

2018

Merthyr Tydfil
Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment
(GTAA) Update

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this assessment is to update the assessment of the housing needs of Gypsy Travellers residing in Merthyr Tydfil that was completed in 2016. The reason for the update is to provide a robust and up-to-date evidence base to support the Replacement Local Development Plan (LDP) 2016-2031.
- 1.2 This assessment aims to identify if any additional housing provision is required for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople and will inform the Replacement Local Development Plan.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 There are currently 26 authorised Gypsy and Traveller pitches in Merthyr Tydfil. Of these 24 are based at the public site at Glynmil, 1 is at Land to the North of The Marshalls in Abercanaid, and 1 is at Land north west of Aartel Bungalow in Merthyr Tydfil. There is also a long-term tolerated pitch at a site on Bogey Road. In addition, a total of 15 potential Traveller households living in bricks and mortar accommodation across Merthyr Tydfil were identified and visited.
- 1.5 There are currently three authorised Gypsy Traveller sites in Merthyr Tydfil:
 - Glynmil, located in between the A4060 dual carriageway, accommodates 24 pitches as well as site amenity blocks and a community centre. The site is privately owned and managed and is leased by the Council.
 - Land north west of Aartel Bungalow at Brecon Road is privately owned and accommodates 1 pitch.
 - Land to the north of The Marshalls in Abercanaid is privately owned and accommodates 1 pitch.
- 1.6 There is also one historic encampment located on the Bogey Road. This has been there for some years and is a tolerated site. It accommodated one household although the household interview identified that the site is no longer occupied, and the owners are looking to dispose of it.
- 1.7 Using the approved methodology from Welsh Government guidance document “Undertaking Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments”, it is anticipated, based on new need arising and supply of pitches at Glynmil, that there will be a surplus of 8 pitches at the end of the 5-year period (2023) and a surplus of 4 pitches at the end of the Replacement LDP period in 2031. In addition, need to 2024-25 (to coincide with the future mandatory LDP Plan Review period) will be a surplus of 7 pitches as a result of further new household formation.

Therefore, there is no need for any additional pitches or additional sites Gypsies and Travellers in Merthyr Tydfil.

- 1.8 No Travelling Showpeople were identified so there is no current or future need for additional plots.
- 1.9 During the interview process, 3 of 12 households that were interviewed stated that they had camped by a roadside / transit site / unauthorised encampment over the past year, whilst 8 of the 12 households felt that there is a need for more transit pitches in Wales. However, as there is only anecdotal evidence of people stopping in Merthyr Tydfil; no formal records of any unauthorised encampments in recent years; and no transit caravans identified in the Caravan Count: there is also no identifiable need for a transit/stopping site in Merthyr Tydfil.

2. Policy Context

Introduction

- 2.1 The primary objective of this Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) is to provide a robust assessment of current and future need for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation in Merthyr Tydfil for the Replacement LDP plan period to 2031. The outcomes of this study update the previous 2016 study which will be superseded.
- 2.2 This assessment aims to identify if any additional housing provision is required for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in Merthyr Tydfil, and will inform the Replacement Local Development Plan (LDP) in accordance with existing Welsh Government guidance.
- 2.3 The assessment of Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showperson accommodation needs, and the duty to make provision for sites where the assessment identifies need, became statutory requirements under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.
- 2.4 In the past, the accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople have often not been adequately assessed as part of the process by which Local Authorities assess people's wider housing needs. The consequences of this have been a lack of understanding regarding the current and projected accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers.
- 2.5 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.”

- 2.6 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 Travellers for the purposes of this assessment.
- 2.7 A broad definition is necessary to achieve a full understanding of the accommodation needs of these communities. Travellers, and their children and other relatives, in bricks and mortar housing may also 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 Travellers will also help identify the ways in which housing may be made to work better for them and made more attractive to 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.
- 2.8 A Glossary of terms can be found in **Appendix 3**.
- 2.9 An understanding of Traveller accommodation issues is essential to make properly planned provision and avoid the problems associated with ad hoc or unauthorised provision. A comprehensive GTAA (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.
- 2.10 Local Authorities in Wales are required under the Act to undertake a GTAA every 5 years from 2015, and to make provision for sites where the assessment identifies an unmet need for mobile home pitches and plots. The next round of formal GTAA reviews will take place in 2020-21.

