

2016

Merthyr Tydfil Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA)



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Executive Summary

The purpose of this assessment is to assess the housing needs of Gypsy Travellers residing in Merthyr Tydfil.

This assessment aims to identify if any additional housing provision is required for Gypsy Travellers and will inform the Local Housing Market Assessment, the Local Housing Strategy and the Local Development Plan.

The assessment of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs, and the duty to make provision for sites where the assessment identifies need, became statutory requirements under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

There are currently 42 households that identify as Gypsy Travellers in Merthyr Tydfil. 24 are based at the Glynmil site, 1 on the Bogie Road and 17 living in bricks and mortar accommodation across Merthyr Tydfil.

There is currently one authorised Gypsy Traveller site in Merthyr Tydfil. Glynmil, located in between the A4060 dual carriageway, accommodates 24 pitches as well as on site amenity blocks and a community centre. The site is owned by a private owner who also manages the site, but is leased by the Council. There is also one encampment located on the Bogey Road. This has been there for some years and is a 'tolerated site'. It accommodates one household.

Using the approved methodology from Welsh Government guidance document "Undertaking Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments", it is anticipated, based on new need arising and an annual pitch turnover of 12 per year at Glynmil, that there will be a surplus of 2 pitches at the end of the 5 year period (2020). It is anticipated that there will be a need for an additional 4 pitches over a 15 year period. Therefore, there is no need for additional pitches or an additional site in Merthyr Tydfil.

During the interview process, 12 of 21 households (which responded to the question), stated that they had camped by a roadside / transit site / unauthorised encampment over the past year. The majority of the places they have stayed have been along major trunk roads. However, as there is only anecdotal evidence of

people stopping in Merthyr Tydfil, there are no formal records of any unauthorised encampments in recent years and the Caravan Count shows no evidence of transit sites, there is also no identifiable need for a transit/stopping site.

Chapter One: Policy context

Introduction

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This assessment aims to identify if any additional housing provision is required for Gypsy Travellers and will inform the Local Housing Market Assessment, the Local Housing Strategy and the Local Development Plan.

The assessment of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs, and the duty to make provision for sites where the assessment identifies need, became statutory requirements under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

In the past, the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers have often not been adequately assessed as part of the process by which Local Authorities assess people's housing needs. The consequences of this have been a lack of understanding regarding the current and projected accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers.

The definition of 'Gypsies and Travellers' for the purposes of this accommodation assessment process is contained within section 108 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. The definition of Gypsies and Travellers is:

“(a) Persons of a nomadic habit of life, whatever their race or origin, including:

- persons who, on grounds only of their own or their family's or dependant's educational or health needs or old age, have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently;
- members of an organized group of travelling show people or circus people (whether or not travelling together as such);
- all other persons with a cultural tradition of nomadism or of living in a mobile home.”

The intention of the above definition is to ensure ethnic Romani Gypsies and Irish Travellers are included, as well as those from any ethnic group who follow a nomadic

habit of life. The definition also includes Travelling Showpeople. New Travellers could also be captured by the definition if they can demonstrate a cultural tradition of nomadism and of living in mobile homes. Members of these communities do not necessarily need to demonstrate a continued nomadic habit of life to be considered to be Gypsies or Travellers for the purposes of this assessment.

A broad definition is necessary to achieve a full understanding of the accommodation needs of these communities. Gypsies and Travellers, and their children and other relatives, in bricks and mortar housing may form part of the source from which future site need and aspiration may arise, and it will be essential to understand this. Assessing the needs of housed Gypsies and Travellers will also help identify the ways in which housing may be made to work better for them, and made more attractive to Gypsies and Travellers in general. The intention should not be to encourage these communities to integrate into conventional housing. However, adapted or improved housing could reduce the numbers who leave or wish to leave conventional housing for sites. Some of those currently on unauthorised sites may also wish to move into, or back into, housing if it can better suit their circumstances.

A Glossary of terms can be found in Appendix 3.

An understanding of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation issues is essential to make properly planned provision and avoid the problems associated with ad hoc or unauthorised provision. A comprehensive accommodation assessment (required under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014) and strategy to meet the need which is identified will greatly strengthen the ability of Local Authorities to respond swiftly and firmly to inappropriate unauthorised developments and encampments and help to avoid future unauthorised camping and development.

Local Authorities are required to undertake a Gypsy and Traveller accommodation assessment (GTAA) and to make provision for sites where the assessment identifies an unmet need for mobile home pitches.

Demographics

At the time of the 2011 Census the area had a resident population of 58,851, living in 24,281 households. This figure represents an increase of over 2,600 on the population recorded ten years previous in the 2001 census. This increase in the resident population of Merthyr Tydfil during the past 5-10 years can be attributed to a significant amount of regeneration that has taken place in the County Borough such as Cyfarthfa Retail Park and Rhydycar Leisure Village and an increased rate of inward migration from within Wales and further afield.

Gypsies and Travellers will typically form only a very small percentage of the population in any given area. The Census 2011 included a new ethnic category for 'Gypsy or Irish Traveller' and the data collected suggested a total population of 2,785 in Wales. There were only 62 people who identified as Gypsy Travellers in Merthyr Tydfil when completing the Census (table 1). The total may exclude other members of these communities who declined to self-ascribe their ethnicity for fear of discrimination, stronger affiliation with other ethnicity categories (e.g. White Irish) or for other reasons, though attempts were made by the Office for National Statistics to address these issues. Only a minority of this figure is believed to be living in, or seeking, caravan site accommodation.

Table 1 – Ethnicity of residents in Merthyr Tydfil

Ethnic Group	value
All usual residents	58,802
White	57,391
English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	55,635
Irish	122
Gypsy or Irish Traveller	62
Other White	1,572
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups	462
White and Black Caribbean	154
White and Black African	46
White and Asian	151
Other Mixed	111
Asian/Asian British	696
Indian	168
Pakistani	50
Bangladeshi	45
Chinese	120
Other Asian	313
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	143
African	118
Caribbean	10
Other Black	15
Other ethnic group	110
Arab	32
Any other ethnic group	78

Cultural differences, a reluctance of some members of these communities to disclose their ethnicity as Gypsies or Travellers, or reluctance to participate in a process with which they are not familiar, mean the main housing market assessment process is

likely to be significantly less successful in accessing this group than others. In addition, the particular lifestyle and culture of Gypsies and Travellers may give rise to distinctive accommodation needs, which the main assessment will be unlikely to pick up.

However, these differences should not be exaggerated. Many Gypsies and Travellers are permanently settled in housing or on residential public or private sites. A small percentage of the population are on unauthorised encampments or unauthorised developments. The percentage of the population who are permanently nomadic is believed to be very low.

Some of those living in conventional housing are likely have moved from living in mobile homes due to the lack of legal alternatives, possibly because the Local Authority where they reside had not provided enough site accommodation.

Unlike the wider Local Housing Market Assessment, which should be up-dated every two years, the Gypsy and Traveller accommodation assessment must be renewed at least every 5 years.

Policy and Planning Context

Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013

The Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013 came into force on 1 October 2014. It is designed to help improve regulation of the industry, so that conditions on mobile home sites are improved and the rights of residents are better protected.

