station their mobile homes indefinitely (unless stated in their pitch agreement). Typically includes an amenity block, space for a static caravan and touring caravan and parking.
Transit pitch	Land on a mobile home site where occupiers are entitled to station their mobile homes for a maximum of 3 months.

	Transit pitches can exist on permanent residential sites, however, this is not recommended.
Unauthorised encampment	Land occupied without the permission of the owner or without the correct land use planning permission. Encampments may be tolerated by the Local Authority, whilst alternative sites are developed.
Unauthorised development	Land occupied by the owner without the necessary land use planning permission.
Current residential supply	The number of authorised pitches which are available and occupied within the Local Authority or partnership area. This includes pitches on Local Authority or private sites.
Current residential demand	Those with a need for authorised pitches for a range of reasons, including: An inability to secure an authorised pitch leading to occupation of unauthorised encampments; An inability to secure correct planning permission for an unauthorised development; Households living in overcrowded conditions and want a pitch; Households in conventional housing demonstrating cultural aversion; New households expected to arrive from elsewhere.
Future residential demand	The expected level of new household formation which will generate additional demand within the 5 year period of the accommodation assessment and longer LDP period.
Overall residential pitch need	The ultimate calculation of unmet accommodation need, which must be identified through the Gypsy and Traveller accommodation assessment process. This figure can be found by adding the immediate residential need to the future residential demand. The overall

	residential need will capture the needs across the 5 year period within which the accommodation assessment is considered to be robust.
Planned residential pitch supply	The number of authorised pitches which are vacant and available to rent on Local Authority or private sites. It also includes pitches which will be vacated in the near future by households moving to conventional housing or in other circumstances. Additional pitches which are due to open on private sites likely to achieve planning permission shortly should be included as planned residential supply.
Household	In this guidance this refers to individuals from the same family who live together on a single pitch / house / encampment.
Concealed or 'doubled-up' household	<p>This refers to households which are unable to achieve their own authorised accommodation and are instead living within authorised accommodation (houses or pitches) assigned to another household.</p> <p>This may include adult children who have been unable to move home or different households occupying a single pitch.</p>
Household growth	In this guidance household growth is defined by the number of new households arising from households which are already accommodated in the area.

3. Analysis of Existing Data

- 1.1 The purpose of this section of the GTAA is to set out current information relating to the Gypsy and Traveller population in Bridgend including any previous assessments of need, socio-demographic data, caravan count data and the current provision of accommodation.

Current and Previous GTAAs

Bridgend GTAA 2010

- 1.2 In April 2009 Fordham Research was commissioned to undertake a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) for Bridgend County Borough Council. The purpose of the assessment was to assess the need for residential and transit pitches amongst Bridgend County Borough's Gypsy and Traveller population. The assessment also served to inform Bridgend County Borough Council's housing and planning policies, and also contributed towards the Bridgend County Borough Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA).
- 1.3 The GTAA indicated that there was no need for additional residential pitches for Gypsies and Travellers who live in the County Borough. It also suggested there could be a need for up to 6 transit pitches, but did not provide any evidence to support this.

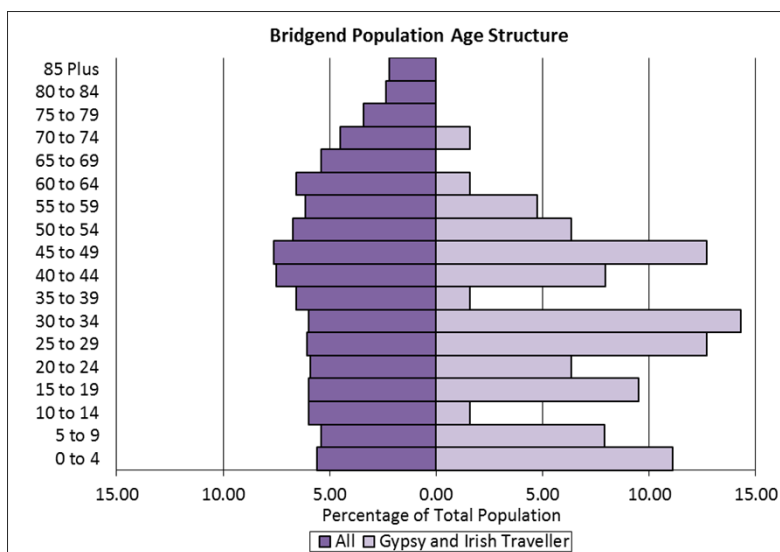
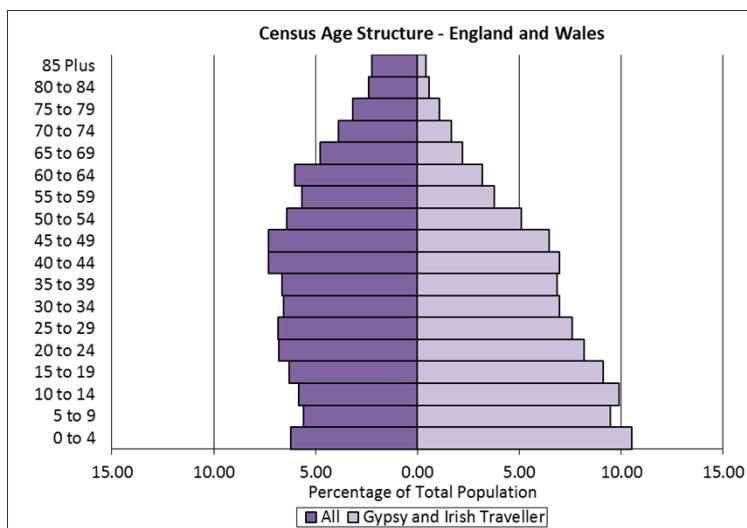
Population Data – 2011 Census

- 1.4 Analysis of 2011 Census data relating to the Gypsy and Traveller population identified a total of only 26 households and 63 individuals who identified themselves as Gypsies or Irish Travellers living in Bridgend – representing less than 0.05% of the population as a whole. It is likely that this could be an under-estimate given the accepted lower than average levels of response to the Census from the members of the Gypsy and Traveller community.
- 1.5 However, despite the suggested under-estimate of the population of Gypsies and Irish Travellers, data from the 2011 Census does identify some significant demographic differences when compared to the population as a whole. These are important in terms of explaining the higher rate of new household formation for Gypsy and Traveller households compared with the settled population. In summary the Census shows that nationally for England and Wales:
- » Just under half of Gypsy or Irish Traveller households had dependent children (45%), compared to 29% for England and Wales as a whole.
 - » The median age of Gypsies or Irish Travellers was 26 years compared to the national median of 39 years.
 - » Just 6% of the Gypsy or Irish Traveller population were aged 65 years and over compared to a national figure of 16%.

- » Gypsies or Irish Travellers below 20 years of age accounted for 39% of the population compared to a national figure of 24%.
- » Gypsies or Irish Travellers below 10 years of age accounted for 20% of the population compared to a national figure of 12%.
- » Gypsies or Irish Travellers had the lowest proportion of people rating their health as good or very good at 70% compared to a national figure of 81%.

1.6 The charts below show the age structure for the whole population (All) and the Gypsy or Irish Traveller population in England and Wales, and in Bridgend. This shows that there is a higher proportion of Gypsy or Irish Traveller children aged 0-9 and adults aged between 25 and 59, and significantly lower proportions of those aged 59 and over. This is due to higher birth rates and lower life expectancy for the Gypsy and Traveller population.

Figure 1 - Comparison of Census Age Structure (2011 Census)



1.7 When household composition data from the 2011 Census is compared between the overall population for Bridgend and those who identified themselves as Gypsies or Irish Travellers there are further differences. This shows that there are no Gypsy and Traveller households aged 65 and over, as well as showing a higher proportion of lone parent households.

Figure 2 - Comparison of Housing Composition in Bridgend (2011 Census)

Household Composition	All Households (%)	Gypsy or Irish Traveller (%)
One person household	28.2	23.1
Aged 65 and over	13.1	0.0
One family only	66.0	65.4
Ages 65 and over	8.9	0.0
Married or civil partnership	35.4	26.9
Cohabiting couple	9.9	11.5
Lone parent	9.0	26.9
Other household types	5.8	3.8

- 1.8 When accommodation type data from the 2011 Census is compared between the overall population for Bridgend and those who identified themselves as Gypsies or Irish Travellers there are also further differences. This shows a lower proportion of Gypsies or Irish Travellers living in detached properties and a much higher proportion living in flats, maisonettes or apartments, or mobile/temporary accommodation (or on Traveller sites).

Figure 3 - Comparison of Accommodation Type in Bridgend (2011 Census)

Accommodation Type	All Households (%)	Gypsy or Irish Traveller (%)
Whole house or bungalow: Total	92.9	68.6
Whole house or bungalow: Detached	25.8	17.6
Whole house or bungalow: Semi-detached	40.7	35.3
Whole house or bungalow: Terraced (including end-terrace)	26.3	15.7
Flat, maisonette or apartment, or mobile/temporary accommodation	7.1	31.4

- 1.9 When tenure type data from the 2011 Census is compared between the overall population for Bridgend and those who identified themselves as Gypsies or Irish Travellers there are again differences. This shows a lower proportion of Gypsy or Irish Traveller households that are owned outright, or owned with a mortgage or through shared ownership – and a higher proportion of households that are socially rented, or privately rented.