Demographics

- 2.11 At the time of the 2011 Census Merthyr Tydfil 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 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.

- 2.12 Gypsies and Travellers will typically form only a very small percentage of the total population in any given area in Wales. The 2011 Census 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 or Irish Traveller in Merthyr Tydfil in the 2011 Census (Figure 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. The individuals who identified as Gypsies or Irish Travellers lived in a total of 29 properties – 16 in a house or a bungalow, 4 in a flat or maisonette, and 9 in a caravan or other mobile structure.

Figure 1 – Ethnicity of residents in Merthyr Tydfil (Source – 2011 Census)

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

- 2.13 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.
- 2.14 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.
- 2.15 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.
- 2.16 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, with the next full assessment due to commence in 2020.

Policy and Planning Context

Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013

- 2.17 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.
- 2.18 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

- 2.19 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. In 2017 Welsh Government consulted on a draft Circular to update this guidance however at the time of writing this had not been published.

Circular 78/91 Travelling showpeople

- 2.20 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 – The Merthyr Tydfil Local Development Plan 2006-2021

- The 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.*

LDP Policies – First Replacement Local Development Plan 2016-2031

- Policy SW7 – Gypsy, Traveller and Showpeople sites in the LDP Preferred Strategy sets out that the site at Glynmil is the preferred location for development for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople needs.
- The draft policy also sets out that development for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople needs will be the subject of a criteria-based policy in the Deposit Plan.

Planning Applications

^{2.21} The only planning applications that the Council have received for residential caravans in recent years have been:

- Land north west of Aartel Bungalow in Merthyr Tydfil (one caravan). Proposals were refused twice due to the location of the caravan within an industrial estate. However, the application was allowed following a successful appeal decision in November 2016.
- One caravan has been permitted on Land to the north of The Marshalls in Upper Abercanaid, but on a site that could accommodate many more units.
- A certificate of lawfulness application for a single residential caravan at land at at Heolgerrig. However, the residents are not understood to be Gypsies or Travellers.

3. Background and Analysis of Existing Data

Previous Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment Findings

3.1 The most recent GTAA's for Merthyr Tydfil were completed in 2008 and 2016. The 2008 GTAA was completed by Fordham Research. The key findings from the study are set out below:

- There was a shortage of residential accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers in Merthyr Tydfil. There was 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 estimated that the Council needed to provide an additional 10 pitches for the period 2007-12. Figure 2 sets out the need identified in the 2008 GTAA.
- 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 reason, 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.

3.2 The 2008 GTAA made a total of 12 recommendations 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 for the period 2007-12.
- 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 was recommended that current management responsibilities are improved.
- It was recommended that a clear and transparent method of reporting and tracking faults should be implemented on the site.
- It was 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.

3.3 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.

Figure 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

3.4 The 2016 GTAA for Merthyr Tydfil was completed by in-house by Council Officers. The key findings from the study were as follows:

- 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 the Glynmil site, 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 any additional pitches or an additional site in Merthyr Tydfil for the first 5 year period of the GTAA.
- 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 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.

2011 Census

- 3.5 The 2011 Census recorded 24,264 houses in Merthyr Tydfil. Merthyr Tydfil has a significantly higher proportion of older housing stock than elsewhere in Wales, which manifests itself in a high rate of unfitness, 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. Figure 3 illustrate the type of housing for Gypsies and Irish Travellers in Wales and Merthyr Tydfil based on data from the 2011 Census.
- 3.6 At the time of the 2011 Census, there were 29 identified gypsy/traveller households residing in Merthyr Tydfil.