The main features of the Act are:

- site owners will be required to apply for a licence from their local authority to operate a site. The licence will last up to 5 years
- site managers will need to pass a 'fit and proper person' test before being awarded a licence
- site owners will no longer be able to block the sale of a mobile home. The mobile home owner will be free to sell their home to who they wish
- local authorities will be able to inspect sites and issue a fixed penalty notice to site owners if conditions on the site are not kept properly
- in more serious instances, local authorities will be able to issue the site owners with a compliance notice to make sure that site conditions are upheld
- pitch fees can only be increased in line with the Consumer Prices Index
- site owners and residents will be able to appeal to the Residential Property Tribunal in certain circumstances.

Circular 30/2007 – Planning for Gypsy and Traveller sites

The circular provides updated guidance on the planning aspects of finding sustainable sites for Gypsies and Travellers and how local authorities and Gypsies and Travellers can work together to achieve this aim. It supersedes advice contained in Circular 2/94 "Gypsy Sites and Planning" which has been cancelled.

Circular 78/91 Travelling showpeople

The circular provides advice to local authorities about planning considerations relating to travelling showpeople. Guidance is given on how travelling showpeople should be considered when preparing development plans; how planning applications

for sites should be considered; and how breaches of planning control should be dealt with.

LDP Policies

- Site at Glynmil is highlighted in the LDP as it had sufficient capacity to be refurbished, in order to meet the need generated in previous GTAA.
- Rural exceptions policy currently only applies to affordable housing.
- Policy TB6 deals with proposals for new caravans/sites:

Policy TB6: Static caravans, residential mobile homes and gypsy/traveller accommodation

Development proposals for static caravans, residential mobile homes and gypsy/traveller accommodation will be permitted where:-

- *the proposal is located within defined settlement boundaries, unless, in the case of gypsy/traveller accommodation, it can be demonstrated that no appropriate site exists to accommodate a facility for which there is identified need;*
- *the proposal does not conflict with transportation considerations including access, parking, traffic generation, accessibility to public transport and enjoyment of public rights of way; and*
- *the proposal is capable of being provided with the relevant utility services and infrastructure.*

Only planning applications we have received for residential caravans during the last 3 years have been:

- Land at Efi Astex Industrial Estate – one caravan. Proposals have been refused twice due to location of caravan within an industrial estate.
- One caravan has been permitted at Upper Abercanaid, but on a site that could accommodate many more.
- A certificate of lawfulness application for a single residential caravan at land at 110 Heolgerrig.

Chapter Two: Background and analysis of existing data

Previous Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment findings

The previous GTAA for Merthyr Tydfil was written in 2008 by Fordham Research. Key findings from the survey were as follows:

- There is a shortage of residential accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers in Merthyr Tydfil. There is evidence of overcrowding and doubling-up on the Glynmil Local Authority site and a need from those who moved off due to poor management some years ago.
- Based on survey participants' preferences and views on whether they would be able to afford their own land, the need will have to be met on socially rented sites.
- A cost effective way to meet this need would be to bring back into use the decommissioned pitches at the Glynmil site. The Assessment estimates that the Council will need to provide an additional 10 pitches.
- Satisfaction with the amenity blocks was very low.
- It was also noted by many respondents that they required stronger site management.
- It was also reported that residents felt site maintenance was low and repairs difficult to obtain from the Council. Residents should be made aware both verbally and in writing on how to report a fault, and when and what type of action will be carried out. It is recommended that a clear and transparent method of reporting and tracking faults should be implemented on site.
- Access to local services was reported as difficult for those who did not have access to private transportation.
- Participants noted that fly tipping on the site occurred regularly and implied that this was not carried out by residents. For this reasons they requested a series of measures that could increase security on the site.
- The level of participants registered with a local GP and / or dentist surgery was lower for participants living on the local authority site than for those in bricks and mortar accommodation.

In total 12 recommendations are made to the Council on ways in which it is possible to meet the needs of their local Gypsy and Traveller community. These are summarised as follows;

- A cost effective way to meet residential need would be to bring back into use the decommissioned pitches at the Glynmil site. The Assessment estimates that the Council will need to provide an additional 10 pitches
- Applying for funding from the Welsh Assembly Governments' Gypsy Traveller Site Refurbishment Grant to renovate the amenity blocks could enhance the overall level of satisfaction on the site
- It is recommended that current management responsibilities are improved
- It is recommended that a clear and transparent method of reporting and tracking faults should be implemented on the site
- It is recommended that the needs of residents are taken into account when planning future transport plans
- The authority should consider constructing secure access to the site
- The implementation of closed circuit television cameras should be considered
- Consideration should be given to outreach services for residents on the site
- Consideration for a children's play area, designed and located with safety in mind
- Consideration should be given to the implementation of a Residents Group
- Consultation processes should be discussed with the Residents Group
- Gypsies and Travellers are included in the Housing Departments ethnic monitoring

All of the aforementioned recommendations have been implemented by the Council since 2008. There are now 24 pitches on site, amenity and community blocks have been constructed using Welsh Government funding, management responsibilities have been improved, there is a recognised method of reporting faults, the needs of the residents are taken into account through a tenants group, a play area has been constructed and Gypsy Travellers are included on the Housing Departments ethnic monitoring.

Table 2 - Need identified in 2008

Table 9.2 Assessment of need for residential site pitches: 2007 – 2012	
Families on local authority site pitches	14
Families on authorised privately owned site pitches	1
1. Total number of families	15
Unused local authority pitches	-
Existing pitches expected to become vacant	-
Number of families on sites wishing to live in housing	1
New local authority pitches planned	-
Existing applications for private sites likely to gain permission	-
2. Total supply	1
Families seeking permanent site accommodation in area	-
Families on unauthorised encampments	-
Families on unauthorised developments without permission	-
Currently overcrowded	4
New family formations from elsewhere	-
New family formations from existing families in Merthyr Tydfil	3
Family units with a psychological aversion to housing	4
3. Total need	11
<i>Balance of need and supply</i>	
Total additional pitch requirement	10

Current Situation

There are currently 24,264 houses in Merthyr Tydfil (Table 3). Merthyr Tydfil has a significantly higher proportion of older housing stock than elsewhere in Wales, which manifests itself in a high rate of unfit, particularly amongst terraced housing. The dominant type of tenure in Merthyr Tydfil is Owner Occupier, accounting for 65% of the market; private renting accounts for 11% of the total market, and social housing for 21%. The dominant house type in Merthyr Tydfil is terraced, accounting for 50% of the market. These also constitute a large percentage of first time buyer sales due to the availability and low prices of terraced properties. For the purpose of this LHMA, average terraced house prices have been used to calculate the lowest amount required to purchase a property. Tables 3, 4 and 5 illustrate the type of housing in Merthyr Tydfil, the tenure and average house prices.

At the time of the 2011 census, there were 29 identified gypsy/traveller households residing in Merthyr Tydfil (Table 3).

