

Gypsy and Traveller SPD consultation

Private Sector Housing Service

Comments

This service has no comments to make regarding the contents of the consultation documents however we do have observations regarding our statutory work and our involvement with the owners and residents of existing gypsy and traveller sites as well as other agencies and neighbours.

A list of known licensed sites has been forwarded to Claire Rodway.

Our observations:

1. There have been a number of cases where non-gypsy/travellers have gained residency (become tenants) of caravans on privately owned sites and have then sought to gain social housing.
2. There have been cases where transit pitches on privately owned sites have become permanent pitches and the occupiers have claimed or are claiming Housing Benefit.
3. Increasing the provision on existing privately owned sites must include full investigations into the adequacy of sewerage provisions to ensure that this mitigates any environmental pollution risks.
4. On some very rural sites the use of generators to provide electricity has been found – the use of this type of machinery potentially could cause localised land/water course contamination from fuel spills and noise nuisance.
5. The key to ensuring effective sites is good management.

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Private Sector Housing

East Devon District Council

Meryl Spencer

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