Figure 4 - Comparison of Tenure Type in Bridgend (2011 Census)

Tenure	All Households (%)	Gypsy or Irish Traveller (%)
Owned or shared ownership: Total	72.6	30.8
Owned outright	35.0	15.4
Owned with a mortgage or loan or shared ownership	37.7	15.4
Social rented: Total	13.8	23.1
Rented from council (Local Authority)	4.0	0.0
Other social rented	9.9	23.1

Private rented or living rent free: Total	13.5	46.2
Private landlord or letting agency	10.8	38.5
Other private rented or living rent free	2.8	7.7

- ^{1.10} When economic activity status data from the 2011 Census is compared between the overall population for Bridgend and those who identified themselves as Gypsies or Irish Travellers there are further differences. This actually shows that a slightly higher proportion of Gypsy or Irish Traveller households that are economically active but a lower proportion who are in employment; that a higher proportion who are unemployed and a higher proportion who are economically inactive due to looking after home or family; and a significantly lower proportion are economically inactive due to retirement (although there is a very small proportion of the Gypsy or Irish Traveller Census population in Bridgend aged over 60).

Figure 5 - Comparison of Economic Activity Status in Bridgend (2011 Census)

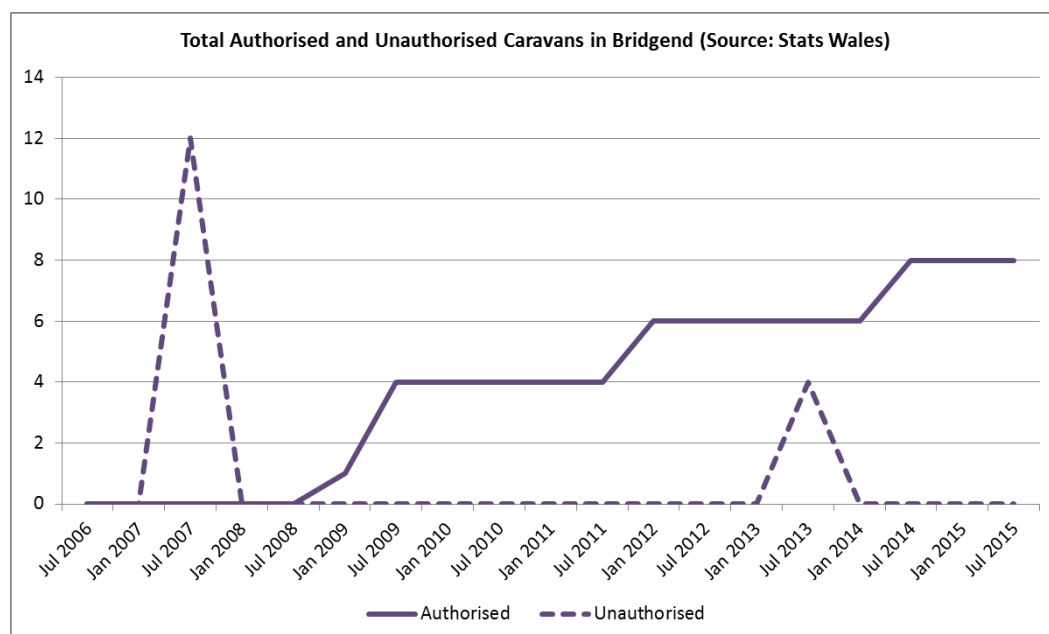
Economic Activity	All Households (%)	Gypsy or Irish Traveller (%)
Economically active: Total	58.6	65.3
In employment: Total	54.0	40.8
Employee: Total	46.4	30.6
Self-employed: Total	6.0	8.2
Unemployed: Total	4.6	24.5
Economically inactive: Total	41.4	34.7
Looking after home or family	3.5	8.2
Long-term sick or disabled	7.2	2.0
Retired	24.1	2.0

Caravan Count Data

- ^{1.11} Another source of published information on the Gypsy and Traveller population is the bi-annual Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count which is conducted by each Local Authority in Wales on a specific date in January and July of each year, and reported to Welsh Government. This is a physical count of the number of *caravans* on both authorised and unauthorised sites across Wales.
- ^{1.12} As this count is of caravans *and not* households, it makes it very difficult to interpret and use for a study such as this because it does not count pitches, resident households or household demographics. The count is merely a 'snapshot in time' conducted by the Local Authority on a specific day, and therefore any unauthorised sites or encampments which occur on other dates are not recorded. Likewise any caravans that are away from sites on the day of the count will not be included. The count also does not seek to determine the ethnic status of the occupiers of caravans.
- ^{1.13} However the data captured in the Caravan Count does give an indication of the number of sites, and authorised and unauthorised caravans in each local authority, and can be useful in supporting the determination of any transit needs, and identifying year on year trends to support an assessment of need.
- ^{1.14} It should be noted that published Caravan Count data for Bridgend did not include 2 caravans on the site at Mill View, Coytrahen that was granted planning permission in October 2011. The site has now been included in the Caravan Count from January 2016. For the sake of accuracy these have been added to the charts and narrative set out below.

- 1.15 Figure 6 shows data for the number of authorised and unauthorised caravans that have been recorded in Bridgend for the 9 year period since 2006. This shows a gradual increase in the number of authorised caravans following the granting of planning consent for the 3 private sites (there is no public provision in Bridgend). There are only 2 instances recorded of unauthorised caravans in July 2007 and July 2013.

Figure 6 - Comparison of the Number of Caravans in Bridgend



Current Accommodation Provision in Bridgend

- 1.16 One of the main considerations of this study is provide evidence to support the provision of pitches and plots to meet the current and future accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers in Bridgend. A pitch is an area which is large enough for one household to occupy and typically contains enough space for one or two caravans, but can vary in size. A site is a collection of pitches which form a development exclusively for Gypsies and Travellers. For Travelling Showpeople, the most common descriptions used are a plot for the space occupied by one household and a yard for a collection of plots which are typically exclusively occupied by Travelling Showpeople.
- 1.17 The public and private provision of mainstream housing is also largely mirrored when considering Gypsy and Traveller accommodation. One common form of a Gypsy and Traveller site is a publicly-provided residential site, which is provided by a Local Authority or by a Housing Association. Pitches on public sites can usually be obtained through signing up to a waiting list, and the costs of running the sites are met from the rent paid by the tenants (similar to social housing).
- 1.18 The alternatives to public residential sites are private residential sites and yards for Gypsies and Travellers. These result from individuals or families buying areas of land and then obtaining planning permission to live on them. Households can also rent pitches on some private sites that are run on a commercial basis. Therefore, these two forms of accommodation are the equivalent to private ownership and renting for those who live in bricks and mortar housing. Generally the majority of Travelling Showpeople yards are privately owned and managed.

- 1.19 The Gypsy and Traveller population also has other forms of sites due to its mobile nature. Transit sites tend to contain many of the same facilities as a residential site, except that there is a restricted period of residence which can vary from a period of weeks to a period of months. An alternative to a transit site is an emergency stopping place. This type of site also has restrictions on the length of time someone can stay on it, but has much more limited facilities. Another alternative is a Negotiated Stopping Agreement that allows Gypsy and Traveller families to set up short-term camps as long as they agree to certain conditions. These are designed to accommodate, for a temporary period, Gypsies and Travellers whilst they travel. A number of authorities also operate an accepted encampments policy where short-term stopovers are tolerated without enforcement action.
- 1.20 Further considerations for the Gypsy and Traveller population are unauthorised developments and encampments. Unauthorised developments occur on land which is owned by the Gypsies and Travellers or with the approval of the land owner, but for which they do not have planning permission to use for residential purposes. Unauthorised encampments occur on land which is not owned by the Gypsies and Travellers – for example layby's or car parks.

Sites and Yards in Bridgend

- 1.21 In Bridgend there are no public sites, 3 private sites, no public or private transit provision, and no Travelling Showpeople yards. This differs from the data recorded in the Caravan Count as this does not include details from 1 of the private sites.
- 1.22 Whilst there is a large permanent fairground situated at Coney Beach in Porthcawl, there are no planning records or evidence to suggest that the site has ever been used or has had planning consent as a Showpersons yard. It is classified as a permanent fairground which is a sui generis use.