Table 3 – Gypsy Traveller Households in Merthyr Tydfil (Census 2011)

	Total: Accommodation type	House or bungalow	A flat, maisonette or apartment	A caravan or other mobile or temporary structure
Wales	1,004	602	116	286
Merthyr Tydfil	29	16	4	9

Using data held by Education, Health and the voluntary sector, we were able to identify 42 households that identify as Gypsy Travellers in Merthyr Tydfil. 24 were based at the Glynmil site, 1 on the Bogie Road and 17 living in bricks and mortar accommodation across Merthyr Tydfil.

Data from the Welsh Government's Caravan Count website identified 25 households; however, when adding Gypsy Travellers living in bricks and mortar accommodation, that number rose to 42 households.

Table 4 – Caravan Count Information

Name	Local Authority	Caravans	Residential	Transit	Authorised
Bogey Road	Merthyr Tydfil	1	0	0	✓
Glynmill	Merthyr Tydfil	24	24	0	✓

Current accommodation provision

There is currently one authorised Gypsy Traveller site in Merthyr Tydfil. Glynmil, located in between the A4060 dual carriageway, accommodates 24 pitches as well as on site amenity blocks and a community centre. The site is owned by a private owner who also manages the site, but it is leased by the Council. The amenity blocks and community centre were recently constructed using Welsh Government grant funding, which also paid for improvements throughout the site.

There is also one encampment located the Bogey Road. This has been there for some years and is a tolerated site. It accommodates one household.

Figures 1, 2, 3 and 4 demonstrate the location of these sites.

Figure 1 – Wider view of Glynmil

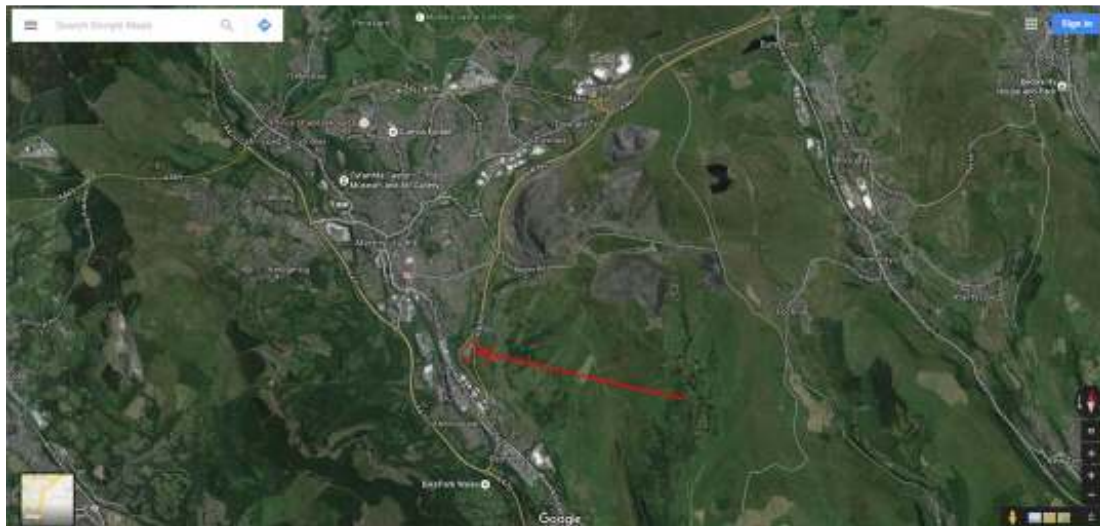


Figure 2 – View of Glynmil



Figure 3 – Wide view of “Ducks Pond” – Bogey Road



Figure 4 - View of “Ducks Pond” – Bogey Road



Chapter Three: Methodology

The study was led by the Housing department at Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council but relied on qualitative interviews carried out by other Council departments and the voluntary sector.

The Gypsy Traveller Steering Group was also a key component in completing the GTAA. The group was established in 2014. It is a multi-agency group which meets quarterly and is comprised of the following members:

- Communities First
- Travelling Ahead Project
- Estates MTCBC
- Housing MTCBC
- Community Safety MTCBC
- Street Games/Youth Service MTCBC
- Equality Champion (Councillor)
- SRN Nurse
- Head4Arts
- Environmental Health MTCBC
- Hate Crime Officer South Wales Police
- Community Cohesion MTCBC/RCT
- South Wales Police
- Magnet
- Drink Wise
- Fire service
- Education MTCBC
- Street Games
- Youth Support
- CYNFIN
- Representatives from the Gypsy Traveller Community

The qualitative interviews were undertaken by Lillie Bramley, Sharon Lewis and Janine Thomas.

Lillie Bramley is the Gypsy Traveller project manager for the Bridges Project. The Bridges Project aims to promote a sense of pride for Gypsy/Traveller heritage and culture by encouraging community cohesion and connecting Gypsy and Travellers with the wider community of Wales.

The Bridges Project provides support via mentoring and referral services through Hate Crime, Education, Health, Housing and Welsh policy.

The project is part of the MAGNET portfolio of Community Voice projects in Merthyr Tydfil, which is funded by the Big Lottery.

Lillie Bramley carried out the interviews with the residents on the Glyn Mill site as she has built strong links with the community over the last few years.

Sharon Lewis and Janine Thomas carried out the interviews with the residents living in bricks and mortar accommodation. Sharon is the Gypsy Traveller support worker based within the School Improvement & Inclusion team at MTCBC. Janine Thomas is the Cwm Taf Community Cohesion Coordinator.

Gypsy Travellers living in both caravans and bricks and mortar accommodation were visited and interviewed. The interviews lasted between 60-90 minutes and the households were led through the questionnaire by either Lillie or Sharon depending on the type of accommodation they were living in. For those that we were not able to contact by telephone or in person, a questionnaire was sent in the post with a pre-paid return envelope. We received no returned completed questionnaires via post. (A copy of the questionnaire can be found in appendix 1).

The surveys were undertaken on six separate dates; three for each of the interviews conducted in caravans and bricks and mortar accommodation. There was only a need to visit more than once if the interview was unable to be undertaken on the first date.

The interviews for Gypsy Travellers living in caravans on the Glynmil site were undertaken on the following dates:

- 1st October 2015
- 20th October 2015
- 4th November 2015

The interviews for Gypsy Travellers living in bricks and mortar accommodation were undertaken on the following dates:

- 5th November 2015
- 11th November 2015
- 26th November 2015

A copy of the interview log can be found in appendix 5.

Throughout the GTAA process there has been extensive engagement with other local authorities. Meetings have been held with both Caerphilly and Rhondda Cynon Taff Councils to discuss approaches and share good practice. The council has also shared information with other local authorities on progress made at the quarterly meetings of the South East Wales regional housing forum. The GTAA was also discussed by the Housing Strategy Network at its March 2015 meeting. A poster was also developed by the three aforementioned Councils (with contact details changed) enabling consistency of publication across the region.

The Council used a wide range of engagement methods to encourage participation of the Gypsy Traveller community in the GTAA. The consultation stage of the GTAA was undertaken in accordance with the engagement checklist specified by Welsh Government below:

- Visit every Gypsy and Traveller household identified through the data analysis process up to 3 times, if necessary.
- GTAA process were published, including contact details to allow community members to request an interview, on the local authority website, Travellers' Times website and World's Fair publication.

