



# Friends, Families and Travellers

March - May  
2011

## Time to stand together

As the end of the current financial year approaches many voluntary and community sector organisations are becoming increasingly apprehensive about what the next twelve months may hold in store for them. The effect of the public expenditure cuts announced last October has not yet fully played out into the voluntary sector but when it does the impact will be devastating for many organisations. The likelihood is that many charities will cease to exist altogether, whilst others will struggle on with dramatically depleted resources.

Friends, Families and Travellers will not be immune from these financial pressures. Several of our existing funding streams end within the next few weeks and whilst we will do everything possible to secure replacement funding we can expect to operate during the coming year on a reduced budget. The good news is that, through prudent financial management, we will have sufficient resources to survive the difficult period ahead, with the capacity to continue to deliver vital, sometimes life changing,

services to Gypsies and Travellers.

Over the coming year we will seek to forge new partnerships with other organisations working with Gypsies and Travellers, or working more widely in the field of equality and human rights. We were very pleased to have been accepted, in January, as full members of the Equality and Diversity Forum, a network of national organisations covering the whole range of diversity issues. We will use our membership, not only to champion the cause of Gypsies and Travellers and to seek allies in that cause, but also to challenge inequality and the abuse of human rights wherever we find it.

We are also proud to be working with Rene Cassin, a Jewish organisation based in London, on a campaign for better recognition of the human rights of Gypsies and Travellers. I was delighted to attend a fund raising event recently at the Jewish Museum in Camden when one of the participants spoke

eloquently of the historic parallels between the suffering of the Jewish and Gypsy peoples. He said that, as the Jewish community in the UK has been relatively fortunate and has prospered in recent decades, in contrast to the travelling communities, it is right that the Jewish voice should now be raised against the continued abuse experienced by Gypsies, Roma and Travellers.

In the coming period we all need to work together – women and men, Black and White, Gentiles and Jews, gay and straight – to help to bring about a more equal and just society and to try to stop the public spending cuts from impacting disproportionately on those in society who are least well off.

If you want to support us in our struggle for equality and justice for Gypsies and Travellers you can now donate to FFT online at [www.gypsy-traveller.org](http://www.gypsy-traveller.org). You may be sure that every donation, however small, will be valued and will be put to good use in helping us to continue our work on behalf of the travelling communities.

**Stop Press: Dale Farm issued with 28 day eviction order – see page 5 to help.**



Friends Families and Travellers

**For more information  
about Health contact:**

Zoe Matthews  
[heal.fft@gypsy-traveller.org](mailto:heal.fft@gypsy-traveller.org) or 01273  
 234796

## News from the Health Project

One of the biggest shake ups in the NHS is the shift to GP led commissioning, where GPs will now commission health services. I am worried that Gypsies and Travellers will not have specialist services commissioned, as many GPs fail to understand the needs of marginalised communities. It is essential that we get the needs of marginalised people into the New NHS framework if we

are to create a fairer society with greater health equity for all.

It has been a testing time for many of us in the third sector as resources are cut and redistributed towards the Big Society. However, it is not clear to many of us, whether the Big Society will include the whole of society. We have had disappointing news regarding two Government

funding bids and wonder how small specialist organisations in the third sector are going to be supported to do the work that is so desperately needed.

On a more positive note we have just secured funding for our well-being worker for another three years and hope that two other staff working in mental health and well being will also be funded, we should hear very soon. So fingers crossed!

## Wellbeing Community Development Workers

### Jazka and Lisa file their final report (for now) on the Wellbeing CDW post.

The funding for the Wellbeing CDW post unfortunately comes to an end at the end of March. While we wait to hear about any other funding possibilities, we have been busy completing projects and handing over work to other members of the team.

We have been finding out what the new GP consortia will mean for the voluntary sector, and mental health services. Because GPs are the ones who will be "buying" services in as of 2013, it is important that they know the needs of the Gypsy and Traveller community. Among other services, GPs are going to be responsible for mental health services. The principle behind the changes to the NHS is supposedly "no decision about me, without me", however we know that Gypsies and Travellers often are not thoroughly consulted when it comes to health care, or if they do so, it is tokenistic and patchy at best.

