



October- December 2003

Friends, Families and Travellers



Prejudice Against Gypsies and Travellers

Special points of interest:

- When is a Gypsy not a Gypsy?
- Write a letter to your MP to gain support for the Traveller Law Reform Coalition's Early Day Motion
- Travellers' Aid Trust Grants
- Welsh Assembly's Report
- Gypsies and Travellers in Homelessness Strategies
- Passports for Horses
- Boaters' Survey
- Young FFT at Xmas

January Management Meeting:

February Management Meeting:

Editor: Tammy Furey
Community Website
Manager

"Profiles of Prejudice" contains the findings of a MORI poll, conducted on behalf of Stonewall's Citizenship 21 project. This research confirms the existence of multiple prejudices among a significant cross-section of the population against Gypsies/Travellers, Black people, refugees/asylum seekers, lesbians and gay men and disabled people. This will have a negative impact on how these groups will be seen and treated.

The differences of gender, age, region and other influencing factors that the poll discovered in relation to other minority groups are not nearly so marked in relation to Gypsies/Travellers, for whom levels of

prejudice are more consistent – and consistently high – across most demographic groups. Groups particularly likely to express prejudice against Travellers/Gypsies include:

- men (38%) compared to women (31%)
- people over 64 (38%) compared to people aged 15-24 years old (30%); however the difference between the least and most prejudiced is considerably lower than for other minority groups
- social class C1 (38%) compared to social class DE (28%)

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Gypsy Status: When is Gypsy not a Gypsy?

In 1994 the Government passed the infamous Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994. Amongst other things, the 1994 Act repealed the duty to provide Gypsy sites and gave the Police and local authorities additional powers to evict Gypsies and Travellers from unauthorised sites. Since then there has been a reduction in the number of available pitches on sites owned and managed by local authorities and many Gypsies and Travellers have been forced to give up nomadism in the face of a life of continual eviction.

When the Government repealed the duty to provide sites in 1994 it published planning advice in which it recognised the accommodation needs of Traveller community and encouraged Gypsies and Travellers to

provide for themselves by obtaining planning permission for their own sites.

However, the Government's advice is wholly unrealistic. Firstly, the advice ignores the fact that Gypsies and Travellers are among the most socially excluded people in this country and the fact that they face more prejudice and discrimination than any other group (save perhaps for asylum-seekers) in our society; indeed, research has shown that planning applications made by members of the Travelling community tend to generate large numbers of objections from local residents.

Secondly, the Government's advice only

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When is a Gypsy not a Gypsy?

covers those people that fall within the statutory definition of 'Gypsy', i.e. those people that travel 'for an economic purpose'. It does not provide any assistance to ethnic Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers (for whom living in caravans is an integral part of their traditional way of life) and they will not be granted planning permission for a Gypsy site unless they can also show that they fall within the statutory definition.

Most Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers seeking planning permission are refused planning permission by their local authorities and are forced to appeal to the Secretary of State against the refusal of planning permission. On appeal, local authorities have grown fond of contesting any claim to 'Gypsy status' – a fact that recently led the Assembly of Wales Equality of Opportunity Committee to voice its concern 'with the apparent obsession with finding ways to prove that an individual is not a Gypsy for the purposes of the planning system' – and the issue has been considered by both the High Court and Court of Appeal this year.

In *Wrexham County Borough Council v National Assembly for Wales (2003)* a planning inspector held that a person born a Gypsy who no longer lived a nomadic way of life because of poor health and infirmity remained within the statutory definition and granted him planning permission for use of his land as a Gypsy site. The local authority challenged the decision in the High Court. Mr Justice Sullivan dismissed the appeal and said:

'As a matter of common sense, the time comes for all of us, Gypsy and non Gypsy, when we become too old and/or too infirm to work. Old habits, whether nomadic or not, die hard. It could not be right for a Gypsy who had been living all his life on a Gypsy caravan site or sites whilst he was still young enough and fit enough to travel to seek work to be told when he reached retirement age that he had thereby ceased to be a Gypsy for the purposes of the application of planning policy. It would be an inhuman pedantry

to approach the policy guidance ... upon that basis.'

However, on appeal the Court of Appeal took a different view: Lord Justice Auld stated that:

'... the invocation by Sullivan J ... of common sense and common humanity misses the purposes and effect of the Circulars, which are there to provide land for those who are nomadic. Those who are not nomadic, for whatever reason, whether through "retirement", ... or through illness, ... are outside the ambit of the policy.'

Mr Berry has himself appealed against the decision of the Court of Appeal and it is to be hoped that the House of Lords will bring some sense to this issue by redressing the balance and upholding the decision of Mr Justice Sullivan.

Meanwhile, in the case of *Basildon District Council v The First Secretary of State and Rachel Cooper (2003)* the High Court considered another appeal brought by a local authority in a case where a Romany Gypsy and her family had been accorded Gypsy status and granted planning permission for the use of their land as a Gypsy site.

At the planning appeal Mrs Cooper had given evidence about the fact that it had become almost impossible to live a nomadic lifestyle in circumstances where there was a severe shortage of caravan sites and had explained that she and her family only moved onto the land when it became too difficult for them to live on the roadside.

The First Secretary of State accepted that evidence and concluded that Rachel Cooper had retained her Gypsy status and having weighed up all the other issues decided on balance that planning permission should be granted. Basildon DC appealed against the decision and, relying upon the decision in the *Wrexham* case, argued that Mrs Cooper had abandoned her Gypsy status when she moved onto the land and that the First Secretary of State's conclusion that she had retained her Gypsy status

"It could not be right for a Gypsy.....to be told when he reached retirement age that he had thereby ceased to be a Gypsy"

When is a Gypsy not a Gypsy?

was wrong in law.

