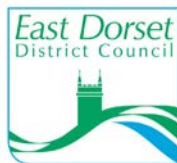
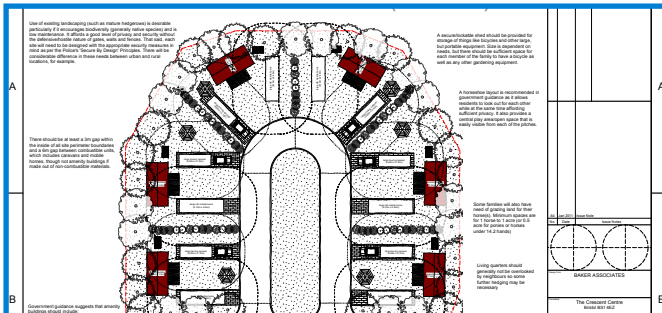


Have your say: finding sites in Dorset for Gypsies and Travellers

Consultation – November 2011

Site options summary and response form (Poole)



Produced by Baker Associates on behalf of Dorset councils

Introduction

Councils in Dorset (including Bournemouth and Poole) are working together to identify sites to meet the current and future needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in the area.

The councils would like to hear your views on the content of the site options included in this booklet.

We would also like to hear your views on the full Issues and Options Consultation Document which is available to view, together with other background documents, at council offices and at www.dorsetforyou.com/travellerpitches

Public exhibitions to explain the need for this plan and the options suggested are being held at the following places in Poole:

- 6th December 2.30-7pm Church of the Good Shepherd Herbert Ave Poole
- 5th December 10am-2pm Poole Central Library

You can have your say by:

- Completing and returning the attached response form
- Completing the online questionnaire at www.dorsetforyou.com/travellerpitches
- Completing the questionnaire available at the public exhibitions

The deadline for comments to be received is 10 February 2012.

Background

Gypsies and Travellers have been living in England for hundreds of years. The number living in Dorset is estimated at between 2,400 and 3,000 people. There are seasonal differences, with more Travellers arriving during the summer months. Many Gypsies and Travellers move around the country and need temporary transit sites in the areas they travel to. However, travelling communities are becoming increasingly settled and need permanent residential sites which also act as a base from which to travel.

Travelling Showpeople play an important role in the leisure economy, travelling the country to hold fairs and circuses. They need secure, permanent bases in which to live and store their equipment. There are established family businesses currently based in Dorset.

Why should councils find places for Gypsies and Travellers to stay?

The Government wants to significantly increase the number of Traveller sites with planning permission and address the shortage of sites in recent years.

It's important that local councils plan for the needs of all of their communities, including Gypsies and Travellers. Councils will help meet the needs of the travelling communities by producing a plan that identifies enough sites for them. This should help reduce the number of illegal camps. It should also reduce tension and help make enforcement by councils and the police more effective.

More generally, councils have a duty to promote good race relations, equality of opportunity and community cohesion.