Figure 7 - Total amount of provision in Bridgend (November 2015)

Category	Sites/Yards	Pitches/Plots
Private with permanent planning permission	3	4
Private sites with temporary planning permission	0	0
Public sites	0	0
Public transit provision	0	0
Private transit provision	0	0
Tolerated sites	0	0
Unauthorised sites	0	0
Authorised Travelling Showpeople yards	0	0
Tolerated Travelling Showpeople yards	0	0
Unauthorised Travelling Showpeople yards	0	0

Figure 9 - Sites and Yards in Bridgend (November 2015)

Site Name	Pitches/Plots	Status
Mill View, Coytrahen	1	Private
Minffrwd Stables, Pencoed	1	Private
Penybryn, Pencoed	2	Private

Map 1 - Indicative Location of Sites in Bridgend (November 2015)



4. Methodology

1.23 This section sets out the methodology that has been followed to deliver the outputs for this study. The Guidance issued under Section 106 of the Act sets out the requirements for the GTAA and the methodology and calculation of need that has been followed has sought to address these and allow for a full and robust GTAA to be completed. The study has been undertaken by Opinion Research Services in partnership with the Council and the approach taken covers the following core areas of work:

- » Setting up a Project Steering Group.
- » Identifying and analysing existing data sources.
- » Publicising the accommodation assessment.
- » Conducting the accommodation assessment surveys.
- » Calculating the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers.

1.24 The stages below provide a summary of the methodology that was used to complete this study.

Project Steering Group

1.25 The Welsh Government GTAA Guidance requires that a Project Steering Group be established to ensure that the study is informed by all available local knowledge and expertise. The Council set up and managed the Steering Group and the individuals who attended meetings of the Steering Group in Bridgend were:

Figure 10 – Bridgend GTAA Steering Group Membership

Name	Organisation	Role
Martin Ridgeway	Bridgend CBC	Housing Strategy Team Leader
Jonathan Flower	Bridgend CBC	Senior Housing Strategy Officer
Huw Owen	Bridgend CBC	Supporting People Strategy Officer
John Davies	Bridgend CBC	Community Safety Team Leader
Emma-Louise Maher	Bridgend CBC	Community Safety and Welfare Officer
Sue Jones	Bridgend CBC	Development Planning Manager
Gareth Denning	Bridgend CBC	Principal S106 Officer
Helen Pembridge	Bridgend CBC	Principal Housing/Pollution Officer
Charlotte Williams	Bridgend CBC	Lead Education Welfare Officer
Karen Ferri	Bridgend CBC	Specialist Teacher – EAL
Paul Williams	Bridgend CBC	Equalities and Engagement Officer
Alyson Ruddy	Bridgend CBC	Flying Start Health Manager
Riaz Hassan	Swansea Council	Regional Community Cohesion Coordinator
Steve Jarman	Opinion Research Services	Consultant

1.26 As set out in the GTAA Guidance the key responsibilities of the Steering Group were to agree on the aims and objectives of the study; promote the benefits of the study to members of the Travelling Community; help identify households living in bricks and mortar and on unauthorised sites and encampments; provide

expert stakeholder input into the identification of local need; provide feedback on the emerging outputs from the study; and to share and promote the final outcomes to members of the Travelling Community. A total of 4 Steering Group meetings were held between August and December 2015.

- 1.27 The first Steering Group meeting discussed the background to the GTAA and clarified the purpose and the role of the Group. The Welsh Government video “sites, your say, your future” was shown to gain a better understanding of what the GTAA was aiming to achieve. The following meetings were used to discuss the known sites and households living in bricks and mortar and agree how these could best be engaged with. The Steering Group were responsible for agreeing key decisions such as who would undertake the survey, what publicity would be undertaken and the timescales for the work.
- 1.28 In addition to the Steering Group meetings conversations were held with a number of Steering Group members, and other Council Officers to gain views and information to support the wider assessment of need. These included Planning Officers, Education Officers and Housing Officers. Contact was also made with representatives from the Showman’s Guild and the Association of Independent Showpeople.
- 1.29 Information was also obtained from Carmarthenshire, Powys, Pembrokeshire, Conwy, Denbighshire and the Vale of Glamorgan in relation to travelling patterns and movement of unauthorised encampments.

Identify and Analyse Existing Data

- 1.30 A desk-based review was undertaken to collate and analyse a range of secondary data and other local intelligence that has been used to identify and support the assessment of current and future accommodation need including:
- » Planning records.
 - » Census data.
 - » Site records and waiting lists.
 - » Caravan counts.
 - » Records of unauthorised sites/encampments.
 - » Information on planning applications/appeals.
 - » Information on enforcement actions.
 - » Existing GTAA’s and other relevant local studies.
 - » Existing national and local policy, guidance and best practice.

Publicise the Accommodation Assessment

- 1.31 In order to get buy-in from members of the Travelling Community to ensure that they were able and willing to participate in the site and household interviews and provide accurate information, it was important that effective publicity and pre-notification was put in place. This was also very important in terms of identifying households living in bricks and mortar accommodation to interview as part of the study.
- 1.32 The approach to publicity was agreed with members of the Steering Group prior to the fieldwork commencing. The publicity was managed by the Council and included a poster and flyer which was placed in key locations across the county borough including Life Centres, GP Surgeries, Primary Care and Planning Team, Supermarkets, Catholic Churches and in the Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO)

offices. The GTAA was advertised on the Council's and the Communities First Programme's website, Facebook and Twitter pages and also on the Bridgend Housing Options website. A "message of the day" was sent to all staff within the Council advising them of the GTAA so they in turn could advise any Gypsy and Traveller households they were aware of. Examples of the publicity can be seen in **Appendix C**. The GTAA was also placed on the information screens in the Council's Customer Service Centre. The organisers of the Bridgend Horse Fair were liaised with and provided information regarding the GTAA. The four Housing Associations that operate in the county borough were also provided with information regarding the GTAA and they advised the Council of any known households. Those households already known to the Steering Group and its internal and external partners were contacted directly by telephone and / or by letter (including a flyer and a DVD copy of the Welsh Government video "sites, your say, your future"). The households were able to either contact ORS directly themselves or give permission for the Council to provide their contact details to ORS.

Conducting the Accommodation Assessment Surveys

Site Interviews

- 1.33 Through the desk-based research and information from the Steering Group, ORS sought to identify all authorised and unauthorised sites, yards and encampments in Bridgend, and sought to undertake a full demographic study of the residents on all pitches and plots – as required by the Welsh Government Guidance.
- 1.34 Following agreed publicity and pre-notification activities, all pitches (no plots were identified) were visited by ORS researchers. They conducted interviews with all of the residents using the questions set out in the GTAA Guidance.

Bricks and Mortar Interviews

- 1.35 ORS worked closely with the Council to ensure that all opportunities were utilised to identify households living in bricks and mortar to participate in the GTAA as this is a common issue raised at Local Plan examinations and planning appeals. Contacts were identified through sources including speaking with members of the Steering Group, speaking with people on existing sites, adverts on social media and in local and national print media including World's Fair and Travellers Times, as well as extensive local publicity that is set out above. Telephone interviews were attempted with all contacts that were identified using the questions in the GTAA Guidance.

Calculate the Accommodation Needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

- 1.36 The Welsh Government GTAA Guidance requires an assessment for current and future pitch requirements and sets out a detailed methodology for completing this. This differs from the approach usually followed by ORS but has been followed for the purpose of this GTAA. As with any housing assessment, the underlying calculation is comprised of a relatively small number of factors. In this case, the key issue for residential pitches is to compare the supply of pitches available for occupation with the current and future demand of the population. This information to feed into the assessment of need has been obtained from a

combination of the desk-based research and the outcomes of the site and household interviews, together with additional information from members of the Steering Group and other local stakeholders. The key factors in each of these elements are set out below.

Current Residential Supply

- » Occupied local authority pitches.
- » Occupied authorised private pitches.
- » Vacant local authority pitches and available private pitches.
- » Pitches expected to be vacated in the near future.
- » New local authority pitches private pitches with planning permission.

Current Residential Demand

^{1.37} Total current residential demand is made up of the following components. It was important to make full use of the desk-based research and intelligence from members of the Steering Group to address issues of double counting (for example bricks and mortar households who are also on the waiting list for pitches):

- » Households on unauthorised encampments.
- » Households on unauthorised developments.
- » Concealed /over-crowded/doubled-up households¹.
- » Conventional housing – movement from bricks and mortar².
- » New households to arrive from waiting lists/in-migration.

Future Demand

^{1.38} Total future demand is a result of the formation of new households during the study period. ORS has undertaken extensive research into the population and household growth of the Gypsy and Traveller community in England and Wales. This was used to inform this element of the Welsh Government GTAA Guidance (see Paragraphs 203-209). Our research advocated a net compound household formation rate based on local evidence, as opposed to the 'accepted' growth rate of 3.00%.

^{1.39} In addition information from the site interviews provides details of the gross number of new households expected to form within the first 5 years of the study (although it is important to net this off against supply that has been identified during the first 5 years of the study).

^{1.40} The net compound household formation rate that is used for years 6-15 of the study has been based on demographic evidence from the site interviews. The base for this calculation will be the figure arrived at for the first 5 years of the study which includes all current authorised households, all households identified as current demand, including those on waiting lists not currently living on a pitch or plot, and new household formation identified from the site interviews. The research that ORS have conducted provides evidence to

¹ Following the guidance set out in Paragraphs 195-201 of the GTAA Guidance

² Following the guidance set out in Paragraphs 172-183 of the GTAA Guidance

support the use of a formation rate as low as 1.50% for GTAA studies. Evidence to support the selected formation rate will be included in Chapter 6.