In a landmark ruling, the High Court dismissed the planning authority's appeal and held that the First Secretary of State was entitled to take account of the fact that Mrs Cooper had been forced to give up her nomadic way of life in the absence of sufficient site provision for Gypsies and Travellers and that he was entitled to conclude on the evidence that she had retained her 'Gypsy status'.

At the end of the case Basildon DC asked the Judge for permission to appeal to the Court of Appeal and when doing so made the point that there was a national shortage of site provision for the Travelling community and that the Judge's decision could be used as a precedent in future planning appeals by Gypsies and Travellers up and down the country as a basis for claiming that Gypsy status had been retained. The Judge agreed but refused to grant permission to appeal. Perhaps not surprisingly, Basildon DC have applied to the Court of Appeal for permission to appeal and, like *Wrexham*, the case may eventually end up in the House of Lords.

If the decision in *Cooper* is upheld then it will help ethnic Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers to prove Gypsy status when seeking planning permission. However, proof of Gypsy status alone will not justify the grant of planning permission and there is no doubt that Gypsies and Travellers will continue to find it very difficult to obtain planning permission for their own sites in the face of opposition from local residents and local authorities.

It is for that very reason that the Traveller Law Reform Coalition have launched a campaign to persuade the Government to bring back the statutory duty to provide sufficient sites for Gypsies and Travellers.

MARC WILLERS
1 Pump Court
Barristers Chambers, Temple
LONDON,
EC4Y 7AB

www.1pumpcourt.co.uk

Welsh Assembly's Report of Service Provision for Gypsies and Travellers

The report represents the Equality of Opportunity Committee's initial findings from its first Policy Review of service provision to Gypsies and Travellers. The report states that "There can be no doubt that in many respects Gypsies and Travellers are one of the most discriminated against groups in Wales" and noted their lack of involvement in decision-making and policy development.

The report considers previous policy on site provision and barriers to building new sites. It examines the planning system, and areas to consider when planning future provision. Address the long-standing

problems of providing suitable accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers is identified as critical to improving service provision in other areas. Barriers to accessing mainstream health services are considered, along with appropriate styles of health service provision and ways to provide a healthier living environment and improve the health indicators of Gypsy and Traveller communities.

To read the report in full please follow the links on the FFT site:

www.Gypsy-Traveller.org/fft/documents.htm

"There can be no doubt that in many respects Gypsies and Travellers are one of the most discriminated against groups in Wales"





Encourage Your MP to Sign the Traveller Law Reform Coalition's New Early Day Motion

The Traveller Law Reform Coalition is submitting a new early day motion to Parliament entitled "Traveller Accommodation" (79), tabled by Kevin McNamara MP. In one week 25 MPs signed but the target is 100+, so please help us. A letter to your MP has been inserted in this newsletter. Please sign it, add your address at the top, and post to your local MP. For more copies, please visit www.Travellerslaw.org.uk/letter_mp.htm

Any questions about the Early Day Motion, or the Traveller Law Reform Coa-

lition, please contact:

Andrew Ryder,
Policy Development Worker,
The Traveller Law Reform Coalition,
The Old Library Building,
Willesden Green Library Centre,
95 High Road,
Willsden,
London NW10 2ST

Tel 07 985 684 921

email: romanistan@yahoo.com
www.travellerslaw.org.uk

Prejudice Against Gypsies and Travellers

Continued from Page 1.....

- people with GCSE/O level/ equivalent (39%), compared to people with no formal qualifications (31%)
- respondents with no religion (37%) or from the Church of England (36%) compared to Catholics (29%)
- those intending to vote Conservative (41%) compared to those intending to vote Labour (32%)
- people in eastern England (45%) or in the East Midlands (44%) compared to London (25%) or the South West (28%)

It is surprising, perhaps, that middle class and educated people are more prejudiced against Gypsies/Travellers than working class and less educated people.

Influencing factors

The top five influences on prejudice against Gypsies/Travellers are:

- television (34%)
- newspapers (33%)
- parents (25%)

- law and public policy (17%)
- friends (16%)

Law and public policy is one of the major influences on prejudice, mentioned by 17% of people who feel less positive towards Gypsies/Travellers. It is only in reference to Gypsies/Travellers and refugees/asylum seekers that law and public policy come within the top five influences. This is especially significant when considered in conjunction with the fact that prejudices against these two groups are consistently high across demographic groups and do not show the encouraging signs (as towards other discriminated against groups) of the incidence of prejudice lessening with age, or being significantly reduced among women (who are significantly less prejudiced than men towards virtually all other groups).

These findings raise important questions for those responsible for determining law and public policy and for reducing prejudice. It underlines the need for the type of changes in law and public policy which are being proposed by the Traveller Law Reform Coalition. It also reinforces the need for the media to take a more responsible attitude towards their reporting of issues involving Gypsies/Travellers.

*Remember to send the
Letter in this newsletter to
your local MP*

Robert Barton Trust

Mission Statement

"To provide information, practical help and support to people living in Glastonbury and the surrounding villages, who have problems associated with accommodation, substance abuse and their health as a result of these circumstances. In our work we will seek to complement existing statutory and voluntary services already working in this field"

Possibly due to our location being in Glastonbury we have a large Traveller client group, last month we had 187 clients using our services of whom 91 were living on sites (both unauthorised and legal)

We are open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10.30 until 1.30 as a drop in, where we provide hot drinks, sandwiches,

hot showers, a washing machine as well as a selection of clean clothes. We are available the rest of the day for advice and support. We have client input in to most major decisions. We also run a women's group once a week supported by the Children's society and their play bus, so that women can talk whilst the children are cared for. This is only open to Traveller and ex Traveller women.

We have plans for a writing group and an arts group in the future.

Last weekend we held a fundraising event if you require photos of the event let us know.