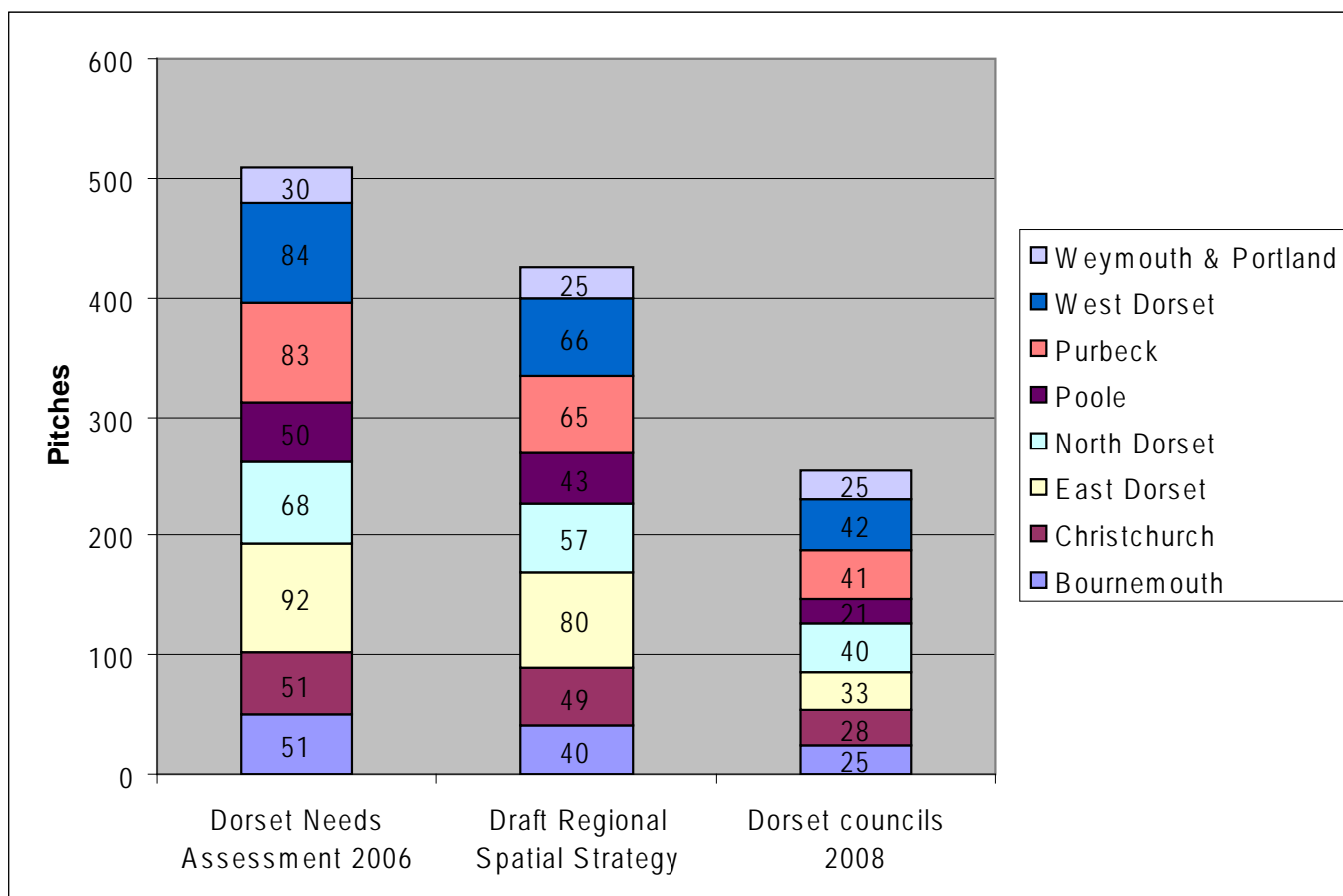
Meeting needs

There is currently a shortage of permanent residential and transit Gypsy and Traveller pitches¹ in Dorset. A site can contain up to 15 pitches, although travelling communities prefer small sites with up to six pitches.

A number of estimates have been made for the current needs of Gypsies and Travellers in Dorset, mainly based on local surveys of need.

The following table shows three different recent estimates of need. In addition a further 100 transit pitches are required on a temporary basis each year for the annual Great Dorset Steam Fair in North Dorset².

Recent estimates of Gypsy and Traveller need in Dorset



A regional report on Travelling Showpeople in the South West has estimated that two plots³ should be provided in Dorset to meet current needs.

More work will need to be done to identify future needs. The plan will need to identify local targets for 5, 10 and 15 year periods.

Site options

Independent consultants Baker Associates have reviewed land within the Borough of Poole and have identified 23 sites which have been subject to detailed assessment. Baker Associates consider that 20 of the sites should be rejected and three sites may be potentially suitable, available and achievable for Gypsy or Traveller uses in Poole. All sites subject to

detailed assessment are shown on Map 1.

Details of these sites and the selection criteria used can be found in the full Issues and Options Consultation Document.

The Borough of Poole also wishes to make the public aware of a number of other rejected sites. These sites are shown on Map 2.

The Council as part of this process would like to confirm:

- This consultation is undertaken **without** the Council having any preferred options
- The Council is looking for help in identifying new sites

1. Gypsy and Traveller site needs are measured in terms of pitches. A pitch is an area of land where a Gypsy or Traveller household can reside. Typically, this may have a building, parking space and one or more caravans, with sufficient space so that caravans up to 20 metres in length can be moved around.

2. In July 2011, Dorset County Council granted planning permission for five years for a site off the A354 to be used during a three week period around the dates of the Steam Fair each year.

3. Travelling Showpeople needs are measured in terms of plots. A plot contains both residential and business uses for a household. It allows for the storage and repair of fairground equipment.

c. The Council is prepared to further investigate sites that were excluded on the basis of anticipated costs of supporting infrastructure.

d. The Council would welcome suggestions from private landowners who may be able to identify a site to help meet this need.

The councils within Dorset have yet to decide which, if any, of the so far identified sites are appropriate for Gypsy, Traveller or Travelling Showpeople use.

Your views are sought to help the councils come to an informed decision.