GPs are being chosen as the leads on healthcare, because it is thought that they know the needs of their patients better than anyone. We know from our work that Gypsies and Travellers sometimes experience discrimination from the very people who are meant to provide their care. However we know of many clients who have excellent relationships with their GPs and these are the types of GPs we will want on board the consortiums.

It is still very early days for the consortiums. Much still needs to be worked out about how they will run, who will be involved, and how they will keep minority groups such as Gypsies and Travellers in the loop. We are working hard to have as much visibility as we can, as early as we can, so that we can ensure that the physical and mental health needs of the community are taken into account.

Lisa and Jazka would like to thank every one at FFT; including staff, volunteers, members and trustees for

their support throughout the past 3 years. We have thoroughly enjoyed working for FFT and really feel that we have made a difference. When we started in 2008 health providers across West Sussex had little knowledge of their largest rural ethnic minority, with prejudice and misconceptions about Gypsies and Travellers a common theme. After 3 years of hard work breaking down barriers, smashing myths and challenging stereotypes we now have health professionals calling on us to find out how best they can meet the needs of Gypsies and Travellers in their area. We believe that for a community to develop, to become empowered and to have a voice institutional racism and prejudice need to be challenged again and again. We still have a way to go, but are really pleased with the start we have made and hope the changes we have a lasting impact of the health services Gypsies and Travellers receive.



Lisa Bruton  
[lisa@gypsy-traveller.org](mailto:lisa@gypsy-traveller.org)



Jazka Atterbury  
[jazka@gypsy-traveller.org](mailto:jazka@gypsy-traveller.org)

## FFT Training Update

Since the beginning of December FFT has delivered training to a number of different third sector groups

The Equalities and Human Rights Commission funded free training for Victim Support across the South East as part of their support for victims of hate crime.

During December and January. Crawley, Ashford and Reading Victim Support received in-house training. FFT has also been working with RISE which is a charity that supports women, children and young people who have suffered domestic abuse, and two training days were successfully completed despite very inclement weather conditions (snow and more

snow)

The Multiple Sclerosis Society welcomed a presentation from FFT as part of their annual conference, and as a result of this FFT gained a new member- Greetings! and the IAPT (Improving Access to Psychological Therapies) in Amberly received bespoke training with specially tailored handouts.

**For more information about Training contact:**

Sarah Mann  
sarah@gypsy-traveller.org

## Security of Tenure on local authority sites

The government have published the summary of responses to their 2008 consultation 'Implementing the Mobile Homes Act 1983 on local authority Gypsy and Traveller Sites' at [www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/travellers](http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/travellers) under Related Publications.

This sets out broadly what will be in the Orders that will apply the Mobile Homes Act 1983 to local authority sites and make amendments to the Mobile Homes Act for those sites.

The Department for Communities and Local Government are now working towards laying the Statutory Instruments ready for them to be debated in both Houses of Parliaments before they can come into force. This part of the process is not likely to be completed before the end of February 2011.

The main points of the news re changes to the MHA 1983 re local

authority sites are (with comments from Chris Johnson of the Travellers' Advice Team in square brackets):

1. No assignment on local authority sites [the failure to at least align the provisions with local authority secure tenants (i.e. of houses or flats) where there are rights of assignment to potential successors would seem to set things up for potential discrimination challenges in the future];

2. No change to succession rights [because they realised they could not do this by statutory instrument!! They will keep it under review];

3. Where extensive refurbishment works are required local authorities can move residents for the duration of the works to another site;

4. Local authorities will be responsible for repair of any amenities (e.g. most obviously the amenity block) and not just the base or

hardstanding [a very sensible addition];

5. There will be no change to current licence agreements though local authorities will have to provide details of the implied terms or else the express terms will be unenforceable except [for some obscure reason] on county council sites [ 46 out of 48 respondents voted for new agreements that would incorporate all express and implied terms - which will apply to new agreements after the date of implementation.