3 Silver Street
Glastonbury
Somerset
BA6 6BS

Tel: 01458-833797



Sussex Traveller Women's Health Project

We are now up and running and working with a group of Traveller Women in Burgess Hill. We have covered various topics that the women have chosen after consultation, such as baby massage, accident prevention and first aid for babies and children as well as other topics. We

will be visiting Hailsham in the spring and if any traditional Traveller women in Sussex would be interested in joining us please contact Avril, our Traveller Outreach worker (07720518139) or Zoe, our Project Manager on 01273 234796. Or write to us at FFT

Travellers' Aid Trust

The second round of the small grants programme for Travellers is now on!!!!

The grant programme is aimed at all members of the Traveller community, traditional or new, settled or living on the road throughout the UK. It is specifically intended to benefit individual Travellers, but applications from small groups of Travellers will also be considered.

Deadline for completed application forms is the 20th of February 2004.

For more information please contact:

Susan Alexander
The Travellers' Aid Trust
P.O. Box 16
Llangyndeyrn, Kidwelly
SA17 5YT
01269 870 621

The second round of the small grants programme for Travellers is now on, apply now from TAT.

Gypsies and Travellers in Homelessness Strategies

Under Section 1 of the Homelessness Act 2002 local authorities are required to carry out a homelessness review of their district and formulate and publish a homelessness strategy based on the results of that review.

Section 175(2) of the Housing Act 1996 states that a person should also be considered homeless if they have accommodation but;

- (a) he cannot secure entry to it, or
- (b) it consists of a moveable structure, vehicle or vessel designed or adapted for human habitation and there is no place where he is entitled or permitted both to place it and to reside in it.

The last national bi-annual count of Gypsy caravans published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (July 2003) shows that of the 14,703 caravans reported, 3,979 (27%) were camped in an unauthorised manner. The inhabitants of these caravans are therefore homeless as defined under statute.

According to government figures, only 10% of local housing authorities are reported as having no unauthorised encampments within their district over the last five years. It should be noted, however, that the data used for 33% of those listed as having no unauthorised encampments was estimated using previous count data. This means that the authority concerned either did not carry out a full count or did not submit count data to the ODPM. This would indicate that the actual percentage of local authorities reported as having no unauthorised encampments within its district could in fact be less than 10%.

Many authorities will have already carried out homelessness reviews and produced their homelessness strategies as required under the Act. However, recent research indicates that a large number of authorities have failed to take account of Travellers within their strategies.

Lord Avebury (with assistance from representatives of the Children's Society) car-

ried out a survey of the 157 local authorities showing unauthorised encampments in the January 2003 bi-annual count of caravans (14,022 caravans reported, 3,038 which is 22%, were camped in an unauthorised manner). The survey looked at the authorities concerned in relation to their Homelessness Strategies and whether Travellers were included within them.

Eight authorities appear not to have produced strategies at all. Of the 137 authorities that did produce strategies, 72% failed to make any reference to Travellers at all, despite having reported unauthorised encampments in the January 2003 bi-annual count.

The research also found that there was no indication in any of the strategies of consultation with local or national Traveller organisations, or of advice being given by the authority's own Gypsy/Traveller officers.

Another issue highlighted by the research was that hardly any of the authorities surveyed made reference to their Race Equality Schemes.

It would be advisable for both authorities still needing to produce strategies and those that have already produced strategies to review them in light of these findings in order to ensure full compliance with the requirements of the Act.

Recommendations

The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 introduced a general duty on all public bodies to eliminate unlawful racial discrimination: promote equality of opportunity and promote good race relations between people of different racial groups. Gypsies and Irish Travellers are both recognised as distinct ethnic minorities and are granted protection under the Act. According to the Commission for Racial Equality, the duties set out in the Act mean, in practice, that public authorities must take account of racial equality in the day to day work of policy-making, service

*This report can be viewed
at
www.Gypsy-
Traveller.org/pdfs/
homelessnessguidance03.
pdf*

Gypsies and Travellers in Homelessness Strategies

delivery, employment practices and other functions. As Travellers are not currently included in the national Census figures, authorities should make reference to the Commission for Racial Equality's publication 'Ethnic Monitoring: a guide for public authorities' to ensure that significant minority groups are not overlooked.

- Authorities should ensure that any policy that affects Gypsies and Irish Travellers residing or resorting to their district has been assessed in relation to its potential racial impact.
- Authorities should consult with local and national Traveller organisations and individuals and agencies working closely with and/or from the Traveller community as outlined under Section 3 (8).
- As the homelessness strategy is to cover a five-year period and must be kept under review, it is advisable that authorities carefully analyse data from the following areas when producing or reviewing their strategies in relation to Travellers:
 1. bi-annual count figures for the last five years
 2. any data held by other local authority departments dealing with unauthorised encampments, including Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Services, Traveller Education Services and Health Visitors working with Traveller families
 3. the relevant police authority which may hold additional data, for example on the use of Section 61 or other

4. similar eviction proceeding local authority land banks to identify possible locations for Gypsy sites as outlined in Circular 1/94

Authorities should also take account of the ODPM Homelessness Code of Guidance, which makes it clear that where a local authority has Travellers living on unauthorised encampments, they must assess whether a suitable equivalent authorised alternative site is available to the Traveller before it can discharge its duty by arranging for some other form of suitable accommodation to be made available.

The law in relationship to homelessness assessments has been clarified in the case of R (Margaret Price) v Carmarthenshire in which the judge held that in certain circumstances where there is a sufficient degree of cultural aversion to conventional housing, the local authority should use their best endeavours to facilitate a Gypsy way of life. As indicated above, in order to do so, the authority should review their land banks, as they would for clients in need of housing, to identify suitable locations for sites.