Final Outcomes

- 1.41 All of the components of supply and demand are presented in an easy to understand table as set out in the GTAA Guidance in Table 3. A separate table will be prepared for the current and future needs of Gypsies and Travellers, and Travelling Showpeople as their needs should be considered independently as their circumstances are different from that of the wider travelling community.

Transit Provision

- 1.42 The GTAA also includes an assessment of the need for any transit sites or emergency stopping places to meet the needs of members of the Travelling Community who either travel permanently or for part of the year. In order to investigate the potential need for transit provision when undertaking the GTAA, ORS have undertaken analysis of records of unauthorised sites and encampments that were identified during the desk-based research, and sought to conduct interviews with Gypsies and Travellers on any sites that are present during the course of the study to identify whether their needs are for transit accommodation or the desire to settle down more permanently in any given locality. Data from the Traveller Caravan Count has also been considered as supporting evidence.

Compliance with Engagement Checklist

- 1.43 The table below shows that this GTAA has been compliant with all of points set out in the Engagement Checklist in the Welsh Government GTAA Guidance.

Figure 10 – Engagement Checklist

	Task	Completed
1	Visit every Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showperson household identified through the data analysis process up to 3 times, if necessary. <i>It was possible to interview all households at the first visit.</i>	✓
2	Publish details of the GTAA process, including contact details to allow community members to request an interview, on the local authority website, Travellers Times website and the World's Fair publication. In addition adverts were placed by Welsh Government. <i>Extensive publicity was undertaken to promote the GTAA.</i>	✓
3	Consult relevant community support organisations, such as those in Annex 1. <i>Due to the very low number of Gypsy sites in Bridgend only the Showman's Guild and the Association of Independent Showpeople were contacted.</i>	✓

4	<p>Develop a Local Authority waiting list for both pitches and housing, which is accessible and communicated to community members.</p> <p><i>There are no public sites in Bridgend.</i></p>	✓
5	<p>Endeavour to include Gypsies and Travellers on the GTAA Project Steering Group.</p> <p><i>Due to the small numbers of Gypsy and Traveller households within the county borough, it was not possible to encourage a member of the Gypsy and Traveller community on the Steering Group. It was planned to invite a representative from the Bridgend Horse Fair who were liaised with and provided information regarding the GTAA, however the Horse Fair was cancelled and therefore a representative was not available.</i></p>	✓
6	<p>Ensure contact details provided to the local authority by community members through the survey process are followed up and needs assessed.</p> <p><i>All contacts provided to and by the local authority were followed up with a combination of interviews with members of the Travelling Community.</i></p>	✓
7	<p>Consider holding on-site (or nearby) GTAA information events to explain why community members should participate and encourage site residents to bring others who may not be known to the local authority.</p> <p><i>Due to the very small number of sites in Bridgend this was not thought to be appropriate.</i></p>	✓

5. Survey Findings

Background

- ^{1.44} The desk-based research, additional information from members of the Steering Group, and initial site interviews identified a total of 3 private Gypsy and Traveller sites and no Travelling Showpeople yards in Bridgend.

Figure 11 - Sites in Bridgend (November 2015)

Site Name	Pitches	Status
Mill View, Coytrahen	1	Private
Minffrwd Stables, Pencoed	1	Private
Penybryn, Pencoed	2	Private

- ^{1.45} Interviews were attempted on the sites and yards during September 2015 and a total of 4 successful interviews were completed across all 3 of the sites. This represented an overall response rate of 100% of pitches. A total of 16 households living in bricks and mortar were known to the Steering Group and its internal and external partners. 6 were with the Housing Solutions Team, 9 with Education and 1 with Wales & West Housing Association (1 household was known to the Benefits Team and 1 to Linc-Cymru Housing Association, however these were the same household and already known to Education). In addition, colleagues in Health were aware of households, however these were the households already known by partners above. A further household contacted the Council having seen an advert in Worlds Fair. All 16 were contacted directly by telephone and / or by letter (including a flyer and a DVD copy of the Welsh Government video "sites, your say, your future"). Of the 17 there were 5 households who initially agreed to take part in the survey, 6 households who refused and 6 households who did not respond to the communication (see **Appendix B**). As a result a total of 7 face-to-face interviews were attempted with households living in bricks and mortar between October 2015 and January 2016. Despite repeated attempts it was not possible to make contact with one household.

Figure 12 – Interviews completed in Bridgend

Site/Yard Name	Pitches	Interviews	Refusals
Mill View, Coytrahen	1	1	0
Minffrwd Stables, Pencoed	1	1	0
Penybryn, Pencoed	2	2	0
Bricks and Mortar	-	6	1

Interview Log

- ^{1.46} A copy of the Interview Log can be found in **Appendix B**.

Overview and Demographics of Residents

- 1.47 Information collected on the type of accommodation lived in by those who were interviewed shows that all of the Gypsies and Travellers who were interviewed in Bridgend live on private sites or in bricks and mortar.
- 1.48 Ethnicity data was captured from all of the households that were interviewed on the Gypsy and Traveller sites indicated that they are all occupied by Romany Gypsies.
- 1.49 In total the site interviews covered 12 residents living on Gypsy and Traveller sites, comprising 7 adults and 5 children and teenagers aged under 18. This equates to 58% adults and 42% children and teenagers. Although not a direct comparison, data from the Census for Bridgend as a whole (the settled community and the Gypsy or Irish Traveller community) and for Gypsies or Irish Travellers has been compared to the site population. This shows a slightly higher proportion of those aged under 18 in the Gypsy and Traveller population when compared to that of the Bridgend population as a whole. This is important when determining the new household growth rate that will be applied to the population when longer-term need is determined.

Figure 13 – Age and Gender of Household Members as % of Total Site Residents Interviewed (November 2015)

Age and Gender - Sites	Number	%
Male	6	50%
Female	6	50%
Under 18	5	42%
18 and Over	7	58%

Interview Summary

Private Sites

Mill View, Coytrahen

- 1.50 Staff from ORS visited the private site at Coytrahen in September and October 2015. The site has planning consent for a hardstanding for a mobile home and an associated utility block. Interviews were completed with the residents. The site was occupied by Romany Gypsies.
- 1.51 There were no concealed or doubled-up households identified and whilst there were not felt to be enough sleeping areas, there is room to accommodate more when needed. There were no residents who want to move to their own home in the next 5 years.
- 1.52 The residents are satisfied with the site and all live there as a result of local connections. None gave any reasons why they cannot continue to live on the site.
- 1.53 It was felt that additional transit provision is needed in Bridgend.

Minffrwd Stables, Pencoed

- 1.54 Staff from ORS visited the private site at Minffrwd in September and October 2015. The site has planning consent for 1 residential pitch. Interviews were completed with the residents. The site was occupied by Romany Gypsies.
- 1.55 There were no concealed or doubled-up households identified and whilst there were not felt to be enough sleeping areas, there is room to accommodate more when needed. There were no residents who want to move to their own home in the next 5 years.
- 1.56 The residents are satisfied with the site and all live there as a result of local connections. None gave any reasons why they cannot continue to live on the site.
- 1.57 It was not felt that any additional transit provision is needed in Wales.

Penybryn, Pencoed

- 1.58 Staff from ORS visited the private site at Penybryn in September 2015. The site has planning consent for 2 residential pitches. Interviews were completed with residents on both pitches. The site was occupied by Romany Gypsies.
- 1.59 There were no concealed or doubled-up households identified and there were enough sleeping areas. There were no residents who want to move to their own home in the next 5 years.
- 1.60 The residents are satisfied with the site and all live there as a result of local connections. None gave any reasons why they cannot continue to live on the site.
- 1.61 It was felt that additional transit provision is needed all over Wales and particularly in Bridgend.

Bricks and Mortar Interviews

- 1.62 Interviewers were able to complete a total of 6 interviews with Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showperson households living in bricks and mortar and in temporary accommodation. None of the Gypsy and Traveller households indicated a wish to move to a site, and the Travelling Showpeople are considering a cooperative approach to purchase land and independently develop a private yard in South Wales.

6. Assessing Accommodation Needs

- ^{1.63} This section focuses on the additional pitch provision which is needed by Bridgend Council for a short-term period of 5 years and the full GTAA plan period of 15 years. This includes both current unmet need and need which is likely to arise in the future. This time period allows for robust forecasts for future provision, based upon the evidence contained within this study and also from secondary data sources.
- ^{1.64} This section is based upon a combination of information from the on-site surveys, planning records, Steering Group members, and from other stakeholders. In many cases, the survey data is not used in isolation, but instead is used to validate information from planning records or other sources.
- ^{1.65} This section concentrates not only upon the total additional provision which is needed in the area, but also whether there is a need for any transit sites and/or emergency stopping place provision.
- ^{1.66} Welsh Government Guidance requires an assessment of current and future pitch needs, and provides a prescribed framework for undertaking this calculation. This framework has been followed for the purpose of this GTAA although it is **not the approach** that ORS would usually follow when assessing need for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation.
- ^{1.67} As with any assessment of housing need the underlying calculation can be broken down into a relatively small number of factors. In this case, the key issue for residential pitches is to compare the supply that is available for occupation with the current and future needs of the households. The key factors in each of these elements are set out in the sections below.