This bizarre decision as to current agreements is a recipe for massive confusion as many if not most current agreements will contain terms that are in breach of the implied terms!!!!]

6. There will be separate terms for transit sites and transit pitches [for fairly obvious reasons].

It had already been decided



prior to the general election that all disputes arising from the MHA 1983 would go to Residential Property Tribunals [which, as it happens, have been mentioned as a potential target in the public sector cuts] apart from possession actions (except those actions relating to Part 1 Schedule 1 Para 6 -amenity of the site !!??). This is not changing.





**A Community Land Trust (CLT) is a community organisation which benefits a local community by acquiring land and holding it in perpetuity.**

CLTs can take various forms such as a community garden, a shop, or affordable housing. As far as Gypsies and Travellers go, different people are currently looking at whether this CLT model can be used as a form of Traveller site provision.

In Mendip, there is a project which is looking at using the CLT model to provide sites. Mendip Council, together with Wessex Community Assets and Wessex Home Improvement Loans are working alongside Travellers to explore the possibility of establishing CLT Traveller sites in the area.

Bristol City Council is looking into the idea, and there is also a group of Travellers in Sussex who have formed their own Community Land Trust.

Simply put, the idea is that if you were to form a CLT group you could look to acquire land as a community group in order to provide somewhere to live – a site! Once land is acquired the CLT group, which would be constituted and will be a legal entity, would make democratic decisions about what happens on



the land and how it is managed. The key principles are that it provides affordable accommodation and the land can never be sold on for a profit – the value of the land will be locked and always used for the purpose which the CLT proposed – in these cases Traveller sites. The site is also likely to be self-built so as to keep the costs down.



Not everybody can afford to buy their own land and go through the expensive planning process so CLTs offer the opportunity for Travellers to group together and form as a trust and acquire land to



live together. This means you can choose to form a CLT group with the people you want to live with and the site will be self-managed, which is different to living on a council site. The idea is that the design and building of the site and the decisions about a site will be made by the people who live there. You don't have to have stacks of money to be involved in a project like this – the CLT will loan money and rent the plots out to the people living on the land and that rent money will be used to pay off the loan. It helps if there's a little bit of money between the group because if you already have some money it's easier to borrow more. Because CLTs are community spirited not-for-profit groups it is possible to access ethical loans (rather than approaching the high street banks).

Acquiring the land is, as ever, the tricky bit. Brownfield sites can be expensive and greenbelt and other protected land is difficult to get planning

on. There's no set model as to how to get a piece of land to establish a CLT, you could for example approach your local council and ask them if they're willing to work with you on the issue and if they can identify land which they can give to the project (in order to be contributing to site provision) or to sell to the CLT group at an affordable price. You could approach other statutory agencies to see if they have any surplus land, and the Homes and Communities Agency may be able to help you with this. The other approach is with private landowners where an agreement could be drawn up to hold the land and sell it to you once you've been through the planning process – but this would have to be a very socially minded and generous landowner!

There are various CLTs in Great Britain but the idea of using it to provide Traveller sites is all very new – so there's a lot to be learnt along the way.

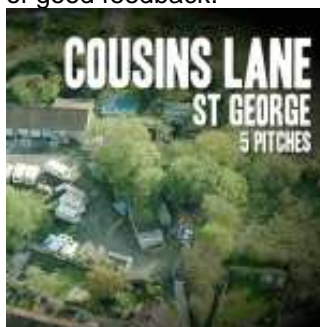
## Community Land Trust Seminar

FFT organized a **Community Land Trust Seminar on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2011, to begin promoting the idea and for people to network.**

The speakers at the seminar were:

- Rosemary Seagrief (Gloucestershire Land for People)
- Ian Holding (Bristol City Council Gypsy and Traveller Team)
- Rowena Clements (Homes and Communities Agency), and Kate Wiltshire (Wessex Home Improvement Loans).