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

Accommodation Type	Total	House or bungalow	Flat, maisonette or apartment	Caravan or other mobile or temporary structure
Wales	1,004	602	116	286
Merthyr Tydfil	29	16	4	9

Current Accommodation Provision

- 3.7 The desk-based research to support the update of the GTAA, including a review of data from the latest Welsh Government Caravan Count in January 2018, identified a total of 26 authorised Gypsy and Traveller pitches in Merthyr Tydfil. Of these 24 are located on the public site at Glynmil, 1 is on Land to the North of The Marshalls in Abercanaid, and 1 is on Land north west of Aartel Bungalow in Merthyr Tydfil. There is also a long-term tolerated pitch at a site on Bogey Road. In addition, a total of 15 potential Traveller households living in bricks and mortar accommodation across Merthyr Tydfil were identified and visited.
- 3.8 The public site is owned by a private owner who also manages the site, but it is leased back to the Council. The new amenity blocks and community centre at the site were constructed using Welsh Government grant funding, which also paid for improvements throughout the site. Figures 4 and 5 demonstrate the location of the public site at Glynmil.

Figure 4 – Wider View of Glynmil

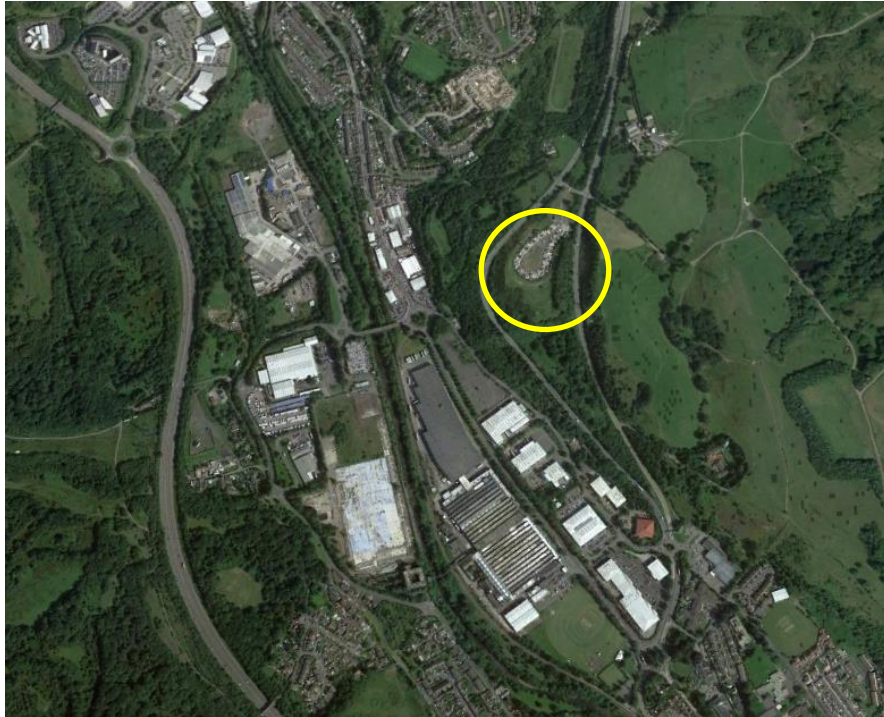


Figure 5 – View of Glynmil



4. Methodology

- 4.1 The GTAA Update was completed by Opinion Research Services (ORS) Ltd. who are a social research consultancy based in Swansea. ORS completed or supported GTAAs for 6 local authorities in Wales during the first round of assessments under the Housing (Wales) Act between 2015 and 2016.
- 4.2 This study updates the previously approved 2016 GTAA that contained projections to the end of the current Adopted LDP Plan period (i.e. to 2021) rather than for a 15 year period. This 2018 study contains updated survey data and seeks to project forward needs beyond the first five years of the 2016 study in order to provide a robust projection to 2031.
- 4.3 The Gypsy Traveller Steering Group was established in 2014 in response to issues that were being experienced on the public site at Glynmil and it is a multi-agency group which met quarterly and comprised the following members:
- Communities First
 - Community Cohesion MTCBC/RCT
 - Community Safety MTCBC
 - CYNFIN
 - Drink Wise
 - Education MTCBC
 - Environmental Health MTCBC
 - Equality Champion (Councillor)
 - Estates MTCBC
 - Fire service
 - Hate Crime Officer South Wales Police
 - Head4Arts
 - Housing MTCBC
 - Magnet
 - Representatives from the Gypsy Traveller Community
 - South Wales Police
 - SRN Nurse
 - Street Games
 - Street Games/Youth Service MTCBC
 - Travelling Ahead Project
 - Youth Support
- 4.4 It is understood that Traveller Steering Group has now been disbanded.