Lord Avebury's research highlighted Colchester's strategy as outstanding in its thorough assessment of Traveller needs. It would be advisable for authorities to view this strategy as a model of good practice when formulating or reviewing their own homelessness strategies.

Susan Alexander
Traveller Consultancy Services
On Behalf of
Friends Families & Travellers
14/10/03

*This report can be viewed
at
www.Gypsy-Traveller.org/pdfs/homelessnessguidance03.pdf*



Traveller Consultancy Services

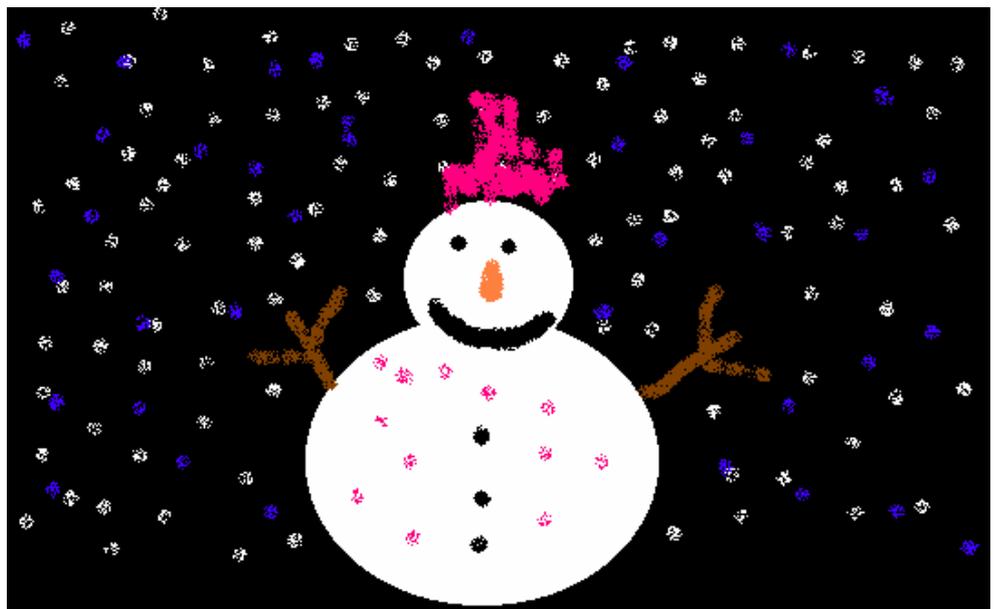
Ms. Susan Alexander
Bragdy, Llangyndeyrn Kidwelly, Carmarthenshire SA17 5BN
Tel. / Fax: 01269 870 621 www.travellerco.uk

Young Friends, Families and Travellers

u	t	n	m	d	o	c	o	m	i	f
m	v	b	h	o	r	s	e	j	s	a
s	w	x	y	h	v	d	o	h	v	m
i	a	t	r	a	i	l	e	r	a	i
t	g	n	q	d	a	t	y	z	n	l
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a	r	f	h	u	p	o	l	j	k	m
r	g	r	z	a	w	s	v	j	x	b
y	a	n	i	m	a	l	s	o	l	o

How many words about trailers can you find in the word search?

Try the Trailer Wordsearch from www.comelookatus.org



Minnie's Xmas Picture. For more pictures www.Gypsy-Traveller.org/cyberpilots/gallery

Effigy burning at Firle - An Update

Twelve people have now been arrested on suspicion of inciting racial hatred following a controversial Sussex bonfire.

The caravan had a fake number plate reading PIKEY and contained effigies of Gypsies and pictures of a Gypsy family painted on the outside. A message painted on the vehicle, which was towed through streets before being burnt, read: "Do as you likey Driveways Ltd - guaranteed to rip you off".

Firle Bonfire Society issued an "unreserved" apology after the event on October 25, which was criticised by families who attended and the Commission for Racial Equality. Lewes district councillor Andrew Small, who made a speech before the caravan was torched, later resigned from the Liberal Democrats but remains a councillor.

Under the Public Order Act 1986 it is an offence to stir up racial hatred either through words or behaviour. Sussex Police has sent a file on the incident to the Crown Prosecution Service which will decide whether to press charges.

Charles Smith, chairman of the Gypsy Council, said the incident had not been surprising, as incidents of racism against Gypsies occurred daily. "If they had burnt an effigy of a mock synagogue there would have been absolute outrage," he said. "But nothing was said when they did this to Gypsies. "Even though Gypsies are recognised by race relation laws, it still seems to be

acceptable to do this sort of thing.

Moving Forward

After weeks of careful discussion by members of the Traveller Law Reform Coalition (TLRC) with representatives of Lewes and East Sussex Councils, the MP Norman Baker, the police and Travellers in Sussex a meeting was held at Lewes District Council on 21st November.

In attendance was the chief executive of Lewes Council, the council leader, Norman Baker MP, local Travellers and members of the TLRC.

It was felt that following the incident in Firle that there was now a need to move forward in a constructive way to find policies, which would benefit Travellers and non Travellers in the Lewes District.

Lewes Council is to form a working party to develop new strategies. In the meeting various aspects of policy were identified as needing analysis and reform in areas such as accommodation, the management of unauthorised encampments and access to services. The talks were fruitful and productive.

The county wide Sussex Traveller Forum is to be revived, it has not met for a year. The TLRC and FFT have been petitioning for this. At a district level forums of dialogue will be established with local Travellers.



The Effigy at Firle

"If they had burnt an effigy of a mock synagogue there would have been absolute outrage,"



FFT's photos taken at Stow Fair Autumn 2003



Passports for Horses

Regulations setting out full details of what is required by horse owners under the "horse passport" scheme have now been laid before Parliament, and give owners an extra six months to obtain passports for their animals.