The event was well attended by members of the travelling communities and various council officers, with lots of good feedback.



Quotes from the event:

“Gypsies and Travellers do not have the same equality of opportunity as other citizens...” (Ian Holding, BCC)

If you would like copies of any of the presentations please ring us on 01273 234777 or email [abbie@gypsy-traveller.org](mailto:abbie@gypsy-traveller.org) or [emma@gypsy-traveller.org](mailto:emma@gypsy-traveller.org).

If you'd be interested in attending a Community Land Trust Seminar then let us know and we might just organise another!

Some key organisations supporting CLTs

- National CLT Network – [www.communityandtrust.org.uk](http://www.communityandtrust.org.uk)
- CLT Fund – [www.cltfund.org](http://www.cltfund.org).

- [uk](http://www.dta.org.uk) DTA and its Asset Transfer Unit – [www.dta.org.uk](http://www.dta.org.uk)

...to name but a few

### What is a Community Land Trust (CLT)?

All CLTs share these characteristics:

- Not-for-profit status
- Incorporated
- Operate within a tightly defined community
- Democratic control by members of that community
- Provide an asset lock (cannot sell off the land)

## Dale Farm Eviction News

Even before Basildon Tory councillors, in the face of Labour and Liberal Party opposition, voted last night [14 March] to evict Dale Farm's homeless, a legal challenge to the £13m operation had been set in motion.

During the day, Basildon District Council was faxed a pre-action protocol letter stating that should the council proceed with direct action it would immediately be countered by judicial review proceedings.

Hopes are now that this strongly stated legal

opposition to Basildon's draconian policy, which is based on council leader Tony Ball's belief in an overarching need to enforce planning law, will at least gain time for a non-confrontational solution to be reached.

Opposition councillors said at the meeting that they would rather see the families involved allowed to continue to live on their own land then have millions in public money squandered on a futile and shameful eviction.

On balance it seems unlikely therefore the 28-

day notice of eviction will be delivered to residents for some weeks yet.

Indeed, both the Gypsy Council and lawyers for residents are urging that negotiations regarding suitable alternative sites be recommenced. One planning application for development of a model mobile-home park is already awaiting council approval, and several others also involving land owned by a government quango are in preparation.

Another promising development is that in the search for alternative land

outside Basildon, a suitable private 12-acre site in metropolitan Essex has come to light.

Two dates ahead:

- 1) training session for legal observers at Essex Uni 31 March contact Leticia at [losori@essex.ac.uk](mailto:losori@essex.ac.uk)
- 2) setting up supporting **Camp Constant** on weekend of 8, 9 and 10 April at Dale Farm

Contacts: <http://dalefarm.wordpress.com/>

Dale Farm Solidarity is on Facebook



## Reporting race hate crimes

Racism against Gypsies and Irish Travellers is **illegal**

Report racist incidents such as **graffiti, vandalism, abuse and assaults**



You can report the incident completely confidentially and anonymously as a victim, a witness or a friend

**Telephone**  
**01273 234777**



Friends, Families and Travellers support Gypsies and Travellers to deal with race hate through our national helpline and our Sussex community support team.

This new poster has been commissioned to publicise this work and encourage Gypsies and Travellers to report race hate crimes.

Standing up against race hate crime can be tough on the individual and their family, but anonymous reporting as shown in the poster means you can make a difference with a single phone call.

We also support complaints about refusal of service. On our Facebook page recently we highlighted the case of a Pub Manager sacked for displaying a sign saying "No travelers you (sic) still barred."