- 4.5 The Steering Group met to inform the 2016 study which this study provides an update to. Previously, Council Officers undertook the Gypsy and Traveller fieldwork, however as these Officers are no longer in place updated fieldwork has been undertaken by ORS.
- 4.6 Due to the timescales involved in completing the GTAA Update (during April and May 2018) to meet the requirements of the Replacement Local Development Plan, and the fact that the previous Steering Group has been disbanded, it was not possible to involve a Gypsy and Traveller Steering Group in the preparations of the survey work as set out in the GTAA Guidance. At the time of writing the Council were in the process of recruiting a new Gypsy and Traveller Community Cohesion Officer and other members of the group, such as the Bridges Project, were no longer available as the project has now ended.
- 4.7 The GTAA Guidance sets out that the key responsibilities of the Steering Group should be to agree on the aims and objectives of the study; promote the benefits of the study to members of the Travelling Community; help identify households living in bricks and mortar and on unauthorised sites and encampments; provide expert stakeholder input into the identification of local need; provide feedback on the emerging outputs from the study; and to share and promote the final outcomes to members of the Travelling Community.
- 4.8 Given the low number of sites; low numbers of households in bricks and mortar; the outcomes of the involvement of the Steering Group in the 2016 GTAA; and limited issues identified through local authority monitoring; it was felt that it would be unfeasible to establish a new Steering Group to provide their views on the GTAA Report and to promote the outcomes of the Study Update to members of the Travelling Community. No issues were previously raised by the Steering Group that are considered as causing an issue for the updated survey work. Therefore, it is not considered that this should unduly affect the findings of this update which seeks to project needs beyond 2021 to 2031. However the outcomes of the updated GTAA will be shared with any members of the previous Steering Group that are still active in Merthyr Tydfil to seek their comments.
- 4.9 The fieldwork was completed by experienced ORS interviewers who are accredited under the Interviewer Quality Control Scheme (IQCS) and the Market Research Society (MRS) Code of Conduct. IQCS requires research companies to adhere to a set of benchmark market research industry standards. These cover the recruitment, training and appraisal of fieldwork staff, and the implementation of various administrative and validation procedures to maintain the quality and accuracy of data collected.
- 4.10 All potential Gypsies and Travellers that were identified living in both caravans and bricks and mortar accommodation were visited and interviewed. The interviews lasted between 15-20 minutes. The interview questions were those set out in the GTAA Guidance. Where it was not possible to complete an interview despite three visits, a letter was sent to each household asking that they contact ORS to either arrange for an interview to be


completed face-to-face or over the telephone, or to state that they did not wish to be interviewed. A copy of the questionnaire can be found in **Appendix 1**.