The new horse passport regulations will help protect the human food chain by ensuring that all horses, ponies and donkeys are issued with identification documents which must contain details of certain veterinary drugs if the animal could end up being for human consumption. It will enable the British horse industry to continue using treatments that are important for horses not intended for the food chain. To take account of the views of horse

organisations and in a move to ensure the success of the new arrangements (there are estimated to be about one million horses, ponies and donkeys in Great Britain) the new regulations will require owners to have obtained passports for their animals by 30 June 2004, rather than the original proposed deadline of 31 December this year.

The regulations include information on when a horse needs to be accompanied by a passport, what to do with the passport when a horse is sold or dies and what happens if a passport is lost or damaged. Read the Legislation at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/tracing/pdf/si2780.pdf>

“Why don’t you just move them on?”

Gypsy Travellers: A Policing Strategy by Inspector Ian Taggart, Grampian Police called “Why don’t you just move them on?” has been published.

The report attempts to review the existing and proposed legislation applicable to the community and existing good and bad practices in the ‘management’ of Gypsy and Traveller issue, particularly unauthorised encampments. Multi-agency management methods are examined.

The report concluded that

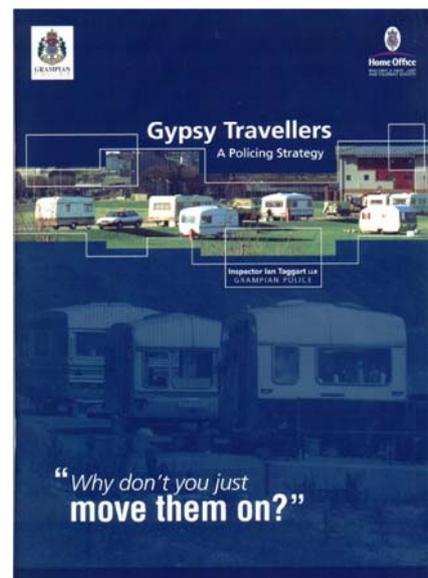
1. “Throughout the country there is a recognition that public authorities should form multi-agency groups to undertake the management of Gypsy Traveller issues. Unfortunately the response nationally is fragmented resulting in variable responses to these management issues.
2. It is hoped the content of this report will assist in providing a focus on the main issues and problems being encountered nationally regarding the management of Gypsy

Traveller issues and result in a national framework and uniform policies being developed”

Taggart (2003 Page 11-12)

Copies can be requested from:
Inspector Ian Taggart,
Grampian Police Headquarters,
Queen Street,
Aberdeen,
AB10 1ZA

*New Regulations will
require horse owners to
obtain horse passports by
30 June 2004*



New Project to help combat discrimination against Gypsies & Travellers

'Moving Forward' is a new project to develop materials and best practice to help combat stereotyping, prejudice and discrimination against Gypsies and Travellers. Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group is working with John Coxhead, Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer with Derbyshire Constabulary, and Professor Marie Parker-Jenkins at the University of Derby. The project is being supported by the Community Cohesion team at the Centre for Policing Excellence.

We need you!

Some of the most outspoken views in our society can be found against Gypsies and Travellers, and this project wants to sort out the best practice that Gypsies and Travellers would like to see. The group want to hear from any Gypsies or Travellers or support groups from around the UK or further a field in Europe, about their experiences of how public services treat them.

Public Services and Gypsies

Providing public services effectively for Gypsies and Travellers presents a set of unique challenges. It's possible to find suspicion and distrust on both sides. We can find a 'them and us' situation, because as a community, Gypsies and Travellers have often a unique set of circumstances, which public services might not always understand. If we can work closer together and understand each other, the benefits are two-way, with better information exchange, better service, better problem solving.

The Police Service has moved on in many ways in the intervening years but still have a lot of work to do with Gypsies and Travellers. There are pockets of good practice, but these need spreading around, and we need to be prepared to debate the issues involved openly.

This new project will help national problem solving around these issues and develop best practice in decision making, community consultation and training

issues.

Stereotypes and prejudice

There are probably as many misconceptions, names and stereotypes about gorgers as there are about Gypsies but there only tends to be one set of stereotypes in the press and in the media. We shouldn't underestimate the power of stereotypes, and the project aims to help bridge the gap in training public services, so that one day we can treat Gypsies and Travellers as individuals, and not rely on stereotypes. It's funny but Gypsies are perhaps the only group who can get into trouble and argument over not fitting our stereotype of them. Not many are in horse drawn wagons, selling pegs and telling fortunes but this is our romantic image of the Romany Gypsy. This is what many believe is the 'proper' or 'real' Gypsy - anything else is something quite different, and the representations in the media don't help.

Everyday battle against discrimination

The 'Moving Forward' project aims to open up access to materials for decision makers and trainers in public services concerning the Gypsy and Traveller community. Since the increased awareness of discrimination issues after the MacPherson Report aimed at the police service and the Race Relations Amendment Act of 2000, little has changed for Gypsies and Travellers,

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Continued from Page 11.....



Hungarian police officers visiting us on an exchange programme organised by the Commonwealth Office to discuss best practice. One of the Hungarian officers is one of the first Roma to serve as a police officer. The people are from left to right: Kneeling : John Coxhead, Derbyshire Constabulary Gypsy and Traveller Liaison officer; Alistair Lawson, Centre for Policing Excellence Standing : Siobhan Spencer, DGLG; Tama Kiss, interpreter; Gyorgy Makula, Roma officer; Jozsef Stirminszki, 1st lieutenant.

New Project to help combat discrimination against Gypsies & Travellers

maybe it has got worse. Gypsies and Travellers have an everyday battle to prove they are a race of people who should be treated with respect. The media are 'all or nothing' – Gypsies are either front page headlines or invisible.