Need for Gypsies and Travellers

Current Residential Supply

- » Occupied local authority pitches.
- » Occupied authorised private pitches.
- » Vacant local authority pitches and available private pitches.
- » Pitches expected to be vacated in the near future.
- » New local authority pitches private pitches with planning permission.

Current Residential Demand

- » Households on unauthorised encampments.
- » Households on unauthorised developments.
- » Concealed /over-crowded/doubled-up households³.

³ Following the guidance set out in Paragraphs 195-201 of the GTAA Guidance

- » Conventional housing – movement from bricks and mortar⁴.
- » New households to arrive from waiting lists/in-migration.

Future Demand

^{1.68} Total future demand is a result of the formation of new households during the study period. Information from the site interviews provides details of the gross number of new households expected to form within the first 5 years of the study (although it is important to *net* this off against supply that has been identified during the first 5 years of the study). The *net* compound household formation rate that has used for years 6-15 of the study has been based on demographic evidence from the site interviews.

Current Authorised Residential Supply

^{1.69} To assess the current Gypsy and Traveller provision it is important to understand the total number of existing pitches and their planning status. There are no authorised public sites and 3 small private sites in Bridgend. There is no public or private transit provision or Travelling Showpeople yards.

Figure 14 - Total number of authorised sites in Bridgend as at November 2015

Category	Sites	Pitches	Occupied
Private sites with permanent planning permission	3	4	4
Private sites with temporary planning permission	0	0	0
Public sites (Council and Registered Providers)	0	0	0
Public transit provision	0	0	0
Private transit provision	0	0	0

^{1.70} The next stage of the process is to assess how much space is, or will become, available on existing sites in order to determine the supply of available pitches. The main ways of finding this is through:

- » **Current vacant pitches** – There are no vacant pitches in Bridgend.
- » **Pitches expected to become vacant** – There are no public sites in Bridgend.
- » **Pitches currently with planning permission** – There are no unimplemented pitches with planning permission in Bridgend.

^{1.71} This gives a figure for **overall supply of no pitches**.

Current Residential Demand

^{1.72} The next stage of the process is to assess current need and determine how many households are currently seeking pitches in the area.

⁴ Following the guidance set out in Paragraphs 172-183 of the GTAA Guidance

Current Unauthorised and Tolerated Sites

- 1.73 A problem with many Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments is that they often count all caravans on unauthorised developments and encampments as requiring a pitch in the area, when in practice many are simply visiting or passing through, and some may be on sites that are tolerated for planning purposes. In order to remedy this, ORS' approach is to treat need as only those households on unauthorised and tolerated sites already in the planning system (i.e. sites/pitches for which a planning application has been made or are likely to be made); those otherwise known to the Council as being resident in the area; or those identified through the household survey as requiring pitches.
- 1.74 The study has identified no unauthorised or tolerated sites in Bridgend and there are no sites with temporary planning permission.

Over-Crowded Pitches

- 1.75 The site interviews sought to identify concealed or doubled-up households on authorised sites that require a pitch immediately. A concealed household is one living in a multi-family household in addition to the primary family, such as a young couple living with parents, who need their own separate family accommodation, but are unable to do obtain it because of a lack of space on public or private sites, or a single family member or individual living within an existing family unit in need of separate accommodation. The information collected during the site interviews did not identify any concealed or doubled-up households on sites in Bridgend.

Conventional Housing

- 1.76 Identifying households in bricks and mortar has been frequently highlighted as an issue with Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments. The 2011 UK Census of Population identified a total of just 26 Gypsy or Irish Traveller households in Bridgend, of which 18 of these households were identified as living in a house or bungalow, 4 in a flat, maisonette or apartment and 4 in a caravan or other mobile or temporary structure.
- 1.77 As noted earlier, the Council went to all possible lengths to identify Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar. This process resulted in 6 Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople households who took part in a telephone interview. None of the Gypsy and Traveller households that were interviewed stated a wish to move to a site, and the Travelling Showpeople indicated that they are seeking to independently develop a private yard in South Wales.

New Households to Arrive

- 1.78 There is no public site in Bridgend so there is no waiting. Assessments also need to consider in-migration (households requiring accommodation who move into the study area from outside) and out-migration (households moving away from the study area). Site surveys typically identify only small numbers of in-migrant and out-migrant households and the data is not normally robust enough to extrapolate long-term trends. At the national level, there is zero net migration of Gypsies and Travellers across the UK, but this assessment has taken into account local migration effects on the basis of the best local evidence available.

1.79 Evidence drawn from household interviews in Bridgend has been carefully considered and has not identified any specific sources of movement due to in-migration or out-migration, other than natural pitch turnover. Beyond this, rather than assess in-migrant households seeking to develop new sites in the area, it is recommended that each case is assessed as a desire to live in the area and that site criteria rules are followed for each new site. It is therefore important for the Council to continue to follow its existing criteria-based planning policies for any new potential sites which do arise. In addition, no formal contact has been made by any other local authorities to advise of any Gypsy and Traveller households that may seek to reside or resort to the County Borough area.

Additional Pitch Provision: Future Need

1.80 The next stage of the process is to assess future need and determine how many households are likely to be seeking pitches in the area in the future during the first 5 years of the assessment and for the longer 15 year GTAA plan period. There are two key components of future need.

- » Population and household growth.
- » Movement to and from sites and migration.

Population and Household Growth

1.81 Nationally, a household formation and growth rate of 3.00% net per annum has been commonly assumed and widely used in local Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments, even though there is no statistical evidence of households growing so quickly. The result has been to inflate both national and local requirements for additional pitches unrealistically. In this context, ORS has prepared a *Technical Note on Household Formation and Growth Rates*. The main conclusions are set out here.

1.82 Those seeking to provide evidence of high annual net household growth rates for Gypsies and Travellers have sometimes sought to rely on increases in the number of caravans, as reflected in the Caravan Counts. However, Caravan Count data is unreliable and erratic – so the only proper way to project future population and household growth is through detailed demographic analysis.

1.83 The research undertaken by ORS has identified that in fact, the growth in the national Gypsy and Traveller population may be as low as 1.50% per annum – much less than the 3.00% per annum often assumed, but still greater than in the settled community. Even using extreme and unrealistic assumptions, it is hard to find evidence that net Gypsy and Traveller population and household growth rates are above 2.00% per annum nationally.

1.84 There are 2 measures of household growth that are used for the assessment of need in this study. Evidence of *gross* household formation (family growth) from Section D of the Household Survey, *netted off* against evidence of 1 year pitch turnover and pitches expected to become vacant, has been used for the first 5 year period. A compound *net* household formation rate has been used for years 6-15 based on demographic evidence from the site surveys.

1.85 The site and bricks and mortar interviews identified **no new households** as a result of family growth over the first 5 years of the assessment, and **no pitch turnover**.

- 1.86 The rate for years 6-15 has been calculated based on the overall demographic of the population. The Technical Note supports a national net growth rate for the Gypsy and Traveller population of 1.50% using a population base from the 2011 Census where, nationally, approximately 36% of the Gypsy and Traveller population were aged under 18. The site and household survey for Gypsies and Travellers in Bridgend indicates that approximately **42%** of the on-site and bricks and mortar population are children and teenagers aged under 18. Given that this is slightly higher than the rate used to calculate the national net growth rate ORS consider that it is appropriate to allow for longer-term projected household growth for the Gypsy and Traveller population in Bridgend to occur at an annual **net growth rate of 1.75%**, using the total number of households at year 5 as the population base.

Overall Need for Bridgend

- 1.87 Each element of the calculation for the need has been carefully examined and the next stage of the process is to balance current and future need against supply to provide an overall need for Bridgend following the approach that is set out in the Welsh Government GTAA Guidance.
- 1.88 The Welsh Government Guidance requires 2 assessments of need – for the first 5 years of the plan period and for the full 15 year plan period. Following this approach the estimated provision that is needed in Bridgend for the first 5 years is for **no additional pitches**. The estimated provision that is needed for the remainder of the GTAA plan period (years 6-15) is for **1 additional pitch**. This equates to a total of 1 pitch for the 15 year GTAA plan period. This will address the needs of all identifiable Gypsy and Traveller households from the expected growth in household numbers due to new household formation.

