

## Uttlesford GTAA 2016-2033

### Summary of Outcomes

#### Introduction and Methodology

- 1.1 The primary objective of the 2016 Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) is to provide a robust assessment of current and future need for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation in Uttlesford. As well as updating previous GTAAs, another key reason for completing the study was the publication of a revised version of Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS) in August 2015. This included a change to the definition of Travellers for planning purposes.
- 1.2 The GTAA provides a robust and credible evidence base which can be used to aid the implementation of Development Plan policies and the provision of new Gypsy and Traveller pitches and Travelling Showpeople plots for the period up to 2033. This will allow the outcomes of the study to be used to support the different local plan periods for the local authorities that are involved. The outcomes of this study supersede the outcomes of any previous Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Needs Assessments completed in Uttlesford.
- 1.3 The GTAA has sought to understand the accommodation needs of the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople population in Uttlesford through a combination of desk-based research and engagement with members of the travelling community living on all known sites. A total of 15 interviews were completed with Gypsies and Travellers and a further 1 was completed with Travelling Showpeople living on authorised and unauthorised sites and yards. Despite extensive efforts to identify them no interviews were completed with a Traveller living in bricks and mortar.
- 1.4 The fieldwork for the study was completed between January and September 2016, which was after the publication of the new Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS). As a result of this change questions to enable the determination of the travelling status of households were included in the household interviews.
- 1.5 The baseline date for the study is **September 2016**.

#### Key Findings

##### Additional Pitch Needs – Gypsies and Travellers

- 1.6 Overall the additional pitch needs for Gypsies and Travellers from 2016-2033 are set out in the tables below. Additional needs are set out for those households that meet the new planning definition of a Gypsy or Traveller, for those 'unknown' households where an interview was not able to be completed (either due to households refusing to be interviewed, or not being present despite 3 visits to each site) who may meet the new planning definition, and for those households that do not meet the new planning definition.

- 1.7 Only the need from those households who meet the new planning definition and from those of the 'unknown' households who subsequently demonstrate that they meet it should be considered as need arising from the GTAA.
- 1.8 The need arising from households that meet the new definition should be addressed through site allocation/intensification/expansion policies.
- 1.9 The Council will need to carefully consider how to address the needs associated with 'unknown' Travellers in Local Plan policies as it is unlikely that all of this need will need to be addressed through the provision of Gypsy or Traveller pitches. In terms of Local Plan policies the Councils should consider the use of a criteria-based policy (as suggested in PPTS) for any unknown households that do provide evidence that they meet the definition.
- 1.10 The need for those households who do not meet the new definition will need to be addressed through other means such as the SHMA.

**Addition Need for Uttlesford**

- 1.11 There were no Gypsy or Traveller households identified in Uttlesford that meet the new definition, 42 'unknown' households that may meet the new definition and 15 households that do not meet the new definition.
- 1.12 There is **no need for any additional pitches** for households that meet the new definition.
- 1.13 Need for up to 12 additional pitches for 'unknown' households is made up of new household formation of 12 from a maximum of 42 households. This uses the national formation rate of 1.50%<sup>1</sup>). If the national average<sup>2</sup> of 10% were applied this could result in a need for 1-2 additional pitches.
- 1.14 Whilst it does not need to be addressed in the GTAA need for 10 additional pitches for households that do not meet the new definition is made up of 5 concealed households or adults, 1 for a teenager in need of a pitch of their own in the next 5 years, 1 from an unauthorised pitch, and 3 from new household formation. This uses a new household formation rate of 0.80% that has been derived from the household demographics.

**Figure 1 – Additional Need for Gypsy and Traveller Households in Uttlesford 2016-2033**

Status	Total
Travelling	<b>0</b>
Unknown	<b>0-12</b>
Non-Travelling	<b>10</b>

**Figure 2 – Additional Need for 'Travelling' Households in Uttlesford to 2033 by 5 Year Periods**

Years	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-17	Total
	<b>2016-21</b>	<b>2021-26</b>	<b>2026-31</b>	<b>2032-33</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

<sup>1</sup> ORS Technical Note on Household Formation and Growth Rates (August 2015)

<sup>2</sup> Based on the outcomes of over 1,500 interviews completed by ORS since changes to PPTS

## Additional Plot Needs - Travelling Showpeople

- 1.15 There was only 1 Travelling Showperson household identified in Uttlesford and details from the interview that was completed with this household showed that there is no current or future need.

## Transit Requirements

- 1.22 It is recommended that whilst there may be relatively high numbers of encampments in some areas, the situation relating to levels of unauthorised encampments should be continually monitored whilst any potential changes associated with the new PPTS develop.
- 1.23 A review of the evidence base relating to unauthorised encampments should be undertaken in autumn 2018 once there is a new 3 year evidence base following the changes to PPTS in August 2015 including attempts to try and identify whether households on encampments meet the new definition. This will establish whether there is a need for investment in more formal transit sites or emergency stopping places.
- 1.24 In the short-term the Council should consider the use of short-term toleration or negotiated stopping agreements to deal with any encampments, as opposed to taking forward an infrastructure-based approach. At this point whilst consideration should also be given as to how to deal with households that do and do not meet the new definition, from a practical point of view it is likely that households on all unauthorised encampments will need to be dealt with in the same way.
- 1.25 The term 'negotiated stopping' is used to describe agreed short term provision for Gypsy and Traveller caravans. It does not describe permanent 'built' transit sites but negotiated agreements which allow caravans to be sited on suitable specific pieces of ground for an agreed and limited period of time, with the provision of limited services such as water, waste disposal and toilets. Agreements are made between the authority and the (temporary) residents regarding expectations on both sides.
- 1.26 Temporary stopping places can be made available at times of increased demand due to fairs or cultural celebrations that are attended by Gypsies and Travellers. A charge may be levied as determined by the local authority although they only need to provide basic facilities including: a cold water supply; portaloos; sewerage disposal point and refuse disposal facilities.