

**YOUR
QUESTIONS
& ANSWERS**



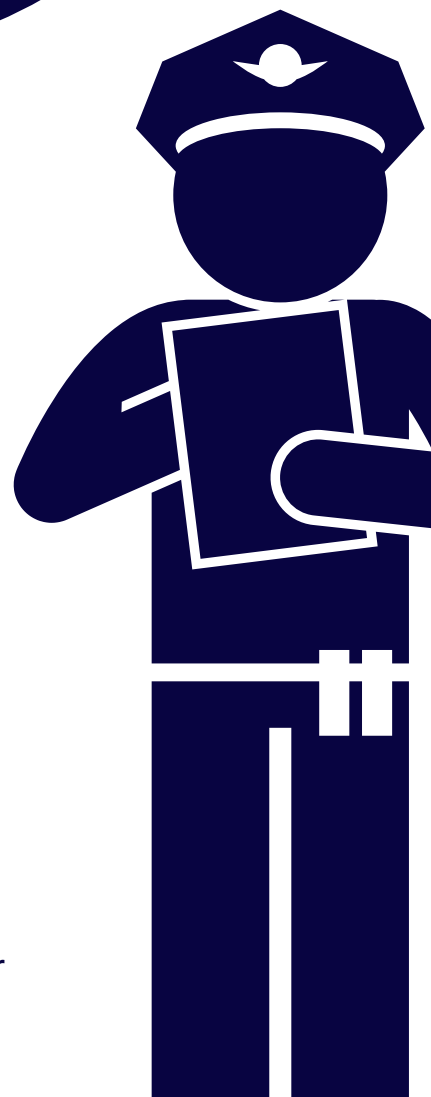
WHY ARE WE ALWAYS BEING EVICTED?

There are laws that local authorities and the Police can use to order roadside camps to move on. Evictions are all too common, with some families moved on multiple times a day.

The use of Possession Orders, Injunctions and other legislation make it hard to stop roadside without stress and sometimes even prosecution.

Travellers have the right to a nomadic way of life in the UK but this right has long been squeezed by stricter laws and less options of places to go.

Some authorities use the full arm of the law to move people out of an area as soon as possible and use Injunctions to prevent people from stopping in areas they have historically used for generations.



Hate Crime incidents on the Roadside are on the rise. There is also a national shortage of site provision for Gypsies and Travellers in the UK meaning even if roadside families want to stay on a permanent local site, they can sit on waiting lists for years.

WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS?

Currently there are limited options for managing roadside camps. The Government have been debating what to do next, it has been suggested that trespass might be made a criminal offence in the UK, like it currently is in Ireland.

Across the UK, local authorities have tried to manage camps in the following ways:

TRANSIT SITES

Some areas have built transit sites for Travellers to stop on.

Often these are expensive and poorly maintained. If you are offered a Transit Site but refuse to go the Police can tell you to leave the area all together.

EVICCTIONS

Some local authorities serve people with Possession Orders.

This process is expensive for local authorities and disruptive for Travellers. In some areas local authorities delay this process as they recognise it isn't working.

INJUNCTIONS

Some local authorities have passed Injunctions saying that Travellers cant stop in whole areas.

You can be fined or arrested if stop on an area which has an Injunction.



Travellers aren't going to disappear from the roadside but the law is getting tighter. Negotiated Stopping is one thing that could help find a positive solution that works for Travellers.



WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

The term **Negotiated Stopping** is used to describe an agreement made between Travellers and local authorities. A decision is made between both parties about where and for how long people can stop roadside without threat of eviction.

WHAT DOES NEGOTIATED STOPPING INVOLVE?



- All parties work together to identify bits of land that are unused, in a good condition and appropriate for stopping.



- Travellers can negotiate to remain where they are or move to an alternative locations near by.
- Negotiations decrease the amount of evictions Travellers face and the money local authorities spend moving camps on.



- In return for agreeing to keep a camp tidy and respecting local residents the local authority provide toilets and bins.



- Camps will be given given a set period of time to stay, undisturbed for up to 28 days depending on the local policy.



WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- More stability and better options of accommodation
- Less stress and reduced threat of eviction
- Longer agreed time on a site
- Easier to access local services and school placements
- Better relationships with local communities and neighbours
- Better relationships with the local authorities
- Greater opportunities to have your voice heard
- Much less likely to be evicted or prosecuted for roadside stopping
- Toilets and bins provided as part of the agreement

Negotiated Stopping currently only exists in Leeds but members of LeedsGATE and authorities in Leeds have said it has worked to tackle some of the problems Travellers face with regards to accommodation across the city.





WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS?

Unfortunately there aren't many laws to protect roadside families, this **needs to change** but in the meantime Negotiated Stopping offers local authorities who want to work with Travelling communities a way to do this now, without waiting for the law to change.



You should **always** be offered a welfare assessment if you are on publicly owned land. Negotiated Stopping doesn't change that!



Negotiated Stopping is a local policy which local authorities can choose to take on, **it doesn't affect the law or your rights.**



Negotiated Stopping is an optional two way agreement. You'll be asked to commit to keeping the camp tidy and noise levels down.

If you've agreed to this and you don't stick to it the council will probably evict you from the Negotiated Stopping place. This would only affect the family breaking the agreement and only affect your ability to stay on that camp, not the rest of the area.



IN 2009

Leeds based Gypsies and Travellers, along with people from Leeds GATE (a Travellers organisation based in Leeds) went to talk to the council because they were fed up of being shifted around the city.

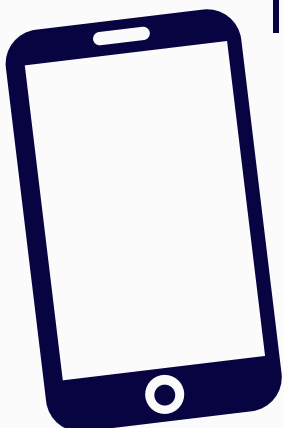
WHO DESIGNED NEGOTIATED STOPPING?

IN AGREEMENT

The local council were also fed up of the hassle and expense; and decided to try something different.

TOGETHER

We came up with Negotiated Stopping and have been trying it ever since. It is now part of the policy in Leeds to try and negotiate with people on camps.



If you are living on a camp and need advice on your rights or signposting call:

Travellers Advice Team: **0121 685 8677**

Leeds GATE: **0113 2402444**



If you live roadside you can ask your local council to try Negotiated Stopping.

Visit negotiatedstopping.co.uk for more information.

**IT ALL STARTS WITH A
CONVERSATION**

THE BIGGER PICTURE.

Many activists and organisations across the country continue to press the government to change the laws that criminalise the Gypsy & Traveller way of life.

We can continue to do this in the following ways:

CAMPAIGNING

Keep campaigning for more sites so that anybody that wants to live on a site can – these should be both public and private sites.

THE LAW

Keep challenging the laws that we have and how they are used – this could be through a lawyer, an advocate or by campaigning

PROTECTION

Continue to fight for the rights of Travellers to be upheld and for protection from laws that limit a Traveller's way of life.

LANGUAGE

Keep challenging the government on their definitions of Gypsies and Travellers
– a Traveller isn't only someone that travels

OUR STORIES

Press to change the public's view on camps, sites and Travellers in general through putting out our own stories

**Negotiated
Stopping
is part of a
bigger picture**



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VISIT

NegotiatedStopping.co.uk