- Relevant community support organisations were consulted.
- Showmen's Guild were contacted
- Gypsies and Travellers were included on the GTAA project steering group.
- Contact details that were provided to the local authority by community members through the survey process were followed up and needs assessed.
- On-site GTAA information events have been held to explain why community members should participate and encourage site residents to bring others who may not be known to the local authority.

No alterations were made to the universal questionnaire.

Chapter Four: Survey Findings

Location and Ethnicity of Gypsy Travellers in Merthyr Tydfil

23 Gypsy Traveller Households were interviewed; 16 residents at Glynmil, 5 in social rented bricks and mortar accommodation and 2 in privately rented bricks and mortar accommodation. All of the 42 households that we identified were visited three times (if necessary). Of the 19 that we were unable to contact via visits, paper based questionnaires and information was sent out via post. However, no completed questionnaires were received. Table 5 demonstrates where Gypsy Travellers are housed.

Table 5 - Where Gypsy Travellers in Merthyr are housed

<u>Location of Household</u>	<u>Number of Households</u>
Local Authority residential site	16
Council transit site	0
Private site with planning permission	0
Private site currently without planning permission	0
Unauthorised encampment	0
Bricks and Mortar - Socially Rented	5
Bricks and Mortar - Private Rented	2
Bricks and Mortar - Owner Occupied	0

Of the 23 households interviewed, 9 declined to state their exact ethnicity. The largest single ethnicity identified was 'Gypsy'. 7 of the households identified as 'Gypsies', 3 as 'Romani' and 1 household identified as either 'Roma', 'Irish', 'Welsh Traveller' or 'Traveller'. Please refer to Table 6 below.

Table 6 - Ethnicity of Households

Ethnicity	Number
Not Stated	9
Romani	3
Irish	1
Roma	1
Welsh Traveller	1
Gypsy	7
Traveller	1

Satisfaction with Accommodation

Of the 23 households, 16 stated that they were happy with the accommodation that they lived in; 5 were not and 2 preferred not to say. Table 7 highlights this.

The reasons why the 5 were unhappy were varied, and differed between those living in caravans and those living in bricks and mortar accommodation. These reasons households are unsatisfied are listed below:

Issues at Glynmil:

- Need toilets and mains water.
- Not happy with site and would like to relocate
- Street lighting poor
- Utility bills too expensive and not transparent (i.e. site wide rather than individual bills)
- Pathways and drainage need improving
- Feel unsafe and want a Local Authority warden
- Issues with neighbours
- Issues with site owner

Issues in bricks and mortar accommodation:

- Damp in current property
- Property too expensive
- Issues with neighbour

Table 7 - Satisfaction with your current accommodation

Satisfied with Accommodation?	Number of Households
Yes	16
No	5
Prefer not to say	2

Of the 16 residents interviewed on site (living in caravans), only 1 stated that they were overcrowded. There was room on 12 of the pitches to accommodate additional travellers which could increase the number of sleeping areas on site by 14 (possibly taking the total to 38 households).

Only one of the households interviewed at Glynmil said that they were overcrowded. Given that there is room on the majority of pitches to accommodate more sleeping areas, this issue should be able to be addressed on site. Tables 8 and 9 demonstrate this

Table 8 - Are there enough sleeping areas if living in caravans?

Yes	15
No	1

Table 9 – is there enough room on the pitch for additional trailers?

Yes	12
No	4
How many additional sleeping areas can be added	14

Current Accommodation

Only 5 of the total households interviewed would like to join the Local Authority waiting list for pitches or housing. 3 of these are currently residing at Glynmil and 2 households are living in bricks and mortar accommodation. This suggests that Gypsy Travellers living in both caravans and bricks and mortar accommodation are unlikely to seek help from the Local Authority when looking for a place to live.

Table 10- Would anyone in your family like to join the Local Authority waiting list for pitches or housing?

Yes	5
No	18

The vast majority of residents either don't want to move or don't know if they'll move; thus suggesting there is no urgent need or problem necessitating a move. 19 Gypsy Travellers interviewed fell into this category. 1 thought they'd stay for over five years whilst 4 predicted that they would move in under two years. Table 11 highlights this.

(N.B the total adds up to 24 as one household selected two options)

Table 11 – Predicted length of stay

1 or 2 days	1
3 - 28 days	1
1 - 3 months	1
3 months - 2 years	1
2 - 5 years	0
Over 5 years	1
Don't intend to move	8
Don't know	11

Table 12 - Would you stay longer if changes or improvements were made to your current accommodation?

Yes - repairs needed	8
Yes - site made bigger	0
Yes - accommodation made safer	3
Yes - planning permission granted	0
Yes - adaptations needed	1
No - just passing through	0
No - want authorised pitch in other area	1
No - want to move into housing	2
No - relationships broken down	0
No - prefer living in a caravan	0

However, interestingly, 12 residents suggested that repairs and improvements were needed to their accommodation. The reasons varied again, but echoed the reasons highlighted previously.

Of those that wanted to move in table 11, one household would not stay as they wanted to move to another area, and two wanted to move into bricks and mortar accommodation (table 12).

Future Accommodation Aspirations

Of the 23 interviewed, 17 households said that they were not planning to move to other accommodation; 5 were planning to move and 1 did not want to disclose. 4 of the 5 are planning to stay in Merthyr Tydfil. 3 people suggested that they would like to stay on a Gypsy Traveller Site whilst 4 expressed a desire to move to bricks and mortar accommodation (but only social rented with an RSL). (NB some households were open to living in more than one form of accommodation).

Tables 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 suggest that people are generally happy with their accommodation. The data suggests that if repairs and improvements were made to their current accommodation, then those that wish to leave will be more likely to stay in their current accommodation. It is therefore acceptable to presume that there is no new demand arising from this group.

Table 13 - Are you planning to move into other accommodation?

Yes	5
No	17
Prefer not to say	1

Table 14 - Where are you planning to move to?

Within Merthyr	4
Another local authority in Wales	0
Somewhere else in the UK	1

Table 15 - Why are you planning to move?

Need more space	0
Need different facilities	0
Local connection (family or work)	0
Need to be closer to services	1
Employment opportunities	0
Other	5

The 'other' reasons were as follows:

- Damp in current property
- Need a cheaper property
- Issues with neighbour
- Issues with site owner

Table 16 - What type of accommodation are you planning to move to?

Site - social rented	2
Site - private owned by self	0
Site - private owned by other	1
Bricks and mortar - owner occupied	0
Bricks and mortar - social rented	4
Bricks and mortar - private rented	0

Table 17 - Do you own land in the Local Authority which you would like to be considered as a possible future site?

Yes	1
No	7
Prefer not to say	0

Table 18 - If you are looking for an authorised pitch, would you live on a site managed by the Local Authority if offered one?

Yes	4
No	5

Number of expected new households within 5 years

Table 19 - How many new households will there be and when will these be needed?

