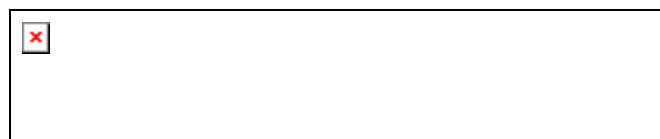




Managing Unauthorised Gypsy/Traveller Encampments In Aberdeenshire



Managing Unauthorised Gypsy/Traveller Encampments

Aberdeenshire Council believes Equal Opportunities to be very important and wants to make sure that all in the community can access its employment prospects and services. The Council is aware that Gypsy/Travellers are restricted in where they can legally encamp and may want to stay on a temporary encampment.

To improve community relationships, the Council is trying to promote a balance between the needs of the settled community and Gypsy/Travellers. The Council's policy takes account of the recommendations of the Scottish Parliament and the Scottish Government.

This policy sets out how the Council manages unauthorised Gypsy/Traveller sites. This leaflet explains what this will mean for you and your family.

- ◆ You must abide by the Good Neighbour Code:
- ◆ Keep groups small; no more than 8 caravans;
- ◆ Look after the land you park on and respect nearby residents;
- ◆ Keep animals under control at all times;
- ◆ Dispose of litter and other rubbish in the bags or waste bins provided;
- ◆ Do not fly-tip;
- ◆ Use the portaloo provided;
- ◆ For your own safety and that of others, remember the Highway Code;
- ◆ Do not start fires which may get out of control or cause concern/danger to nearby residents/properties and/or nuisance through smoke/smell or damage the land. Fires must not emit dark or black smoke.

A Council Officer will visit the site to carry out a needs assessment for your family and decide what waste collection and toilet arrangements are needed. You will be required to pay for these services.

The maximum length of time that you will be able to stay on an unauthorised site is six weeks. The Council will take legal action to evict the encampment if it is still there after six weeks. You will not be able to return to that site within the following four weeks.

THE COUNCIL WILL REGULARLY VISIT THE SITE TO CHECK SITE CONDITIONS, FOR EXAMPLE –

- ◆ To ask if you have welfare, education and health needs
- ◆ To find out if the site is suitable to live on
- ◆ To check that the site is suitable for vans/trailers
- ◆ To make sure there are no road traffic hazards
- ◆ To make sure the Good Neighbour Code is being followed
- ◆ To check how long the site has been there and is expected to be there
- ◆ To check the effect on the use and future use of the land e.g. does the landowner have plans for this piece of land such as car parking
- ◆ To check if any nuisance to neighbours is being caused or if there are health risks involved
- ◆ To make sure there is no negative effect on the use of nearby properties, and
- ◆ To make sure animals are not causing problems.

If the Good Neighbour Code is not being followed, the Council will advise you on steps to be taken and will consider if it needs to take enforcement action. Such action can be taken at any time within the 6 week period.

If the Council considers that legal action requires to be taken it will consider the following:

- ◆ Who is responsible for breaches of the Good Neighbour Code
- ◆ The items detailed above
- ◆ Human Rights & Race Relations legislation
- ◆ Availability of alternative sites
- ◆ Whether there has been any criminal activity associated with the occupants of the encampment
- ◆ Any health risks

Contact Details

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Tel: 01467 628153

WASTE MANAGEMENT (Wasteline)

Tel: 0845 600 3 900

GRAMPIAN POLICE

Ask for Divisional Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer

Tel: 0845 600 5 700

Text: 07739 934444

GYPSY/TRAVELLER EDUCATION & INFORMATION PROJECT

Farm Office, Craibstone, Bucksburn, Aberdeen, AB21 9TB

Tel: 01224 715517

Fax: 01224 715517

Mobile: 07745 799029

Email: teip@btconnect.com

Jennifer Third, Strategic Co-ordinator

Diane Dalgarno, Development Officer

Graham Noble, Development Officer

GRAPIAN RACIAL EQUALITY COUNCIL

Tel: 01224 595541

Email: info@grec.co.uk

CRIMESTOPPERS

Tel: 0800 555111