Figure 15 – Additional Pitches Needed in Bridgend from 2016-2031

Current Residential Supply	Number of Pitches
A. Occupied Local Authority Pitches	0
B. Occupied authorised private pitches/tolerated pitches	4
Total	4

Planned Residential Supply	Number of Pitches
C. Vacant Local Authority pitches and available vacant pitches	0
D. Pitches expected to become vacant in near future	0
E. New Local Authority and private pitches with planning permission	0
Total	0

Current Residential Demand	Pitch Demand
F. Unauthorised encampments	0
G. Unauthorised development	0
H. Overcrowded pitches/Unsuitable accommodation	0
I. Conventional housing	0
J. New households to arrive	0
Total	0

Current Households	Future Households (at year 5)	Future Households (years 6 to 15)
K. 4	4	5
L. Additional household pitch need	0	1

Unmet Need	Need Arising	Need Accommodated
M. Current residential demand	0	
N. Future residential demand (year 5)	0	
O. Future residential demand (years 6 to 15)	1	
P. Planned residential supply		0
Q. Unmet need (5 year)	0	
R. Unmet need (GTAA plan period)	1	

Transit/Emergency Stopping Site Provision

- ^{1.89} Transit sites serve a specific function of meeting the needs of Gypsy and Traveller households who are visiting an area or who are passing through. A transit site typically has a restriction on the length of stay of around 13 weeks and has a range of facilities such as water supply, electricity and amenity blocks. An alternative to a transit site is an emergency stopping place. This type of site also has restrictions on the length of time for which a Traveller can stay on it, but has much more limited facilities with typically only a source of water and chemical toilets provided. Some authorities also operate an accepted or negotiated encampment policy where households are provided with access to lighting, drinking water, refuse collection and hiring of portable toilets at a cost to the Travellers.
- ^{1.90} The Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 is particularly important with regard to the issue of Gypsy and Traveller transit site provision. Section 62A of the Act allows the Police to direct trespassers to remove themselves, their vehicles and their property from any land where a suitable pitch on a relevant caravan site is available within the same Local Authority area (or within the county in two-tier Local Authority areas). A suitable pitch on a relevant caravan site is one which is situated in the same Local Authority area as the land on which the trespass has occurred, and which is managed by a Local Authority, a Registered Provider or other person or body as specified by order by the Secretary of State. Case law has confirmed that a suitable pitch must be somewhere where the household can occupy their caravan. Bricks and mortar housing is not a suitable alternative to a pitch.
- ^{1.91} Therefore, a transit site both provides a place for households in transit to an area and also a mechanism for greater enforcement action against inappropriate unauthorised encampments.
- ^{1.92} In order to identify whether there is a need for the Council to provide transit accommodation analysis has been undertaken of the Caravan Count data, the assessment for transit provision that was undertaken as part of the 2010 Bridgend GTAA, reported unauthorised encampments and the outcomes from the household interviews.
- ^{1.93} Analysis of the number of authorised and unauthorised caravans that have been recorded in Bridgend for the 9 year period since 2006 show only 2 instances of unauthorised caravans. In addition the 2010 GTAA

identified a total of 5 locations across Bridgend that had been used occasionally in the past by families passing through the county.

- ^{1.94} The 2010 Bridgend GTAA recommended that the Council consider whether the provision of a small transit site would be used in preference to unauthorised temporary encampments, or whether a management solution might be more cost effective and potentially provide better outcomes for both Gypsies and Travellers and the Council. This was considered and in the LDP the Council have chosen to put in place a management solution to address small numbers of unauthorised encampments.
- ^{1.95} In addition there was 1 unauthorised encampment in Porthcawl during the fieldwork period. Whilst it was not possible to speak to the residents on the encampment, an informal interview was completed with the same group of Travellers on an unauthorised encampment in Llanelli. This confirmed that they were transient Irish Travellers who were moving across South Wales and that they had no permanent accommodation needs in the Bridgend area. There have also been other instances of short-term unauthorised encampments in Porthcawl in recent years – mainly at Rest Bay – but again it has been confirmed that these are transient Travellers with no permanent links to the Bridgend area.
- ^{1.96} The outcomes from the household interviews were inconclusive in that 2 households thought there is a need for some transit provision both in the Bridgend area and across Wales in general, and 1 household did not. The low number of unauthorised encampments does not support the view that there is currently a need for transit provision in Bridgend.
- ^{1.97} Reported instances of unauthorised encampments in Bridgend have also been very low with just 23 between 2007 and 2015. All of these were reported to be short-term.
- ^{1.98} As such it is recommended that there is **not a need for the Council to provide a permanent transit site** in Bridgend. However the Council should continue to monitor the number of unauthorised encampments and continue the management approach set out in the LDP and in the Gypsy and Traveller Management Protocol through the use of short-term toleration or Negotiated Stopping Arrangements to deal with short-term transient stops.

Need for Travelling Showpeople Plots

- ^{1.99} Whilst there are no Travelling Showpeople yards in Bridgend, telephone interviews were completed with Travelling Showperson households currently living in Bridgend, the Vale of Glamorgan, and Gloucestershire. They have expressed a wish to independently develop a yard in South Wales.

2. Conclusions

Gypsy and Traveller Future Pitch Provision

- 2.1 Based upon the evidence presented in this study the estimated additional pitch provision needed for Gypsies and Travellers in Bridgend for the first 5 years of the GTAA plan period is for **no additional pitches**, and for the remainder of the GTAA plan period is for a further **1 additional pitch**. This gives a total need for the whole GTAA plan period of 1 additional pitch. These figures should be seen as the projected amount of provision which is necessary to meet the statutory obligations towards identifiable needs of the population arising in the area. These figures are made up of new household formation as no other components of need have been identified.

Transit Sites

- 2.2 It is recommended that there is **not a need for the Council to provide a permanent transit site** in Bridgend. However the Council should continue to monitor the number of unauthorised encampments and continue the management approach set out in the LDP and in the Gypsy and Traveller Management Protocol through the use of short-term toleration or Negotiated Stopping Arrangements to deal with short-term transient stops.

Travelling Showpeople

- 2.3 Whilst there are no Travelling Showpeople yards in Bridgend, contact was made with Travelling Showpeople households living in Bridgend, the Vale of Glamorgan and Gloucester who have expressed a wish to independently develop a private yard in South Wales.

Appendix A: Sites and Yards in Bridgend (November 2015)

Site/Yard	Operational Pitches/Plots	Unauthorised Pitches/Plots
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Public Sites		
None	-	-
Private Sites with Permanent Permission		
None	-	-
Private Sites with Temporary Permission		
Mill View, Coytrahen	1	-
Minffrwd Stables, Pencoed	1	-
Penybryn, Pencoed	2	-
Tolerated Sites		
None	-	-
Unauthorised Sites		
None	-	-
TOTAL PITCHES	4	0
Public Transit Sites		
None	-	-
Private Transit Sites		
None	-	-
Private Travelling Showpeople Yards		
None	-	-
Tolerated Travelling Showpeople Yards		
None	-	-
Unauthorised Travelling Showpeople Yards		
None	-	-

Appendix B: Interview Log

Address	Type of tenure	Interview attempts			Engagement techniques used	Completed or refusal?	Reasons for refusal?
Penybryn - Plot 1	Private authorised site	30/09/2015			Site Visit	Completed	
Penybryn - Plot 2	Private authorised site	30/09/2015			Site Visit	Completed	
Mill View, Coytrahen	Private authorised site	30/09/2015	05/10/2015		Site Visit	Completed	
Minffrwd Stables	Private authorised site	30/09/2015	05/10/2015		Site Visit	Completed	