	Type of Accommodation	No. of people	Now	Within a year	1 - 2 years	2 - 5 years
Household 1	LA Site (Caravan)	1		1		
Household 2	Bricks and Mortar	2		1		
Household 3	Bricks and Mortar	2 or 3			1	
Household 4	Bricks and Mortar	1			1	
Household 5	LA Site (Caravan)	2			1	

The survey indicates (table 19) that there are 5 potential new households forming over the next five years. 2 of these are expected to want accommodation in caravans (on a LA site) and 3 in bricks and mortar accommodation.

It is anticipated that these will be smaller households ranging between 1 and 3 people. The accommodation needs of gypsy travellers seeking accommodation in bricks and mortar accommodation will be able to be met through social housing (the *Housing Choice* scheme)

Number of expected new households within LDP period.

The LDP (2006-2021) projected that the population would increase by 4,300 resulting in an additional dwelling requirement of 3,800. The majority of this need will be catered for by the private sector. Based on the numbers of Gypsy Travellets currently residing in Merthyr, the increase will be negligible.

Figure 5 – LDP Requirements

DWELLING REQUIREMENTS

POPULATION IN 2006	54,700
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS	23,300
NUMBER OF DWELLINGS	24,800
PROJECTED POPULATION BY 2021	59,000
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS	27,000
NUMBER OF DWELLINGS	28,600
ADDITIONAL DWELLING REQUIREMENT 2006-2021	3,800
<i>(NUMBER OF UNITS ALLOCATED AS PART OF THE LDP PROCESS</i>	<i>3,964)</i>

SUBTRACT

COMPLETIONS JANUARY 2006 -APRIL 2010	863
(613 on allocated sites, 250 on unallocated/small sites)	
COMPLETIONS REQUIRED OVER REMAINDER OF PLAN PERIOD	2937
NUMBER OF UNITS REMAINING ON ALLOCATED SITES	3347
OVER-ALLOCATION IN RELATION TO REMAINDER OF REQUIREMENT	410 (14%)

Chapter Five: Assessing accommodation needs

Needs Assessment

Using the approved methodology from Welsh Governments “Undertaking Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments” guidance, it is anticipated, based on new need arising and an annual pitch turnover of 12 per year at Glynmil, that there will be a surplus of 2 pitches at the end of the 5 year period (2020). It is anticipated that there will be a need for an additional 4 pitches over a 15 year period.

Table 20 – Needs Assessment

Current Residential Supply	Number of Pitches
A. Occupied Local Authority Pitches	24
B. Occupied Authorised Pitches	1

Planned Residential Supply	Number of Pitches
C. Vacant Local Authority pitches and available vacant private pitches	0
D. Pitches expected to become vacant in the near future (average of 12 per year)	12
E. New Local Authority and private pitches with planning permission	0
Total	12

Current Residential Demand	Pitch Demand
F. Unauthorised encampments	0
G. Unauthorised development	0
H. Overcrowded pitches	1
I. Conventional housing	0
J. New Households to arrive	5
Total	6

Current Households	Future Households (at year 5) (4.35%)	Future Households (15 year plan period) (4.35%)
K. 19 (Current Residential Supply + Current Residential Demand - Expected Vacant Pitches)	23	31
L. Additional household pitch need	4	12

Unmet Need	Need Arising	Need Accommodated
M. Current residential demand	6	
N. Future residential demand (5 year)	4	
O. Future residential demand (plan period) 2021 LDP	12	
P. Planned residential supply		12
Q. Unmet need (5 year)	Surplus of 2 pitches	
R. Unmet need (plan period (15 years))	4 pitches needed	

There are currently 25 pitches available in Merthyr Tydfil; 24 at Glynmil and 1 on the Bogey Road. There were no vacancies.

In terms of supply, there is no planned supply of additional sites or pitches.

Records from the Estates team at MTCBC suggest that on average 12 pitches become vacant per annum.

There was no record of unauthorised developments or encampments in Merthyr Tydfil.

During the interview process, one household at Glynmil suggested that the household was overcrowded and that they needed additional living space, whilst 5 new households are expected to form over the next five years; 2 from the Glynmil site and 3 in bricks and mortar accommodation. 23 households were interviewed and 5 new households were expected to form. This gave an annual expected growth rate of 4.35%.

The growth rate of 4.35% was used to factor in anticipated growth in the Gypsy Traveller community over the next 5 years which wasn't included in the survey. This suggests that 4 additional households would form over the next five years and an additional 12 over fifteen years.

When annual turnover of 12 pitches was factored in to this calculation, there are enough pitches to meet demand over the next 5 years (surplus of 2) and a need for only 4 pitches over the next fifteen years. Given that there is room on site to accommodate 14 additional sleeping areas, it is reasonable to suggest that the Glynmil site could accommodate the estimated increase of 4 pitches.

Tables 21 and 22 support the fact that a maximum of 5 households are likely to emerge over the next five years.

Table 21 – Is anyone in your household likely to want to move to their own home in the next 5 years?

Yes	4
No	18
Don't know	1
Prefer not to say	0

Table 22 – Will this be in this Local Authority?

Yes	4
No	1
Prefer not to say	0

Transit unmet need

Caravan count data and local records do not show any unauthorised encampments in Merthyr Tydfil.

There is also no evidence of any substantive planning applications or any unauthorised encampments in Merthyr Tydfil to necessitate the need for a transit site.

During the interview process, 12 of 21 households stated that they had camped by a roadside / transit site / unauthorised encampment over the past year. The majority of the places they have stayed have been along major trunk roads. Most of the stays were also for very short periods (mainly between 1-2 days) (Table 24).

20 of the residents interviewed stated that they thought there should be more transit sites; some even stating that there should be one in every Local Authority.

Various discussions have taken place with both Caerphilly CBC and RCTCBC. Along with Merthyr Tydfil, neither of these Authorities seemed to have a problem with unauthorised encampments or any issues with Travellers passing through.

Given that there are no unlawful encampments, incidences of people stopping by the roadside, the duration of their stay and the fact that there are no planning applications in place, there is insufficient local evidence to justify provision of a transit site or temporary stopping place within Merthyr Tydfil. This will be monitored however, both locally and regionally.

Table 23 – Have you camped by the roadside / on an unauthorised encampment / on a transit site in Wales while travelling in the past year?

Yes	12
No	9
Prefer not to say	0

Table 24 – How long would you usually stay in one place whilst travelling?

1 - 2 days	9
3 days - 1 week	3
1 - 2 weeks	1
2 weeks - 1 month	3
1 - 3 months	1

Table 25 - Do you think there is a need for more transit sites in Wales?

Yes	20
No	0
Prefer not to say	0

Chapter Six: Conclusions, Recommendations and Next Steps

This Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Assessment has analysed a range of secondary and primary data sources to assess the needs of the Gypsy and Traveller Community in Merthyr Tydfil.

Secondary information from the Census, the Caravan Count (Welsh Government), local planning records and local data sources (such as those from Health and Education) were compiled and analysed and enabled primary research to take place with identified Gypsy Traveller households. The qualitative interviews gave an insight into the accommodation needs of Gypsy Travellers in Merthyr Tydfil. 23 interviews were completed in total. The primary and secondary data gathered enabled a thorough needs assessment to be undertaken which questioned whether there was additional needs for pitches, sites or transit sites.