## FFT Becomes Member of Equality and Diversity Forum

Amanda Ariss recently wrote to FFT and confirmed that FFT has become a full member of EDF:

I am pleased to confirm that EDF's trustees have agreed the request made my Families Friends and Travellers to become full members of EDF. This means that in future FFT

will get a say in shared EDF policy positions and overall strategy, will be invited to member-only events, will receive information that's normally only circulated to members, will be able to nominate people to be EDF trustees and to attend and vote at our AGM. FFT will also be listed as an EDF member on our website (with a link to your site) and

in the membership list that we usually annex to parliamentary briefings etc. I am delighted that FFT are now full members of EDF and look forward to continuing to work with you.

Amanda Ariss  
Chief Executive  
Equality and Diversity  
Forum (EDF)

EDF is a network of national NGOs committed to progress on age, disability, gender, gender identity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation and on broader equality and human rights issues.



## Noticeboard

### Good Practice Seminar - 25<sup>th</sup> March

A chance to look at some of the excellent work with Gypsies & Travellers by agencies across the South East

**Venue:** Community Base, 113 Queens Road, Brighton, BN1 3XG

**Time:** 11am - 3.15pm

**Fee** £50, conc. £20 including lunch.

To book email sarah@gypsy-traveller.org

### One Day Gypsy and Traveller Law Course – 5 April

A comprehensive review of developments in Gypsy and Traveller law and policy covering England and Wales.

**Fee:** £246

**Date:** 5 Apr 2011

**Time** 9.15 am-5.15 pm

**Accreditation:** 6 hours

CPD - updating level

**Venue:** Birmingham

Voluntary Service Council, 138 Digbeth, Birmingham B5 6DR.



Suffolk County Council wishes to identify a suitable service provider through a bidding process, to lease West Meadows Gypsy and Traveller site in Ipswich and take over its day to day management, including allocation of pitches and responsibility for site maintenance and repair. The Site Officer will be entitled to transfer his employment to any new management operator under TUPE.

Contact Brian Foster  
[brian.foster@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:brian.foster@suffolk.gov.uk)  
for more information.

### Concerns about a social worker?

When you use social work services you have the right to complain if that service is of a poor standard.

As well as reporting any problems to the social worker's employer, if you are concerned that the social worker's behaviour calls into question their suitability to continue in their job, you can alert the General Social Care Council (GSCC), who can investigate further.

If you have serious concerns about any social worker you can contact us in the following ways:

Phone us on 01788 532 405

Email us at

[conduct@gsc.org.uk](mailto:conduct@gsc.org.uk)

Write to us at:

Conduct Group  
General Social Care Council

Myson House  
Railway Terrace  
Rugby  
CV21 3HT

### Book Talk

Miriam Wakerly will be appearing at the Surrey Heath Literary Festival on the 20<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm, to talk about her book *No Gypsies Served*. Expect a lively discussion!

If you would like to see Miriam or find out more about the festival, follow the link-

<http://www.camberleytheatre.biz/events/literaryfestival.htm>

### How to report Racist Articles in the Media

Gypsies and Travellers in Devon have been working with the Plymouth and Devon Racial Equality Council to produce a leaflet that describes how to complain about racist articles in the media.

This easy-to-read publication is available for you to download and will provide you with the necessary tools to challenge negative or untrue reports in the media. The leaflet describes 5 ways in which you can lodge a complaint, and considers the merits and disadvantages of each method.

Highly recommended!

Download from our website  
[www.gypsy-traveller.org/your-rights/media/](http://www.gypsy-traveller.org/your-rights/media/)

You can also contact Plymouth & Devon Racial Equality Council at 14 York Road, Exeter, EX4 6BA. Tel 01392 422566



### Home Insurance Now Available For Gypsies and Travellers on Local Authority Sites

Available from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011

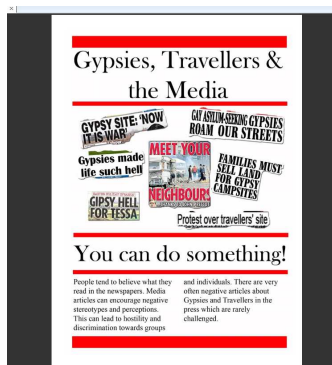
Outlook is a comprehensive Home Insurance scheme for the Gypsy and Traveller community to insure your Tourer, Static or Park Home and its contents whilst it's located at your site. If you live on an official Council or authorised Private site please give us a call for a quote on 0845 873 4892  
[www.outlookinsurance.co.uk](http://www.outlookinsurance.co.uk)



Outlook is a trading name of Prospect Insurance Brokers. Authorised and Regulated by the Financial Services Authority

### Friends, Families & Travellers on Facebook!

FFT is now on Facebook. Join our fan page there and receive regular updates and see photos and lend your support.