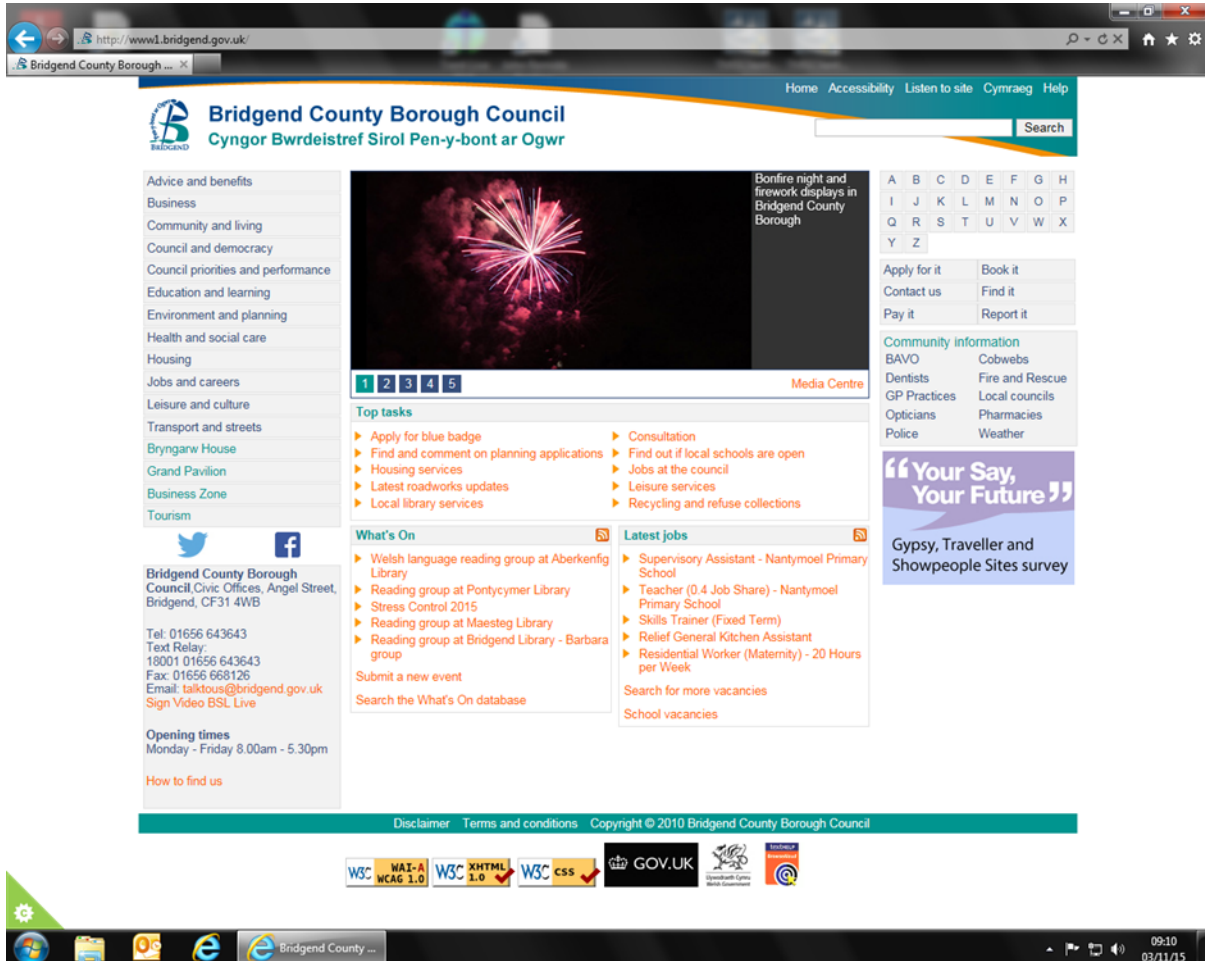
The following is a breakdown of the engagement attempts with households living in bricks and mortar known to the Housing Solutions Team. It also records engagement attempts with households living in bricks and mortar known to Education through the Education Welfare Officers. As the Education Welfare Officers do not have a direct relationship with some of the households it was not appropriate for them to contact the households directly themselves and therefore information was sent home with the children given to them by the schools. The households were able to either contact ORS directly themselves or give permission for the Council to provide their contact details to ORS. The 2 final contacts are a household in bricks and mortar who was contacted by Wales & West Housing Association and an individual who contacted the Council having seen an advert in Worlds Fair.

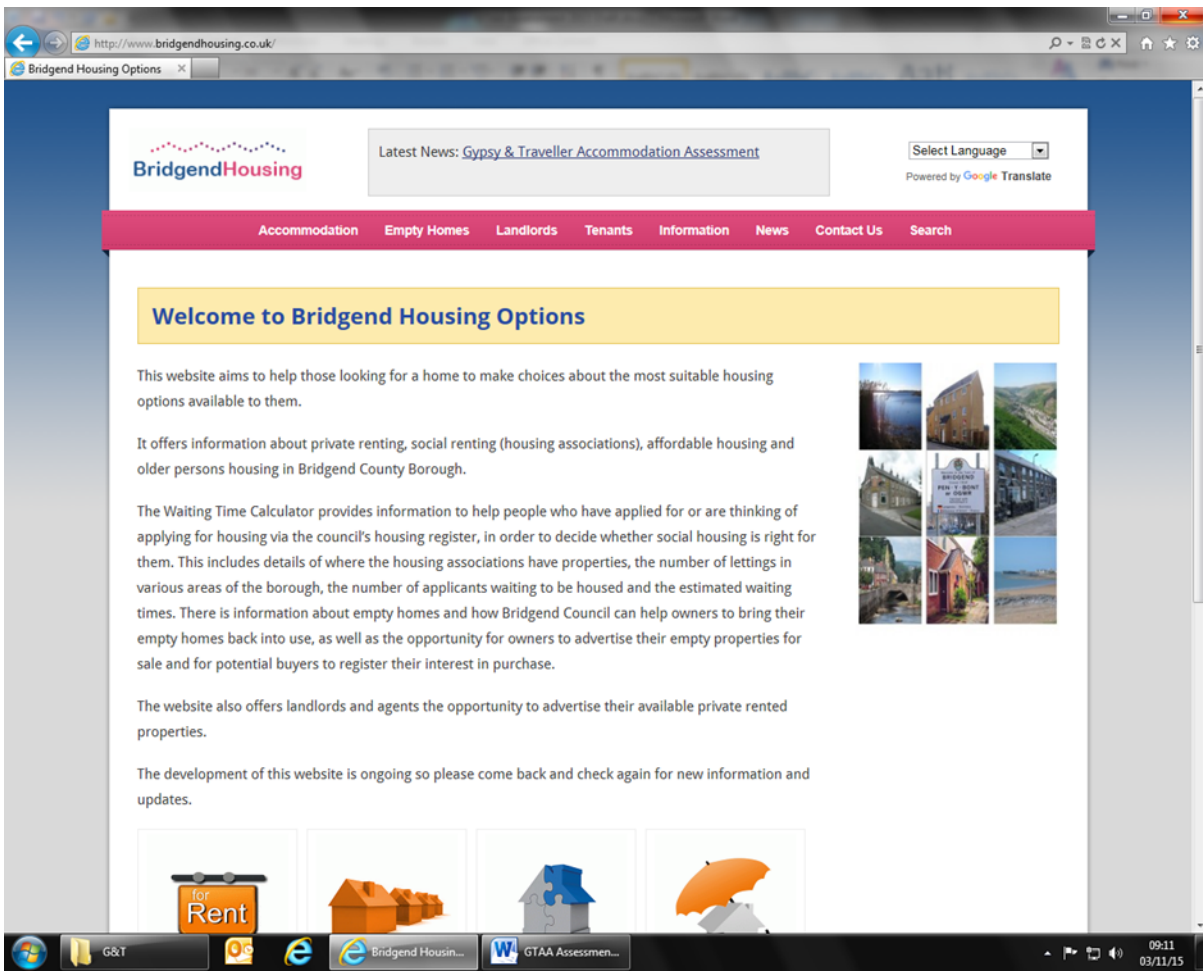
Address	Type of tenure	Engagement attempts			Engagement techniques used	Completed or refusal?	Reasons for refusal?
Bricks and Mortar 1	Bricks and mortar	15/10/2015			Telephone	Refusal	Not given
Bricks and Mortar 2	Bricks and mortar	15/10/2015	19/10/2015		Telephone	Agreed	
Bricks and Mortar 3	Bricks and mortar	15/10/2015	19/10/2015	23/10/2015	Telephone & letter	No reply	
Bricks and Mortar 4	Bricks and mortar	15/10/2015	19/10/2015	23/10/2015	Telephone (address not known)	No reply	
Bricks and Mortar 5	Bricks and mortar	15/10/2015	19/10/2015		Telephone	Agreed	
Bricks and Mortar 6	Bricks and mortar	15/10/2015			Letter (telephone no. not known)	No reply	
Bricks and Mortar 7	Bricks and mortar	Nov-15	Dec-15		Letter	No reply	
Bricks and Mortar 8	Bricks and mortar	Oct-15			Telephone (same household as known to the Benefits Team and Linc-Cymru Housing Association)	Agreed	
Bricks and Mortar 9	Bricks and mortar	Nov-15	Dec-15		Telephone	Refusal	Estranged from travelling family
Bricks and Mortar 10	Bricks and mortar	Nov-15	Dec-15		Letter	No reply	
Bricks and Mortar 11	Bricks and mortar	Nov-15	Dec-15		Telephone	Refusal	Reluctant to share personal information
Bricks and Mortar 12	Bricks and mortar	Nov-15	Dec-15		Not appropriate to contact household who are living out of county in a refuge	Refusal	
Bricks and Mortar 13	Bricks and mortar	Nov-15			Telephone	Refusal	Not given
Bricks and Mortar 14	Bricks and mortar	Nov-15	Dec-15		Letter	No reply	
Bricks and Mortar 15	Bricks and mortar	Nov-15	Dec-15		Telephone	Refusal	Family first thought to be New Age Travellers but confirmed they are not
Brick and Mortar 16	Bricks and mortar	Nov-15			Contact made by Wales and West Housing	Agreed	
Bricks and Mortar 17	Bricks and mortar	Oct-15			Contacted the Council after seeing advert in Worlds Fair	Agreed	

The log below is for the interview attempts that were made by ORS and includes 2 additional Travelling Showperson households that were identified during one of the interviews.

