

Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment

Detailed results of Croydon survey 2008/09

An additional informal survey was conducted during 2008/09 by the tenancy officer for the existing council site, the Travellers Education Service and Streetscene Enforcement Officers.

- 4 housed Irish travellers who would like to be on a site and have families in Croydon and elsewhere
- 12 English Gypsy families on the Lathams Way site (of which 8 were overcrowded).
- 1 family (traveller group unspecified) on an unauthorised site
- 8 Irish Traveller families living in caravans in Layhams Road, in the London Borough of Bromley, but near the borough boundary – whose children are all in Croydon schools. These are on an unauthorised private site and are subject to legal action by Bromley Council.

The need identified among 4 housed travellers and 8 overcrowded families on the Lathams Way site totalled 14 pitches:

- 5 for adults with no children,
- 2 for adults with 1 or 2 children
- 6 for adults with between four and six children.

If need from Layhams Road is taken into account, this would increase to 22 pitches, of which 14 would be for large families.

Respondents from Lathams Way (English Gypsies)

- needed 10 pitches, 5 for households with one or two adults, the remainder for families with 2 to 4 children
- wanted a rural site 'outside Croydon' with green areas, space for children to play and no electricity pylons.
- were insistent that they would not consider moving to a site shared with other groups, such as Irish travellers, or Roma.

The need for one large family will be met by dividing one large pitch on the site, leaving a net need for 9 extra pitches.

Respondents from existing housing (Irish travellers)

- needed 4 pitches, all for families with 4 to 6 children
- would consider a site Croydon
- would consider moving to a site shared with other groups, such as Irish travellers, English Gypsies or Roma.

Respondents from Irish Traveller families in Layhams Road, Bromley

- needed 8 pitches, all for families with 4 children
- would consider a site Croydon
- would consider moving to a site shared with other groups, such as Irish travellers, English Gypsies or Roma.

60-70 households living in housing in Croydon are known to the Traveller Education Service (TES), including English gypsies, Irish travellers and Polish

Roma Travellers. Of these, 30 families are in contact with the service. Other travellers are mentioned to TES by travellers but not named.

Transit travellers

Transit travellers did not wish to respond to the survey. It was noted that the enforcement process was not conducive to collect information on housing need. The transit traveller family who responded stated that they were looking for a transit site in London.

In 2008/09 70 separate illegal traveller encampments were recorded. Taking the A232 (Duppas Hill, Croydon Flyover) east to west as dividing the Borough in half there were 32 incidents North of that divide and 38 south of it. The vast majority of encampments were on or in the neighbourhood of Purley Way, and the remainder were in South Croydon/Shirley and in Coulsdon.

At any one time between one and three extended families were involved. Between one and ten caravans and camper vans were involved, on average 6.