Moving Forward

It's time we started moving on and working together more for more mutual under-

standing. This needs Gypsies and Travellers to talk to the police service about what should be happening as well as what isn't, and put some trust that we can make a difference working in partnership. The group are keen to hear from you and can be contacted on: Siobhan Spencer (01629 583300); John Coxhead (01773 572088) or at john.coxhead@derbyshire.pnn.police.uk.

To The President of the National Farmers Union/Editors of Newspapers

Dear Sir,

We the undersigned are writing to express our disappointment at the recent report by the NFU entitled rural Outlaws・ which claims Travellers cost farmers approximately 100 million pounds annually on account of the cost of rubbish left by unauthorised encampments.

We are principally concerned at the questionable methodology and skewed analysis within this report. Such poor methods of approach ultimately leave the findings and conclusions without any solid foundations - you simply cannot give credible national costs based on a sample size of 2000 returns from NFU members.

Further, the report in its analysis of data chooses to ignore the fact that most Travellers are concentrated in particular regions of the UK. The analysis and estimated costs quoted within the report simply do not add up

We also feel that Travellers are being unfairly blamed by some farmers for rubbish and environmental damage caused by the settled community. We feel it was irresponsible of the NFU to publish this report as it will help perpetuate the high

levels of irrational hatred directed against this minority group at a time when we should be mindful of the fact that many Travellers are homeless and live without access to basic services.

Finally, we would like to remind the NFU that Travellers have a long tradition of working with farmers, picking hops, potatoes and other crops and have helped generate profits for the farming community.

We also note, with thanks, that the report calls for more sites but unfortunately this important point is obscured by the heavy concentration on rubbish and other problems that Travellers cause farmers.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Thomas Acton, School of Social Sciences, Greenwich University

Dr Colin Clark, School of Geography, Politics and Sociology, Newcastle University

Sarah Cemlyn Jones, School for Policy Studies, Bristol University

Andrew Ryder, Department of Social Policy, Middlesex University

“Gypsies and Travellers have an everyday battle to prove they are a race of people who should be treated with respect”

British Waterways Board Trial Mooring Code: An Independent Consultation

Below we have published extracts from the executive summary of the independent consultation in response to the British Waterways Board introducing new license requirements, which indicates new cruising patterns for boaters. The report was compiled by Hannah Luff MSc

“To my mind, this is a totally inhuman way to... police people in what they do”

“If an alternative lifestyle is chosen, the drawbacks and disadvantages must be accepted”

“BW (British Waterways) must be aware that continuous cruisers cannot, by definition, reliably receive post. Is it deliberate then, that its ‘playing it fair’ questionnaire was distributed only by post? A fundamental oversight, making its results unrepresentative of the very people it openly admits to targeting.....It is time that BW played fair”

Though less extensive than the BWB (British Waterways Board) survey, the sample for this report was collated two thirds by postal survey and one third through indiscriminate direct posting to craft on the towpath and where accessible in marinas. The results include responses from approximately 50% continuous cruisers/liveaboards, and as such may represent the only expression of these peoples’ opinions: the survey clearly indicates the need for further in-depth research to explore the questions raised, before concrete decisions about enforcement cruising patterns can be made. This report eagerly anticipates examination alongside BW’s feedback form and future quantitative research.

- Doubt raised as to whether there is currently a problem with over-staying/overcrowding. Report may reflect local variation or indicate bias in opinion.
- BWB’s new code rallied less than 10% support, suggesting that if introduced, difficulties with en-

forcement may arise. The code received most support from retired boaters with permanent moorings and least support from continuous cruisers. No families who responded supported the proposed code. An extensive list of alternative solutions to overcrowding has been put forward.

- 80% of continuous cruisers represented by this report are of working age. Of these, 81% believed the code would have a detrimental effect on their employment, 67% believed the code would make it impossible to find or keep work.
- 77% of boaters responding were concerned by health or safety issues arising from enforcement of the code.
- 54% of respondents who commented on education issues stated that the new code would make access to education impossible.
- Of those continuously cruising with children, 44% state that their children have been denied education or socialisation due to being asked to move on further than the current law requires. Note: this section was only represented by a fragment of respondents but highlights the need for further research.
- A distinct lack of available residential mooring spaces was noted, raising the question of where people such as Fred from Uxbridge can go. If he and his children are “hounded off the cut” the bill for re-housing will fall upon the local council and ultimately the tax payer, at far greater cost than his license, and much of the canal community will mourn his loss.”

Please contact FFT for a full copy of the report.

Further information/comments to hannah@groundswell.org.uk

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Johnny Delaney - An Update

Two 16-year-olds were convicted on the 28th of November of killing Johnny Delaney in what the prosecution had described as a case "with racial overtones".

During the trial at Chester crown court, the jury heard that Johnny Delaney died in a confrontation after the teenagers called him a "Gypsy bastard".

Despite this, the teenagers were cleared of murder and found guilty of manslaughter. Mr Justice Richards said that, having heard the evidence, he did not believe the attack was racially motivated.

"I make it clear that I do not regard this as a racially motivated killing, as was opened by the prosecution".

Outside the court, Johnny's father Patrick reacted angrily to the verdict and the judge's comments.

"There is no justice here. They were kicking my son like a football. Are they going to let this happen to another Gypsy? Every Travelling person is going to be upset by that verdict. As far as we're concerned it was a racist attack. I have lost my son for life. This has left a big hole in our family. He was a very polite lad who never did anything wrong. He didn't deserve this."

After the verdict, Detective Chief Inspector Jed Manley, of Cheshire police, stated that he still believed that Johnny's death was racially motivated.

"It was recorded as a racially motivated incident on the first day of the inquiry under the definition given by the Lawrence inquiry because of certain comments made at the scene of the incident."

