

Scrutiny Briefing Note

The Transport, Infrastructure and Strategic Housing Panel have asked to monitor progress on the following issues. This briefing contains the latest position as at 28th August 2024.

Subject: Gypsy and Traveller Negotiated Stopping Agreement (NSA) Update.

Background

In June 2021, Cabinet received a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) which identified that due to low historic numbers of unauthorised encampments, and the existence of private transit pitches, there was no current need for a formal public transit site. Cabinet approved the findings of the GTAA and delegated authority for a 'negotiated stopping agreement' (NSA) to be explored.

In July 2022, Cabinet received a further report and resolved to adopt the NSA approach, whilst keeping it under further review. A link to the report and detailed findings including the GTAA are here [4.-Gypsy-and-Traveller-Negotiated-Stopping-Agreements.pdf \(nelincs.gov.uk\)](#).

Two updates have since been provided to the former Economy Scrutiny Panel. In January 2023, the panel was advised that since the Cabinet decision there had been no visits to the area from the Gypsy and Travelling Community, so at that point the NSA had not been tested.

At the September 2023 meeting, the panel were informed about two short visits to the area in July and August 2023, and noted that the update provided evidence that there is insufficient demand for the a fixed designated stopping site.

August 2024 update

Since the last update in September 2023, there have been five instances of gypsy and traveller visits.

Two of the visits involved the same group who, in September 2023, arrived at a location in Waltham (Neville Turner Way) and subsequently moved to the former Scartho Baths site. This group refused to engage and were abusive to staff, and a notice of direction was issued to vacate both sites. The group stayed in the area for a total of seven days (three in Waltham and four in Scartho). Bins were provided to both sites but nevertheless 850kg of fly tipping was cleared afterwards.

There have been three visits during 2024:-

July 2024 – Weelsby Woods, a large group of travellers (14 caravans) set up camp. Weelsby Woods is defined as a 'tier 1' site. Due to the size of the group a suitable 'tier 2' site could not be identified and the NSA could not be applied. An eviction order was obtained, however, this was delayed due to availability of court time. The group left the site the day after the order was served after staying a total of 11 nights. Five bins were provided to the group, and 1200kg of fly tipping was cleared afterwards.

July 2024 – a single caravan was reported at Fisherman's Wharf in Grimsby (tier 2). This stay was for two nights and the traveller moved on of their own accord before any action was taken.

August 2024 - travellers were reported at the Boating Lake in Cleethorpes (tier 1). They stayed over a weekend for three nights, and were given a notice of direction to leave the site. They were provided with two bins and left 150kg fly tipping.



Conclusion

We continue to see a small number of number of unauthorised encampments, reiterating the findings of the GTAA that there is insufficient demand for a fixed designated stopping site.

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