Five new households are expected to form, but, given that there is an average pitch turnover of 12 at Glynmil and some Gypsy Travellers living in Merthyr Tydfil want bricks and mortar accommodation, there is currently enough provision in Merthyr Tydfil (surplus of 2 in five years based on household growth of 4.35%).

There is also no data that suggests that a transit site is needed. However, there may indeed be a need for a regional site. This will be duly discussed with neighbouring authorities based on the outcomes of respective GTAAs.

The initial LDP review report is due to be published in Spring 2016. Should a full review be required, the LDP will not be updated for a further four years. The findings of this GTAA will then inform it.

The Local Authority will continue to liaise with neighbouring Authorities, relevant stakeholders and the Welsh Government in order to keep abreast of any changes; both operationally and strategically.

The accommodation needs of Gypsy Travellers will also be continually monitored; and if there are any changes in their needs these will be addressed accordingly.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - GTAA Universal Questionnaire

SECTION A – YOUR HOME

A1 Where do you live now?

Local Authority (“Council”) residential site	
Council transit site	
Private site with planning permission	
Private site currently without planning permission	
Unauthorised encampment	
Bricks and Mortar – Socially Rented	
Bricks and Mortar – Privately Rented	
Bricks and Mortar – Owner Occupied	

A2 Are you satisfied with your current accommodation?

Yes	
No	
Prefer not to say	

If ‘no’ please explain what could be improved:

A3 Can you tell me why you live here?

Local connections (family or work)	
No alternative authorised pitch	
Can't find a house to move into	
Health or age reasons	
Prefer houses to caravans	
Other:	

A4 How long have you lived here?

Less than 1 month	1-6 months	7 – 12 months	1 - 2 years	2-5 years	Over 5 years

A5 If you have moved within the last year, was your last home in this Local Authority?**YES / NO**

Please give details below:

Type of accommodation	Did it have planning permission?	Which Local Authority was it in?	Why did you leave?

A6 How long do you think you'll stay here?

1 or 2 days	3 – 28 days	1 – 3 months	3 months – 2 years	2 – 5 years	Over 5 years	Do not intend to move	Don't know

A7 Would you stay longer if changes or improvements were made to your current accommodation?

(Note: The Local Authority may not be able to make these improvements but understanding the problems with your accommodation may help)

YES

Reason	Tick
Repairs needed	
Site made bigger	
Accommodation made safer	
Planning permission granted	
Adaptations needed (please state below)	

NO

Reason	Tick
Just passing through	
Want authorised pitch in other area	
Want to move into housing	
Relationships broken down	
Prefer living in caravan	
Other:	

SECTION B – YOUR FAMILY

	Relationship to respondent (e.g. Spouse, son/daughter etc)	Age	Gender	Romani / Irish Traveller / New Traveller / Roma / Showperson / Other (Self-ascribed)	Are there any reasons why you cannot continue to live in this accommodation? (give details)
Respondent					
Person 2					
Person 3					
Person 4					
Person 5					
Person 6					
Person 7					
Person 8					

Person 9						
Person 10						
Person 11						
Person 12						

If not living in caravans proceed to B4.

B2 If living in caravans, are there enough sleeping areas for all residents?

YES / NO

B3 Is there room on the pitch for additional trailers to prevent overcrowding?
(Note: guidance suggests that there should be 6 metre gap between trailers and 3 metre gap to boundaries to be safely accommodated on pitch)

YES / NO

If yes, how many additional sleeping areas can be added?

B4 Would anyone in your family like to join the Local Authority waiting list for pitches or housing?

YES / NO

Please provide address for application pack to be posted to below:

Please state if already on a waiting list and which.

SECTION C – YOUR PLANS

C1 Are you planning to move into other accommodation?

Yes	Go to C2	
No	Go to D1	
Prefer not to say	Go to D1	

C2 Where are you planning to move to?

Within the Local Authority	
Another Local Authority in Wales – please state which:	
Somewhere else in the UK	

C3 Why are you planning to move?

Need more space	
Need different facilities	
Local connection (family or work)	
Need to be closer to services – schools etc. (Please give details below)	
Employment opportunities	
Other (Please specify below)	

Services:

Other:

C4 What type of accommodation are you planning to move to?

1. Site	
Council / Social rented	
Private site owned by self	
Private site owned by other	

2. Bricks and Mortar	
Owner / occupied	
Rent from Council / Housing Association	
Rent from private landlord	

C5 Do you own land in the Local Authority which you would like to be considered as a possible future site?

(Note: Interviewer to explain that there is no guarantee that the site will be allocated or developed but planning officers may contact respondent to discuss their situation and offer support)

Yes	<i>Give details below</i>	
No	<i>Go to C6</i>	
Prefer not to say	<i>Go to C6</i>	

If you like the Local Authority to discuss these plans with you, provide contact details below:

		YES	NO
C6	If you are looking for an authorised pitch, would you live on a site managed by the Local Authority if offered one?		
C7	If an authorised pitch was available in another Local Authority, would you consider moving there? If 'yes', which Local Authorities?		

SECTION D - FAMILY GROWTH

D1 Is anyone in your household likely to want to move to their own home in the next 5 years?

Yes	<i>Go to D2</i>	
No	<i>Go to D4</i>	
Don't know	<i>Go to D4</i>	
Prefer not to say	<i>Go to D4</i>	

D2 Will this be in this Local Authority?

Yes	<i>Go to D3</i>	
No	<i>Go to D4</i>	
Prefer not to say	<i>Go to D4</i>	

D3 How many new households will there be and when will these be needed?

	Type of accommodation (LA site; private site; B&M housing)	No. of people	Now	Within a year	1-2 years	2-5 years
Household 1						
Household 2						
Household 3						
Household 4						

D4 Do you have family members living outside this area who camp in this Local Authority regularly?

Yes	<i>Go to D5</i>	
No	<i>Go to E1</i>	
Don't know	<i>Go to E1</i>	
Prefer not to say	<i>Go to E1</i>	

D5 If they would like to be interviewed about the need for pitches, provide their contact details and Local Authority where they currently live below:

SECTION E - TRANSIT SITES

E1 Have you camped by the roadside / on an unauthorised encampment / on a transit site in Wales while travelling in the past year?

(Prompt: this information is only to be used to understand if more transit sites are needed)

Yes	Go to E2	
No	Go to E4	
Prefer not to say	Go to E4	

E2 In which Local Authority areas have you camped?

Prefer not to say	

E3 How long would you usually stay in one place whilst travelling?

1 – 2 days	3 days – 1 week	1 – 2 weeks	2 weeks – 1 month	1 – 3 months

E4 Do you think there is a need for more transit sites in Wales?

Yes	Go to E5	
No	Questionnaire ends	
Prefer not to say	Questionnaire ends	

E5 Where are they needed?

(Probe for Local Authorities and specific locations)

Prefer not to say	

Questionnaire ends.

