



The Irish Traveller Movement in Britain

ISSUE 7

SEPTEMBER 2008

Traveller Conference 19/11

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The Road Ahead (Travellers - Social Inclusion and Human Rights)

Irish Traveller Movement in Britain (ITMB) Conference – November 19th 2008

The London Resource Centre, 356 Holloway Rd, London (Holloway Rd Tube Piccadilly Line

Confirmed Speakers and Presenters include:

Ian Wright MP - Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Lord Avebury

Rodney Bickerstaff – President War on Want
Helena Kiely - ITMB/LGTU

Ass Chief Inspector Bill Holland - ACPO
Father Jed Barry – Chaplain Full Sutton HMPS

Breda Doran – Cambridgeshire Race Equality and Diversity Service and ITMB

Breda Mahoney - ITMB
Arthur Ivatts OBE DCSF

Sean Risdale – EHRC
Pauline Anderson -ITMB (conference chair)



Conference Workshops and Social

Workshops

Education
Accommodation
Justice
Policing
Health
Youth Issues
Capacity Building

Pre Conference Social

On the evening of the 18th November there will be a pre conference social at the London Resource Centre

Guest Speaker Lord Alf Dubs and Chris Johnson

TICKETS

Free tickets for Travellers— contact the ITMB
Paid tickets contact
0870 042 96

For more information visit:
http://www.irishtraveller.org.uk/about_us/noticeboard

WORK FOR ITMB

FREE TRAINING

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FREE TRAINING

FREE TRAINING

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FREE DVD

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Vacancies at the ITMB

The ITMB is seeking applications for the following positions:

- Capacity Building Development Officers X 2
- Partnerships Development Officer (Funded by London Councils)
- Part- time Office Administrator

For more details visit our website:

http://www.irishtraveller.org.uk/about_us/

Free Training for members of the Traveller communities

The ITMB is offering **FREE** training for members of the Travelling communities in:

- Speaking at conferences and large meetings
- Participating in conferences and large meetings
- Influencing skills
-

The event will run from 1—4 pm on the 17th October in London. [Free tickets for the ITMB conference 19/11 for attendees](#). Contact the ITMB to register. Please book in advance. The ITMB cannot help with travel expenses

Free DVD

The DVD 'Meet Your Neighbours: Irish Traveller Role Models Speak Out' will be sent to all Traveller Education Services in September. If you would like a FREE copy then please send us a self addressed stamped envelope

To find out more about the DVD and materials on Traveller culture visit:

http://www.irishtraveller.org.uk/find-out-about-irish-travellers/history_culture

Planning Issues

The East of England Regional Assembly's pitch allocations for the East of England will go to an Examination in Public in October.

The ITMB is calling for:

- Transit and residential sites to be developed.
- Councils to give permission to unauthorized encampments and avoid eviction.
- Traveller sites to be located in locations that will

Chance must not be lost to make 'Decent Homes For All'

assist in increasing Travellers' social inclusion. In Essex another accommodation needs assessment has been commissioned. The ITMB hopes this new 'late in the day' survey will not be used to delay or avoid the pitch allocations Essex has been asked to meet.

The South East of England Regional Assembly has now

started a consultation on pitch allocation recommendations.

Local newspapers are again stirring up trouble. The Buck's Herald had a headline 'Bucks to be home to 700 gypsies' described the area's allocation as a "burden" which residents would have to "foot the bill for."

More details of the consultation can be found at:

www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/consultation

Leaflet

issued by

Barry

Gardiner

MP

promotes

negative

stereotypes

ITMB Challenges MP on Leaflet

The ITMB wrote to Brent MP Barry Gardiner to express serious concern about the Anti - Social Behaviour guide that he recently produced and distributed in Brent.

In the content page Travellers were included in a list of presumably anti social behaviour aggravators such as 'alcohol', 'graffiti', neighbours from

hell', 'harassment' etc. The ITMB argued that there is no other minority group singled out in this way only Travellers. The ITMB was concerned that the leaflet indicated that all Travellers are to be equated with anti social behaviour.

The section on Travellers had a background of a pile of rubbish. The ITMB informed the

MP that this is reinforcing a very negative stereotype of Travellers and needs to be challenged. ITMB stated that the leaflet was very damaging and insulting to all the Travellers in the Brent area.

The ITMB is pleased to note that Barry Gardiner MP has unreservedly apologised for any offence caused.

News in London

There were fears that a judicial review initiated by housed Lewisham residents could stop or delay plans for the long awaited relocation of Lewisham Traveller site.

The judicial review has failed and the ITMB gathers that Lewisham Council is intending to proceed with the development of a new site.

The ITMB welcomes this and believes that the Lewisham Site development will hold important lessons in design and consultation issues for other London boroughs who will need to develop sites following the London Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs assessment.

The London Gypsy and accommodation needs assessment is now available on the web. Visit::

<http://www.fordhamresearch.com/gtaa.html>

If you would like a copy of the ITMB submission to the London GTANA please contact us.

Delivering more sites in London will be a major test of London's commitment to equality.



Contact Us

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Website

<http://www.irishtraveller.org.uk/>

WHO WE ARE

The Irish Travellers Movement in Britain seeks to raise the profile of Irish Travellers in Britain and increase their say in decision making processes and forums. The ITMB seeks to challenge discrimination and develop national policies that ensure the inclusion of Irish Travellers in all levels of society.

Irish Travellers are an ethnic minority group who have been part of Irish and British society for many centuries. Irish Travellers are recognised in English law as an ethnic group and protected under the Race Relations Act. Irish Travellers are a highly excluded minority.



Pavee Céilidh Report



Breda Doran and Helena Kiely pictured with the Irish Ambassador David Cooney at Pavee Céilidh

Read the report with pictures of Pavee Céilidh

[http://
www.irishtraveller.org.uk/
find-out-about-irish-
travellers/history_culture](http://www.irishtraveller.org.uk/find-out-about-irish-travellers/history_culture)

The ITMB believes that Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month was a big success but can be better with continued funding and support from the DCSF and increased Traveller participation.