

## Agenda item no. 5 - Questions from Councillors

Question Number	Questioner	Question	Question to
PQ 1	Cllr Ben Proctor	<p>The Herefordshire Council Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2022 recommended that the council adopt a negotiated stopping policy for transient Gypsies and Travellers. This involves caravans being sited at a suitable location for an agreed and limited period of time, and if necessary, with the provision of services such as waste disposal and toilets.</p> <p>Has the council adopted such a policy? If so:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How is the effectiveness of the policy monitored?</li> <li>• When will the policy be reviewed?</li> </ul> <p>In not: What policy has the Council adopted to ensure there are sufficient, suitable sites for transient Gypsies and Travellers?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How is the effectiveness of <i>that</i> policy monitored?</li> <li>• When will <i>that</i> policy be reviewed?</li> </ul>	Cllr Durkin
<p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>The <a href="#">Herefordshire Council Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2022</a> recommended that levels of unauthorised encampments be monitored over a 3-year period to determine if transit provision are required and to consider implementing a negotiated stopping policy in the meantime. The number of illegal encampments in Herefordshire has been adequately controlled within the <a href="#">Unauthorised Encampments Procedure</a> (on Council owned or administered land).</p> <p>The government requires all councils to revisit their Local Plan every five years and Strategic Planning are in the process of updating the current Herefordshire Core Strategy. The <a href="#">Draft Local Plan 2024</a> Strategic Planning policies (pg.51) set out the latest position re Gypsy and Traveller site provision and ‘negotiated stopping’. The next iteration of this Plan will be decided once the Council has been informed of its housing mandatory targets from the Government and there may be a need to revisit the 2022 assessment referred to above. The Government have informed Herefordshire Council that the overall housing targets will be published by the end of this year. The policy will be monitored principally through the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) using the number of new traveller pitch commitments and completions. Records of unauthorised encampments and turnover of pitches on the council managed sites will also be reviewed to help monitor effectiveness of the policy.</p>			

Herefordshire Council continue to work with the Gypsy and Traveller community including Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) children, young people and their families. Children's Services estimate there are 1000 children of GRT families, and their specialist team provide direct support to approximately 125 at any one time to access to health, education, and support services.

**Supplementary question**