Appendix 2 – Letter sent out to Gypsy Travellers that we were unable to visit

ELLIS COOPER
Director of Customer Services
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Cwsmeriaid

MERTHYR TYDFIL COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL MERTHYR TYDFIL

Canolfan Dloesig
Stryd Y Castell
Merthyr Tydfil
CF47 8AN

Ffôn: (01685) 725452
Ffacs: (01685) 725423



MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TYDFIL

Civic Centre
Castle Street
Merthyr Tydfil
CF47 8AN

Tel: (01685) 725452
Fax: (01685) 725423

Dyddiad/Datwm:

Ein Cyd/Our Ref.:
Eich Cyd/Your Ref.:

Lloell Uelonyrchol/Direct Line : 725452
Gofynnwch am/Please Ask For: Housing Solutions
e-bost/e-mail: housing@merthyr.gov.uk

Dear

I would like to invite you to participate in the Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Assessment (2015) for Merthyr Tydfil.

In the past, the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers have often not been adequately assessed as part of the process by which Local Authorities assess people's housing needs. The consequences of this have been a lack of understanding regarding the current and projected accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers.

The assessment of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs, and the duty to make provision for sites where the assessment identifies need, became statutory requirements under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

If you would like to participate in the assessment, please return the completed questionnaire to the following address or telephone 01685 725452.

Return address:
Ref – Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Assessment
Housing Solutions Team
Civic Centre
Castle Street
Merthyr Tydfil
CF47 8AN

Kind Regards

MTCBC Housing Solutions Team

Appendix 3 - Glossary

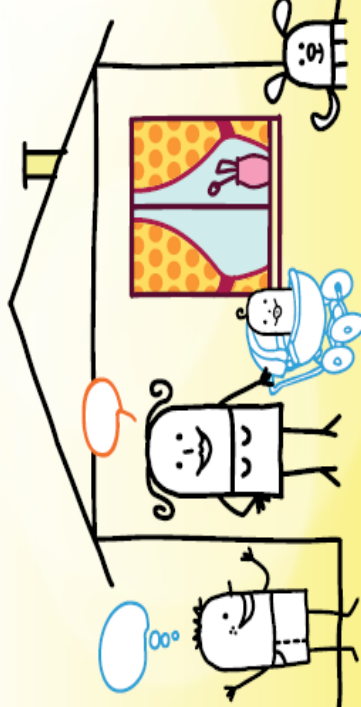
Gypsies and Travellers	<p>Persons of a nomadic habit of life, whatever their race or origin, including:</p> <p>(1) Persons who, on grounds only of their own or their family's or dependant's educational or health needs or old age, have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, and</p> <p>(2) Members of an organized group of travelling show people or circus people (whether or not travelling together as such); and</p> <p>(b) All other persons with a cultural tradition of nomadism or of living in a mobile home.</p> <p>Source: Section 108, Housing (Wales) Act 2014</p>
Residential site	<p>A permanent residential site can be privately owned or owned by the Local Authority. This site will be designated for use as a Gypsy and Traveller site indefinitely. Residents on these sites can expect to occupy their pitches for as long as they abide by the terms of their pitch agreements, under the Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013.</p> <p>Working space may also be provided on, or near, sites for activities carried out by community members.</p>
Temporary residential site	<p>These sites are residential sites which only have planning permission or a site licence for a limited period. Residents on these sites can expect to occupy their pitches for the duration of the planning permission or site licence (or as long as they abide by the terms of their pitch agreements, under the Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013 – whichever is sooner).</p>
Transit site	<p>Transit sites are permanent facilities designed for temporary use by occupiers. These sites must be designated as such and provide a route for Gypsies and Travellers to maintain a nomadic way of life. Individual occupiers are permitted to reside on the site for a maximum of 3 months at a time.</p>

	Specific terms under the Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013 apply on these sites. Working space may also be provided on, or near, sites for activities carried out by community members.
--	---

Gypsy & Traveller Survey: Your Future, Your Say

A new law called the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 means that Councils must assess and make provision for the accommodation needs of Gypsies & Travellers in their area.

The Council would like to speak with all Gypsies & Travellers living in the borough to find out whether your family requires a residential pitch or a yard.

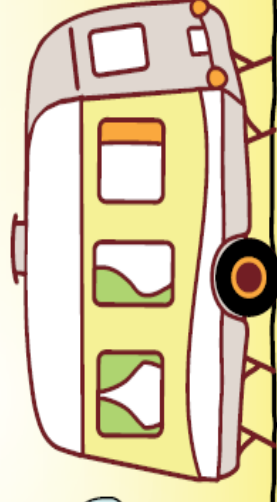


**To speak with the Council, please telephone 01685 725000,
email: Housing@Merthyr.gov.uk
or visit the Civic Centre**

Arolwg Sipsiwn a Theithwyr: Eich Dyfodol, Eich Barn

Mae deddf newydd o'r enw Deddf Tai (Cymru) 2014 yn golygu fod rhaid i Gyngorau asesu a gwneud darpariaeth ar gyfer anghenion llety Sipsiwn a Theithwyr yn eu hardal.

Hoffai'r Cyngor siarad â'r holl Sipsiwn a'r Teithwyr sy'n byw yn y fwrdeistref i ddarganfod os oes angen llain breswyl neu iard ar eich teulu.



**I siarad â'r Cyngor, ffoniwch 01685 725000
E-bost: Housing@Merthyr.gov.uk
neu ewch i Ganolfan Ddinesig**

Appendix 5 – Interview Log

Address	Type of tenure	Interview attempts			Engagement techniques used	Questionnaire completed or refusal?	Reasons for refusal?
(Glyn Mill Plot) 1	Local Authority site	01/10/2015	20/10/2015	04/11/2015	Visit Caravan and contact details left	Refused	Not living on site
2	Local Authority site	01/10/2015			Visit Caravan	Completed	
3	Local Authority site	01/10/2015			Visit Caravan	Completed	
4	Local Authority site	01/10/2015	20/10/2015	04/11/2015	Visit Caravan and contact details left	Refused	Not living on site
5	Local Authority site	01/10/2015	20/10/2015	04/11/2015	Visit Caravan and contact details left	Refused	Not living on site
6	Local Authority site	01/10/2015	20/10/2015	04/11/2015	Visit Caravan and contact details left	Refused	On holiday
7	Local Authority site	01/10/2015			Visit Caravan	Completed	
8	Local Authority	01/10/2015	20/10/2015		Visit Caravan	Completed	

	site								comment
19	Local Authority site	01/10/2015					Visit Caravan	Completed	
20	Local Authority site	01/10/2015	20/10/2015				Visit Caravan	Completed	
21	Local Authority site	01/10/2015	20/10/2015	04/11/2015			Visit Caravan and contact details left	Refused	Not living on site
22	Local Authority site	01/10/2015	20/10/2015				Visit Caravan	Completed	
23	Local Authority site	01/10/2015					Visit Caravan	Completed	
24	Local Authority site	01/10/2015					Visit Caravan	Completed	
Abercanaid, Merthyr Tydfil	Bricks and mortar	05/11/2015	11/11/2015	26/11/2015			House Visit and letter sent containing questionnaire	Did not want to engage	
Bogie Road	Private authorised site	05/11/2015	11/11/2015	26/11/2015			House Visit and letter sent containing questionnaire	Refused	
Swansea Road, Merthyr Tydfil	Bricks and mortar	No Answer 05/11/15	No Answer 11/11/15	No Answer 18/11/15			House Visit and contact details left	Refused	
Dowlais	Bricks and	05/11/2015					House Visit		