Location of sites in Poole



Map 1 - Location of sites assessed by consultants, ● rejected sites, ● shortlisted sites



Site Name	Site Name	Site Name
1 Darby's Lane North	9 Land off West Quay Road	17 Ex School Site
2 Land south of Magna Road	10 Yarrow Close	18 Site at Willett Road
3 Land at Yarrow Road	11 Four fields stretching north from Upton Road to Northmead Drive	19 Land at Ashington Lane
4 Longmeadow Lane	12 Land between Arrowsmith Road and Queen Anne Drive	20 Land at Merley Park Road
5 Land south of Magna Road	13 Poole Stadium Lorry Park	21 Land at former Community Centre, Turlin Moor, Poole
6 Park & Ride Site	14 Car Park	22 Lodge Hill, Canford Heath Road, Poole
7 Land north of Willett Road	15 Penn Hill Public Car Park	23 Branksome Triangle, Bourne Valley Road, Poole
8 Beach Road Car Park	16 Former Power Station Site	




Map 2 - Further sites that have been previously considered and rejected ●

Site Name	Site Name	Site Name
A Land between Upton Road and A35	D Land at Terrace Row, off West Quay Road	H Land at Anjou Close, Bearwood
B Everyone Active Swimming Pool Car Park	E Land adjacent to Wessex Gate Retail Park	I Land at Rigler Road, Blandford Road and former Power Station Site
C Everyone Active Swimming Pool	F Upton Country Park	J Land adjacent to Probation Offices, Ashley Cross
	G Land at West Quay	K Site opposite Fire Station

Shortlisted sites identified by the independent consultants

<p>Site name & settlement: Land at former Community Centre, Turlin Moor, Poole</p>	<p>Summary of assessment:</p> <p>The site was a community centre.</p> <p><i>Is it suitable?</i> Loss of community facilities is restricted but there is no clear evidence as to whether replacement facilities will be delivered or are required. There is a possible impact on an adjacent residential property, although existing homes do not directly overlook the site. Proximity to sites of international importance for nature conservation may need to be taken into account in the design and type of development permitted. The site has good access to services.</p>	<p>Number of pitches: 4</p>
<p>Site map</p> 	<p><i>Is it available?</i> The site is publicly owned and if not required for community use, could be available in principle.</p> <p><i>Is it achievable?</i> Contamination on site requires remedial works, the costs of which are unknown at present.</p>	<p>Type of provision: Residential</p> <p>Type of traveller: Romany Gypsies or Irish Travellers</p> <p>Delivery: Existing public owned site to be publicly managed</p>
<p>Site name & settlement: Lodge Hill, Canford Heath Road, Poole</p>	<p>Summary of assessment:</p> <p>The site was an adult learning centre.</p> <p><i>Is it suitable?</i> Loss of community facilities is restricted but the previous facility has moved. With intensification of the site, both community facilities and Gypsy and Traveller uses could potentially be delivered. There is significant tree cover which should be protected. The site has good access to services.</p>	<p>Number of pitches: 15</p>
<p>Site map</p> 	<p><i>Is it available?</i> The site is publicly owned and if not all required for community use could be available in principle.</p> <p><i>Is it achievable?</i> There are no other known potential impacts or constraints related to this site.</p>	<p>Type of provision: Residential or transit</p> <p>Type of traveller: Romany Gypsies or Irish Travellers</p> <p>Delivery: Existing public owned site to be publicly managed</p>

<p>Site name & settlement: Branksome Triangle, Bourne Valley Road, Poole</p>	<p>Summary of assessment:</p> <p>The site is split between a car park and areas of nature conservation, bordered by railway lines.</p> <p><i>Is it suitable?</i> There is a locally designated nature conservation area on part of site, which needs to be protected. Noise may be an issue as the site is located between two rail lines. Potential for contamination due to historical use and Japanese Knotweed on site.</p>	<p>Number of pitches: 16</p>
<p>Site map</p> 	<p><i>Is it available?</i> Council owned, the site is currently used as a temporary Park and Ride site for employees of Liverpool Victoria, and the lease ends in October 2014. If the site were to be used by Gypsies and Travellers then alternative parking for Liverpool Victoria would have to be planned for, in a suitable location.</p> <p><i>Is it achievable?</i> There are site constraints, and the costs related to protecting the area of nature conservation and / or clearing contamination are unknown.</p>	<p>Type of provision: Transit</p> <p>Type of traveller: Romany Gypsies or Irish Travellers</p> <p>Delivery: Existing public owned site to be publicly managed</p>

What next?

Please complete the attached response form and return it by 10 February 2012 to:

Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople
Consultation
County Hall,
Dorchester,
Dorset,
DT1 1XJ

The councils will consider the responses received and will use them to develop proposals for further public consultation next year.



Site options response form Consultation – November 2011-February 2012

Dorset-wide Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Site Allocations Joint Development Plan Document

Please answer the questions below. You may use an additional sheet of paper if needed. Inappropriate, offensive or racist comments will not be accepted.

Do you have information about any of the shortlisted sites in this booklet which will help Dorset councils decide whether they are suitable, available and achievable for Gypsy, Traveller or Travelling Showpeople provision?

Name of site: _____

Response: _____

Do you know of any other sites which the councils should be considering for future Gypsy, Traveller or Travelling Showpeople uses?

Name and location of site: _____

Please attach a map if possible.

Reasons why it should be considered _____
