

UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENTS POLICY ON COUNCIL OWNED OR ADMINISTERED LAND

1 General Statement of Principles

- There will be a consistent application of the Council's Policy towards all Travellers.
- Due regard will be given to the Government Guidance

2 Subject to the satisfactory assessment of the following factors, Herefordshire Council will not normally pursue an order for the removal of vehicles from any land on which they are stationed for a period of no less than 14 days. All Travellers will receive an assessment of their welfare needs.

- For the purpose of this policy "Traveller" means persons of nomadic habit of life, whatever their race or origin, who wander or travel but does not include members of an organised group of travelling showmen or of persons engaged in travelling circuses, travelling together as such.

3 Travellers, will normally be allowed to stay on sites when the following conditions are met:

- The maximum number normally acceptable will be 3 caravans or motorhomes or other moveable dwellings such as tents or benders in any one group although slightly larger groups may be permissible in locations remote from residential or commercial premises.
- The distance between groups of Travellers shall be distinct as determined by officers of the Gypsies and Traveller's Service.
- The occupation of any land shall not have a serious effect on the amenities, otherwise cause nuisance to, the occupants of any adjacent property.
- No damage shall be caused to any property, fences, trees etc. on that or adjacent land.
- The behaviour of the Travellers to other people shall be acceptable i.e. no intimidation especially where this constitutes a hazard to public health, nor any stockpiling of materials.
- No fires shall be lit on any land.
- Vehicles shall be parked, and any animals kept, in such a manner so as to cause no inconvenience or affect the safety of users of the adjacent or nearest highway.
- The occupation of local authority or other statutory authority land or agricultural land shall not impede its necessary operational use or, insofar as

parkland or other public open space is concerned, shall not detract from its amenity value.

- Once the agreed period of occupation has elapsed then the distance moved must be a least two miles from the site occupied. Re-occupation of the same site must not take place within three months.

4 In turn the Council will:

- Provide refuse sacks
 - Will identify places where water supplies can be accessed.
 - Provide Travellers with a copy of the Code detailed in Appendix 2
 - Will inform all appropriate Statutory Bodies of the existence of the encampment.
- 5 The Council will not secure evictions from council owned or administered land where there is a long and established history of occupation without complaint.
- 6 The Council will not secure evictions from private land.
- 7 Where the Council takes enforcement action in relation to Council owned land the action will be determined by the Director of Environment or the Head of Environmental Health.