Merthyr Tydfil	mortar							
Galon Uchaf, Merthyr Tydfil	Bricks and mortar	05/11/2015	11/11/2015	26/11/2015	House Visit and letter sent containing questionnaire	Did not want to engage		
Galon Uchaf, Merthyr Tydfil.	Bricks and mortar	05/11/2015	11/11/2015	26/11/2015	House Visit and letter sent containing questionnaire	Did not want to engage		
Penydarren, Merthyr Tydfil	Bricks and mortar	05/11/2015	11/11/2015	26/11/2015	House Visit and letter sent containing questionnaire	Did not want to engage		
Gurnos, Merthyr Tydfil	Bricks and mortar	05/11/2015	11/11/2015	26/11/2015	House Visit and letter sent containing questionnaire	Did not want to engage		

Appendix 6 – Questionnaire Results

Section A - Your Home

A1 Where do you live now?

Local Authority residential site	16
Council transit site	0
Private site with planning permission	0
Private site currently without planning permission	0
Unauthorised encampment	0
Bricks and Mortar - Socially Rented	5
Bricks and Mortar - Private Rented	2
Bricks and Mortar - Owner Occupied	0

23

A2 Are you satisfied with your current accommodation?

Yes	16
No	5
Prefer not to say	2

If "no" please explain what could be improved:

- Needs toilets and mains water.
- Not happy with site and would like to relocate
- Street lighting
- Utility bills
- Pathways and drainage need improving
- Street Lighting
- feel unsafe want a LA warden
- Utilities too expensive
- Issues with neighbour
- Reduce damp (B&M)

A3 Can you tell me why you live here?

Local connections (family or work)	18
No alternative authorised pitch	4
Can't find a house to move into	0
Health or age reasons	0
Prefer houses to caravans	0
Other	2

- Needed a larger house
- House swap

A4 How long have you lived here?

Less than 1 month	0
1 - 6 months	5
7 - 12 months	1
1 - 2 years	6
2 - 5 years	2
Over 5 years	9

A5 If you have moved within the last year, was your last home in this Local Authority?

Yes	4
No	5

Please give details below:

Type of Accommodation	Did it have planning permission?	Which Authority was it in?	Local	Why did you leave?
3 People moving to Bricks and mortar accommodation	Yes	Merthyr	Local	Accommodation, Change of scenery, Previous unauthorised site
2 families moving trailer		Bridgend		
1 family moving site		Abergavenny		

A6 How long do you think you'll stay here?

1 or 2 days	1
3 - 28 days	1
1 - 3 months	1
3 months - 2 years	1
2 - 5 years	0
Over 5 years	1
Don't intend to move	8
Don't know	11

A7 Would you stay longer if changes or improvements were made to your current accommodation?

Yes - repairs needed	8
Yes - site made bigger	0
Yes - accommodation made safer	3
Yes - planning permission granted	0
Yes - adaptations needed	1
No - just passing through	0
No - want authorised pitch in other area	1
No - want to move into housing	2
No - relationships broken down	0
No - prefer living in a caravan	0

Section B - Your Family

B1 – Family Ethnicity

Total	
Not Stated	9
Romani	3
Irish	1
Roma	1
Welsh Traveller	1
Gypsy	7
Traveller	1
	23

B2 If living in caravans, are there enough sleeping areas for all residents?

Yes	15
No	1

B3 Is there room on the pitch for additional trailers to prevent overcrowding?

Yes	12
No	4

How many additional sleeping areas can be added	14
---	----

B4 Would anyone in your family like to join the Local Authority waiting list for pitches or housing?

Yes	5
No	18

Section C - Your Plans

C1 Are you planning to move into other accommodation?

Yes	5
No	17
Prefer not to say	1

C2 Where are you planning to move to?

Within Merthyr	4
Another local authority in Wales	0
Somewhere else in the UK	1

C3 Why are you planning to move?

Need more space	0
Need different facilities	0
Local connection (family or work)	0
Need to be closer to services	1
Employment opportunities	0
Other	5

- Damp in current property
- Need a cheaper property
- Issues with neighbour
- Issues with site owner

C4 What type of accommodation are you planning to move to?

Site - social rented	2
Site - private owned by self	0
Site - private owned by other	1
Bricks and mortar - owner occupied	0
Bricks and mortar - social rented	4
Bricks and mortar - private rented	0

C5 Do you own land in the Local Authority which you would like to be considered as a possible future site?

Yes	1
No	7
Prefer not to say	0

C6 If you are looking for an authorised pitch, would you live on a site managed by the Local Authority if offered one?

Yes	4
No	5

C7 If an authorised pitch was available in another Local Authority would you consider moving there?

Yes	4
No	3
Which Local Authorities?	

Section D - Family Growth

D1 Is anyone in your household likely to want to move to their own home in the next 5 years?

Yes	4
No	18
Don't know	1
Prefer not to say	0

D2 Will this be in this Local Authority?

Yes	4
No	1
Prefer not to say	0

D3 How many new households will there be and when will these be needed?

	Type of Accommodation	No. of people	Now	Within a year	1 - 2 years	2 - 5 years
Household 1	LA Site (Caravan)	1		1		
Household 2	Bricks and Mortar	2		1		
Household 3	Bricks and Mortar	2 or 3			1	
Household 4	Bricks and Mortar	1			1	
Household 5	LA Site (Caravan)	2			1	

D4 Do you have family members living outside Merthyr who camp here regularly?

Yes	8
No	14
Don't know	0
Prefer not to say	0

Section E - Transit Sites

E1 Have you camped by the roadside / on an unauthorised encampment / on a transit site in Wales while travelling in the past year?

Yes	12
No	9
Prefer not to say	0

E2 In which local authority areas have you camped?

- Hereford
- Birmingham
- Bristol
- Rochdale
- Everywhere in the UK
- Newport
- Cardiff
- Pontypool
- Brighton
- Abergavenny

- London
- Ledbury
- Chester
- Swansea
- Bridgend
- Carmarthen

Prefer not to say	1
-------------------	---

E3 How long would you usually stay in one place whilst travelling?

1 - 2 days	9
3 days - 1 week	3
1 - 2 weeks	1
2 weeks - 1 month	3
1 - 3 months	1
	17

E4 Do you think there is a need for more transit sites in Wales?

Yes	20
No	0
Prefer not to say	0

E5 Where are they needed?

- Hereford
- Birmingham
- Bristol
- Rochdale
- Everywhere in the UK
- Newport
- Cardiff
- Pontypool
- Brighton
- Abergavenny
- London
- Ledbury
- Chester
- Swansea
- Bridgend
- Carmarthen
- Merthyr
- Aberdare
- Brecon
- Brynmawr
- M4 Corridor
- Pontypridd