**Friends Families and Travellers**



**Friends, Families and Travellers**

Community Base  
113 Queens Rd.  
Brighton  
East Sussex  
BN1 3XG

PHONE:  
01273 234 777

FAX:  
01273 234 778

E-MAIL:  
[fft@gypsy-traveller.org](mailto:fft@gypsy-traveller.org)

Charity no. 111 2326  
Company 3597515

**Friends, Families & Travellers** is a nationally recognised voluntary organisation which serves the whole spectrum of the Traveller community, both traditional and new, settled or on the road.

FFT runs a national helpline covering evictions, harassment, planning, employment, benefits, education, health, civil rights, discrimination and legal representation. FFT is also active in community support, research, monitoring, mediation and policy development at local and national levels.

**National Contacts**  
For more contacts please phone or visit [www.gypsy-traveller.org/contacts.htm](http://www.gypsy-traveller.org/contacts.htm)

**Traveller Advice Team (TAT)**  
0845 120 2980  
07768 316755 24hr

**Community Legal Advice**  
0845 345 4 345

**Family Rights Group**  
0800 731 1696

**Squatters Advisory Service**  
020 7359 8814

**The Traveller Law Reform Project**  
[www.travellerslaw.org.uk](http://www.travellerslaw.org.uk)

**Travellers Aid Trust**  
[www.travellersaidtrust.org](http://www.travellersaidtrust.org)

**The Gypsy Council**  
01708 868986

**UK Association of Gypsy Women**  
Tel. 01325 788281  
Mob. 07880 637591  
[UKAGW@Ymail.com](mailto:UKAGW@Ymail.com)  
[RFUKAGW@live.co.uk](mailto:RFUKAGW@live.co.uk)

**Shelter** (homeless)  
0808 800 4444

**National Romany Rights**  
Tel. 01202 893228

**Pavee Point**  
00 353 1 878 0255

**Children's Society, South-West**  
01761 411771

**Groundswell**  
Tel: 020 7737 5500  
[info@groundswell.org.uk](mailto:info@groundswell.org.uk)

**National Association of Boat Owners**  
01749 677195

**Equality & Human Rights Commission**  
020 9390000

**Education Otherwise - [enquiries@educationotherwise.org](mailto:enquiries@educationotherwise.org)**

**The Travellers' School Charity**  
Tel 07717 055378

**Roma Support Group**  
020 7511 5721

**We're on the Web! Go to: [www.Gypsy-Traveller.org](http://www.Gypsy-Traveller.org) for information, useful contacts and more.**

**If you believe in a end to racism and discrimination against Gypsies and Travellers:  
JOIN FRIENDS, FAMILIES AND TRAVELLERS NOW!**

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**I would like to join Friends, Families and Travellers. I understand that this will enable me to vote at the Annual General Meeting, attend Management Committee Meetings and receive copies of the newsletter.**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

**Waged-£10.00  Unwaged-£5.00  Organisation-£25.00  / or Donation**  
**I do not wish to join FFT, but please accept a donation towards the work you carry out**   
**Please state if you wish to remain anonymous.**

**I do not wish to join FFT, but would like to receive newsletters (subscription costs as above)**

**Please make cheques payable to FFT and return to: FFT, Community Base, 113 Queens Rd., Brighton BN1 3XG.**  
**All membership information held by FFT is confidential and will not be made available to others without your consent.**