The court heard that one of the defendants had stamped on Johnny Delaney's head with both feet and said he deserved it because "he was only a fucking Gypsy".

Before the trial, a family member told the Guardian:

"People pick on us because of where we come from".

"It's like being a racist against a black person. You can't blame everyone for what someone else has done. It's all true hatred. But if you cut one another you will bleed and we all bleed the same stuff. It's not Johnny's fault that he was a Gypsy."

Trevor Phillips, from the Commission for Racial Equality, said in an interview last Friday with Radio Merseyside that:

"There has been some measure of justice in this ruling, though it is extremely hard to see how this particular killing wasn't motivated in some way by racial prejudice.

"It would be most disturbing if the attack wasn't considered racially motivated because the victim wasn't black or Asian. The extreme levels of public hostility that exist in relation to Gypsies and Travellers—would be met with outrage if it was targeted at any other racial group."

Delegates observed a minutes silence in remembrance of Johnny at the Neil Stewart/ Traveller Law Reform Coalition conference in Holborn, London on the 25th November.

But if you cut one another
you will bleed and we all
bleed the same stuff. It's
not Johnny's fault that he
was a Gypsy

Vivs Spares to stick in



Noticeboard: For Sale, News, Events
and more.

Visit our virtual
noticeboard at:
www.Gypsy-Traveller.org/ffti/noticeboard.htm

Noticeboard

Gypsy Lore Society Annual Meeting 2004

'Transformations in Romani/Gypsy society: past, present, future'

The Gypsy Lore Society (GLS) annual meeting and conference on Romani/Gypsy Studies for 2004 will be held on September 3rd and 4th at Henderson Hall, the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, England, UK. <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/conferenceteam/accommodation/henderson-hall.php>. As usual, papers on any aspect of Romani/Gypsy studies are most welcome but please note that substantive papers addressing the main theme of the conference, transformations in Romani/Gypsy society, will be given priority. Regarding the theme of the conference, we are particularly keen to receive papers from political scientists and historians as well as methodologists who are examining the politics and ethics of the 'researcher/researched' relationship in Romani/Gypsy studies. It is envisaged that an edited collection will be published using a selection of papers from the conference. Please send short abstracts (about 100 words) to the programme chair, Colin Clark. Submissions, preferably by e-mail and attachment, should also include the author's name, address, daytime telephone and fax numbers and e-mail address. Deadline for receipt of abstracts is April 30, 2004. Address inquiries to Colin Clark at the above address or call 0191-222-7494 (work); fax 0191-222-7497; e-mail Colin.Clark@ncl.ac.uk

Job Vacancy

TAG-UK is a new Registered Social Landlord which specialises in providing accommodation for Travellers in the South-East. We are looking for staff and volunteers to work with Travellers and Gypsies who live on the sites we own and manage.

If you are interested in working in this field, or want to find out more about what we do, then contact Sue

Forrest tel. 02083027021 or 07739934796. TAG-UK is also looking for management board members. If this is something you would be interested in, please contact John Wilson tel. 07767684658 for more information.

Site for sale:

Residential caravan / mobile home park set in approx 5 acres of Worcestershire countryside. Planning permission for 3 caravans/mobile homes to be occupied by 1 Gypsy family.

To include:

Already sited 60' x 20' Tingdene Park Home with large raised deck, established garden and lawn.

80' x 30' profile clad French barn with lighting and power points, attached.

4 brick built stables with walled barked yard, hay racks, automatic drinkers, feed/tack room and dog pen. Well fenced paddocks. Large fish/ornamental pool.

Guide Price: £350,000.

For further details telephone 01886 822134.

For Sale

Bedford TK. 3.8 Diesel.5 tonne. Full MOT. Recently re-built engine. Immaculate cab. Galvanised chassis. All new brakes. Fully fitted traditional interior-aluminium box. Live-in vehicle.

Tel. No: 07778526794

Email: christoballisto@hotmail.com

For Sale

Ford iveco truck for sale, sorted inside, well loved and kept just not needed anymore.

£3000 contact Helen 01279771221 or email: redearththree@yahoo.com

Contacts

Local FFT Contacts

Brighton:

Judy Pointing - 01273 698531

Cornwall:

Sue Burton - 01736 752036

Worcester:

Sheila Wells, Worcester - 01905 821 302

Lincolnshire:

Rob Torkington - 07971 542 108

Somerset:

Tony Thomson - 07779 310 577

Surrey:

Franqui Wolf, Dorking - 01306 883254

Other Gypsy and Traveller Organisations

The Traveller Law Reform Coalition,

Andrew Ryder, Policy Development Worker,
The Old Library Building,
Willesden Green Library
Centre, 95 High Road,
Willsden, London
NW10 2ST
Tel 07 985 684 921
email: romani-
stan@yahoo.com

www.travellerslaw.org.uk

Travellers Aid Trust

Small Grants to Travellers
PO Box 16
Llangyndeyrn
Kidwelly
SA17 5YT
email: travellersaid-
trust@yahoo.co.uk

Travellers Consultancy Service

Freelance consultancy services in all areas affecting the Gypsy & Traveller Community in the UK
www.travellerscs.co.uk
info@travellerscs.co.uk

The Travellers' School Charity

PO Box 2, Goodwicke,
Pembrokeshire, SA64 0ZQ
01437 532 432
www.travellersschool.plus.com

Educational Advice for Travellers

Fiona Earle, P.O. Box 36,
Grantham, Lincs., NG31 6EW

The Gypsy Council GCWCR

Charlie Smith / Anne Bagehot - 01708 868986

The Association of Gypsy Women

Sylvia Dunn - 01268 782792

New Futures Association (NFA)

c/o 42 Wade Court, Lings,
Northampton, NN3 8ND,
Tel: 07880 753 713
Email: cal-
nfa@hotmail.com or
mail@newfututures.fsnet.co.uk

