

Appendix B: Survey Letter

25/11/2008

Dear Sir/Madam,

Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs / social inclusion in London

Sections 225 and 226 of the Housing Act 2004 place a duty on Local Authorities to assess Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs and prepare a strategy for meeting such needs. Circular 01/2006 (ODPM) (Planning for Gypsy and Traveller caravan sites) places an obligation on Local Authorities to identify land for Gypsy and Traveller site development

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/circulargypsytraveller.pdf>

As you are probably aware the first Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment in London (London GTANA) was completed in March 2008 by Fordham Research.

<http://www.selondonhousing.org/Documents/080404%20-%20London%20GTANA%20final%20report.pdf>

Table S3 in the GTANA Executive Summary sets out a range of figures for London as a whole over the period 2007 – 2017. At the upper level of need (including the need for pitches for Gypsies and Travellers with a psychological aversion to housing) the Assessment concludes that some 554 new pitches are needed in London by 2012. Furthermore it emphasises that “these figures refer to an expressed need for pitches; additionally there is a high level of demand from Gypsies and Travellers living in housing who want to move to a site.” Table 12.23 in Chapter 12 of the London GTANA provides full Borough breakdowns of projected need for residential pitches over the period 2007 – 2017.

Paragraph 43 of Circular 01/2006 (ODPM) calls upon Local Planning Authorities to identify land for site development ahead of the timetabled planning process where there is a clear and pressing need, and to start the process of delivering these pitches now.

Planning Aid for London is funded, in part to assist “hard to reach groups” engage constructively in the planning and development process. Together with the Irish Traveller Movement in Britain, we are undertaking a survey of progress in meeting needs for additional residential pitches. Accordingly we would appreciate confirmation that your Authority has:-

- Included provision for new Gypsy & Traveller pitches in your Local Development Framework/Core Strategy and Local Area Agreements
- Included specific reference to Gypsies & Travellers in your Statement of Community Involvement and whether / how you have started consultation with them.
- Set up any other measures towards increasing Gypsy & Traveller social inclusion e.g. establishing Gypsy & Traveller interagency forums such as in LB Sutton.

Both signatory organisations to this letter are experienced in different aspects of this topic and would be more than happy to meet / assist you, if you feel this would be helpful.

A response to this enquiry by the end of December 2008 would be much appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

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Carol Ryall Director . Planning Aid London

www.planningaidforlondon.org.uk

and on behalf of
Yvonne MacNamara
Director
The Irish Traveller Movement in Britain