Address	Type of tenure	Interview attempts			Engagement techniques used	Completed or refusal?	Reasons for refusal?
Bricks and Mortar 2	Bricks and mortar	22/10/2015	04/11/2015	16/11/2015	Telephone	Refusal	Unable to contact
Bricks and Mortar 5	Bricks and mortar	22/10/2015			Telephone	Completed	
Bricks and Mortar 8	Bricks and mortar	22/10/2015	04/11/2015	16/11/2015	Telephone	Completed	
Bricks and Mortar 16	Bricks and mortar	22/10/2015	09/11/2015	16/01/2016	Telephone	Completed	
Bricks and Mortar 17 (TSP)	Bricks and mortar	16/10/2015			Worlds Fair Advert	Completed	
Bricks and Mortar 18 (TSP)	Bricks and mortar	22/01/2016			Telephone	Completed	
Bricks and Mortar 19 (TSP)	Bricks and mortar	22/01/2016			Telephone	Completed	

Appendix C: Publicity Examples





**Bridgend County Borough Council
is supporting Welsh Government's survey:
Gypsy, Traveller and Showpeople Sites -**

**“Your Say,
Your Future”**

Do you or your family need a pitch in Bridgend County Borough?

We want to understand the true accommodation needs of Gypsy and Traveller families within the County Borough so we can ensure we have the right number of pitches or sites available.

We'd like your feedback before December 2015, so we can not only meet our legal duty but have a better understanding of how we can support you and your family.

Please take part in the survey to make sure we know about your needs.



Tel: 01792 535337
email: claire.thomas@ors.org.uk
www.travellerstimes.org.uk/GTAA



Do you or your family need a pitch in Bridgend County Borough?

We want to understand the true accommodation needs of Gypsy and Traveller families within the County Borough so we can ensure we have the right number of pitches or sites available.

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Please take part in the survey to make sure we know about your needs.

Bridgend County Borough Council is supporting Welsh Government's survey: Gypsy, Traveller and Showpeople Sites

“Your Say, Your Future”

Mae Cyngor Sirol Bwrdeistref Pen-y-bont yn cefnogi arolwg Llywodraeth Cymru: Safleoedd ar gyfer Sipsiwn, Teithwyr a Phobl Sioeau

“Eich Barn Chi, Eich Dyfodol Chi”



A oes arnoch chi neu'ch teulu angen lle i wersylla ym Mwrdeistref Pen-y-bont?

Rydym yn awyddus i ddeall gwir anghenion Sipsiwn a theuluoedd Teithwyr o fewn y Fwrdeistref Sirol i sicrhau bod gennym y nifer cywir o fannau gweryslla a safleoedd ar gael.

Hoffem gael ymateb gennych cyn dechrau mis Rhagfyr 2015, nid yn unig er mwyn cwrrd â'n dyletswydd gyfreithiol, ond hefyd i ddeall yn well sut y gallwn eich cefnogi chi a'ch teulu.

Byddem yn ddiolchgar iawn pe gallech gymryd rhan yn yr arolwg i wneud yn siŵr ein bod yn gwybod beth yw'ch anghenion.

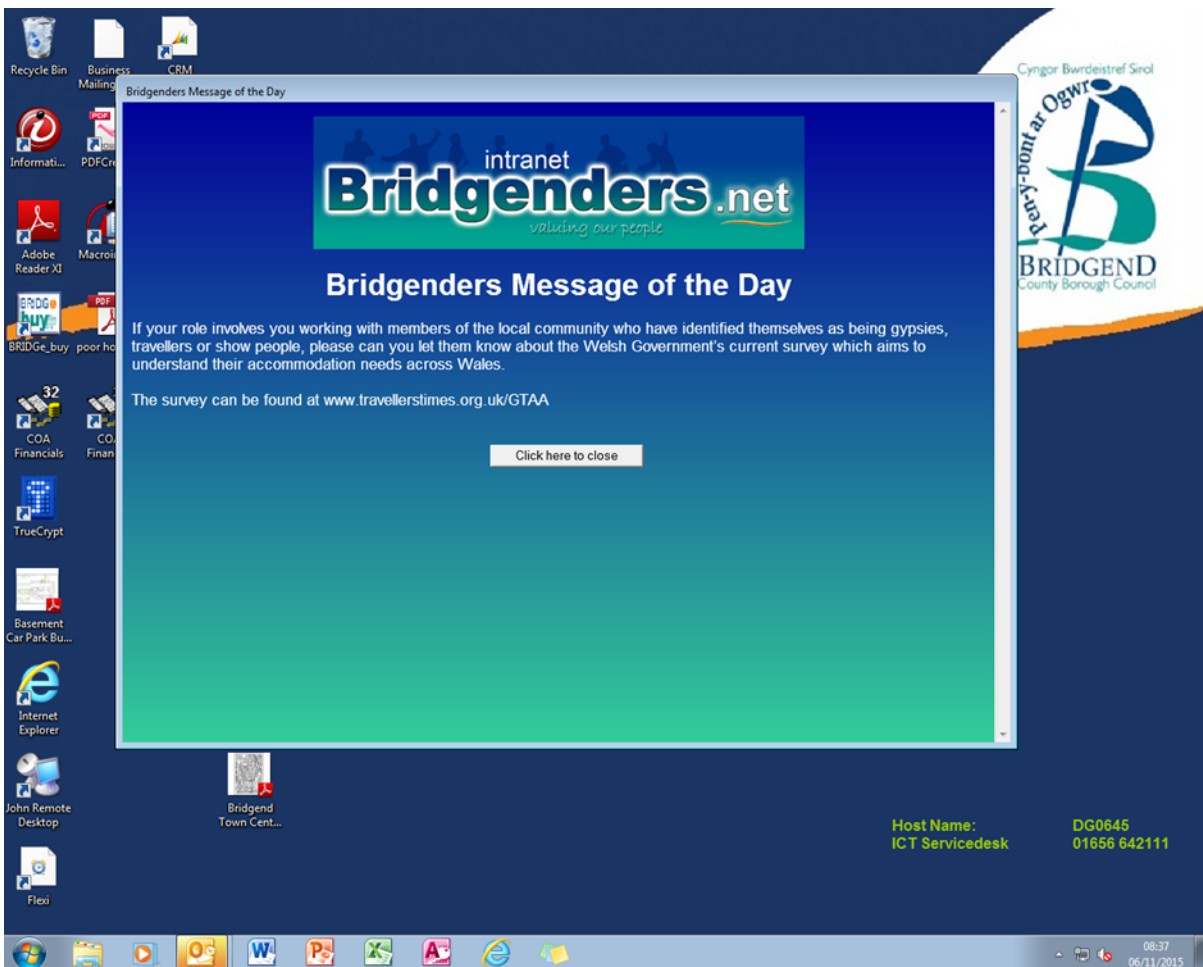
Tel/Ffôn: 01792 535337

email/e-bost: claire.thomas@ors.org.uk

www.travellerstimes.org.uk/GTAA







Bridgend County Borough Council
Published by Hel Chatsworth [?] · 24 November at 12:00 · Edited [?] · [?]

Are you part of a Gypsy or Traveller community?

As part of Welsh Government's survey 'Gypsy, Traveller and Showpeople Sites – Your Say, Your Future', we are asking for feedback to understand the true accommodation needs of Gypsy and Traveller families within Bridgend County Borough.

We'd like feedback before the end of December so we can have a better understanding of how we can support you and your family, as well as meeting our legal duty... See More

“Your Say, Your Future”

Gypsy, Traveller and Showpeople Sites survey

936 people reached Boost Post

Like Comment Share

Write a comment...

Bridgend CB Council @BridgendCBC · Oct 22

We want feedback from #Gypsy and Traveller communities in #Bridgend County. Please help by taking part in our survey

Government's survey: Gypsy, Traveller and Showpeople Sites

“Your Say, Your Future”

Mae Cyngor Sirol Bwrdeistref Pen-y-bont yn cefnogi arolwg Llywodraeth Cymru: Safleoedd ar gyfer Sipsiwrn, Teltwyr a Phobl Sioeau

“Eich Barn Chi, Eich Dyfodol Chi”

A oes arnoch chi neu'ch teulu angen lle i wersylla ym Mwrdeistref Pen-y-bont?

1 1

Bridgend CB Council @BridgendCBC · Nov 16

Are you part of a #Gypsy #Traveller community? Have your say by taking part in our survey.

We want to understand the true accommodation needs of Gypsy and Traveller families within the County Borough so we can ensure we have the right number of pitches or sites available.

We'd like your feedback before December 2015, so we can not only meet our legal duty but have a better understanding of how we can support you and your family.

Please take part in the survey to make sure we know about your needs.

2

Bridgend CB Council @BridgendCBC · Nov 3

We want feedback from #Gypsy and Traveller communities in #Bridgend County. Please help by taking part in our survey

We want to understand the true accommodation needs of Gypsy and Traveller families within the County Borough so we can ensure we have the right number of pitches or sites available.

We'd like your feedback before December 2015, so we can not only meet our legal duty but have a better understanding of how we can support you and your family.

Please take part in the survey to make sure we know about your needs.

2