BIAS Irish Travellers Project

The Old Library Building,
Willesden Green Library
Centre, 95 High Road,
Willesden, London NW10 2ST - 0208 459 7638

Irish Travellers Movement in Britain

The Old Library Building,
Willesden Green Library
Centre, 95 High Road,

Willesden, London, NW10 2ST - Tel: 020 8830 3079

York Traveller Project
01904 630526

London Gypsy Traveller Unit
020 8533 2002

Scottish Gypsy Traveller Association - 0131 650 6314

Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group (DGLG) -
Ernest Bailey Community
Centre, Office 3, New
Street, Matlock, DE4 3FE.
Tel/Fax 01629 583300

Irish Travellers Movement

4/5 Eustace Street, Dublin
2, Ireland - 00353 1 679 6577

Advisory Council for the Education of Romany & Other Travellers (ACERT) - 01279 418 666

Labour Campaign for Travellers Rights 0113 248 6746

Europe Roma
0208 802 7496 - 07812 694 347

Pavee Point
North Great Charles St,
Dublin 1
00 353 1 878 0255

Robert Barton Trust
3 Silver Street
Glastonbury
Somerset, BA6 6BS
Tel: 01458-833797



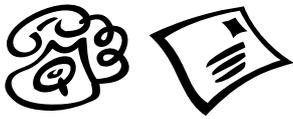
FFT Contacts

Contacts can also be found at:
www.Gypsy-Traveller.org/contacts.htm

FFT contacts, other Gypsy and Traveller organisations, legal assistance, planning advice and more.....

For more contacts, please visit

www.Gypsy-Traveller.org/contacts.htm



Contacts continued.....

Other Organisations

The Children's Society
Rachel Grant & Debbie
Harvey - 92b High Street,
Mid-Somer Norton, Somerset - 01761 411771

The Children's Society in Cornwall - Sarah Newton and Emily Roberts, 11 Market Place, Penzance, - 01736 333660

Save the Children (Scotland)
Michelle Lloyd - 0131 527 8200

PressWise -
Mike Jempson
0117 941 5866

Groundswell
- 0207 737 5500

National Association of Boat Owners
01749 677195

Commission for Racial Equality (CRE)
020 7828 7022

Justice?/Schnews
- 01273 685913

Planning Aid - 01963 230045

Education Otherwise -
0870 730 0074

Land Registry Office -
01705 768 820

The National Small Woods Association,
3 Perkins Beach Dingle,
Stiperstones, Shropshire,
SY5 0PF, - 01743 792644

Legal Advice and Representation

Traveller Advice Team (TAT) (Community Law Partnership)
24hr. mobile: 07768 316755; Advice Line for Travellers: 0845 120 2980; and Landline: 0121 685 8595

Public Law Project -
020 7467 9800

Squatters Advisory Service
020 7359 8814

Legal Aid Head Office
020 7813 1000

Chapter 7
The Potato Store,
Flaxdrayton Farm, S.
Petherton, Somerset. Tel:
01460 249204.
Email: chapter7@tlio.demon.co.uk

FFT publications list

Available from the FFT office. Please make cheques payable to FFT!

Confined, Condemned & Constrained: Civil Rights & Travellers
£5 + 50p p&p

Alternative Planning Policy £1.00

Agenda 21 : Breakdown of the major policy regarding Travellers 75 p

Wealdon / Crowborough: Judicial review report
£1.20

Student Information Pack: Info. on law, legal status, health, etc £3.00

*FFT contacts, other Gypsy and Traveller organisations, legal assistance, planning advice and more.....
For more contacts, please visit
www.Gypsy-Traveller.org/contacts.htm*



FFT stall at the Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group's Travellers Education Resources Day in September

Friends, Families & Travellers was established in response to the passage through Parliament of the 1994 Criminal Justice & Public Order Act.

It has since grown into a nationally recognised voluntary organisation which serves the whole spectrum of the Traveller community, both traditional and new, settled or on the road.

The majority of work promoted by FFT is carried out by an Advice and Information Unit based in Brighton and covers evictions, harassment, planning, employment, benefits, education, health, civil rights, discrimination and legal representation. The Unit is also active in research, monitoring, mediation and policy development at local and national levels.

In 1999, FFT was one of five organisations short listed for the Human Rights Award, part of the United Nations International Day of Human Rights.

FFT became a company (non-profit voluntary organisation) limited by guarantee on the 14th of July 1998, no. 3597515. The company is run by a management committee made up of directors elected by the membership. Management committee meetings are held every six weeks and are open to all members.

FFT
Community Base
113 Queens Road
Brighton BN1 3XG

Tel: 01273 234 777
Fax: 01273 234 778

fft@communitybase.org
www.Gypsy-Traveller.org

This newsletter is kindly sponsored by



Pump Court
Barristers Chambers
Temple
LONDON EC4Y 7AB

www.1pumpcourt.co.uk



*The Telephone Helpline
for Travellers: Evictions,
Site problems and other
issues on
0845 120 2980*

Telephone Helpline for Travellers

0845 120 2980

This advice line is open between

10.00am—1.00pm and 2.00pm—5.00pm, Monday to Friday.

Travellers can speak directly to experienced advisers on questions of eviction, planning matters, issues involving official caravan sites and other matters.

It is run by the Travellers Advice Team at the Community Law Partnership.

**If you believe that all members of society should have the right to travel and to stop
without constant fear of persecution because of their lifestyle:
JOIN FRIENDS, FAMILIES AND TRAVELLERS NOW!**

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: _____ I enclose my subscription:

Waged-£8.00 Unwaged-£3.00 Family Waged-£12.00 Family Unwaged-£5.00 Organisation-£20.00 / 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.