- 4.11 The site and bricks and mortar interviews were undertaken on three separate dates on 12th May, 15th May and 21st May 2018. Whilst it would have been preferable to leave more time between the visits in order to capture views of residents who may have been away at the time, it was necessary due to the timescale to complete the assessment to enable the report to be used as an evidence base to support the Replacement LDP Consultation in June/July 2018. Whilst there were 6 interviews completed with households living in bricks and mortar to support the previous GTAA, one household is now vacant and for sale, one is now occupied by non-Travellers and one refused to be interviewed. Letters were left with all the households where an interview was not possible asking residents to contact ORS if they had any accommodation needs. No replies were received.
- 4.12 A copy of the interview log can be found in **Appendix 4**.
- 4.13 The Council used a range of engagement methods in May and June 2018 to encourage participation of the Gypsy and Traveller community in the GTAA. The consultation stage of the GTAA was undertaken in accordance the key requirements set out in the Engagement Checklist specified by Welsh Government below and is considered to provide robust evidence to inform the study update and inform the Replacement LDP.
- Researchers visited every Gypsy and Traveller household identified through the desk-based research process up to 3 times, if necessary.
 - Details of the GTAA were published, including contact details to allow community members to request an interview, on the local authority website and the Friends, Families and Travellers website.
 - The Showmen's Guild were contacted.
 - Contact details that were provided by the local authority through the desk-based research process were all followed up.
 - Public consultation posters were displayed in Council buildings and on the Council's consultation webpage.
- 4.14 No alterations were made to the universal questionnaire, other than to make it suitable for automatic processing by ORS' back-office systems. This is in line with previous feedback from the Gypsy and Traveller Steering Group as part of the 2016 study.

Figure 6 – Online Adverts and Poster

Gypsy, Travellers and Showpeople - do you or your family need a pitch in Merthyr Tydfil County Borough?

CATEGORIES: PRESS RELEASE | 02 MAY 2018



Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council is supporting the Welsh Governments' Survey: Gypsy Traveller and Show people Sites.

We'd like to know the 'real' housing needs of your families within the County Borough. This will make sure we have the right number of pitches or sites put by for your needs right up to 2031.

We'd like your views by the end of May 2018, so that we have a better idea how to support you and your family and meet our legal housing duty.

Please make sure we know about all your housing needs by contacting Claire Thomas at:

Telephone: 01792 535337

Email: claire.thomas@ors.org.uk

Website: <https://www.livingmerthyrttydfil.org.uk/>


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Published: Wednesday 2 May 2018



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council is supporting the Welsh Governments' Survey: Gypsy Traveller and Show people Sites.

We'd like to know the 'real' housing needs of your families within the County Borough. If you would like to take part or want more information please [click here](#)

Quick navigation

May 2018

- Gypsy, Travellers and Showpeople Do you or your family need a pitch in Merthyr Tydfil County Borough?

Sipsiwn, Teithwyr a Phobl Sioe - Oes angen llain arnoch chi neu ar aelod o'ch teulu ym Mwrdeistref Sirol Merthyr Tudful?



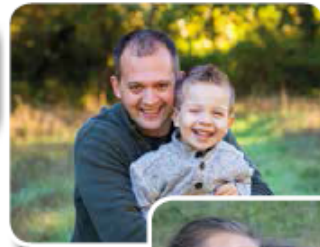
Byddem yn hoffi gwybod 'gwir' anghenion llety eich teuluoedd yn y Fwrdeistref Sirol. Bydd hyn yn sicrhau fod gennym y nifer cywir o leiniau neu safleoedd wedi eu neilltuo yn y Cynllun Datblygu Lleol Newydd (2016 - 2031) sydd yn awr yn cael ei baratoi ar gyfer eich anghenion hyd at 2031.

Siaradwch â Claire Thomas er mwyn cyfranogi mewn arolwg er mwyn sicrhau ein bod yn gwybod popeth am eich anghenion llety.

Byddem yn hoffi clywed eich safbwyntiau erbyn diwedd Mai 2018, fel bod gennym well syniad o sut allwn eich cefnogi chi a'ch teulu a chyflawni'n cyfrifoldeb tai cyfreithiol.

Mae Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Merthyr Tudful yn cefnogi arolwg Llywodraeth Cymru:

Safleoedd Sipsiwn, Teithwyr a Phobl Sioe
"Dweud eich Dweud am Eich Dyfodol"



Gypsy, Travellers and Showpeople - Do you or your family need a pitch in Merthyr Tydfil County Borough?

We'd like to know the 'real' housing needs of your families within the County Borough. This will make sure we have the right number of pitches or sites put by, in the Replacement Local Development Plan (2016 - 2031) now being prepared, for your needs right up to 2031.

Please talk to Claire Thomas to take part in a survey to make sure we know about all your housing needs.

We'd like your views by the end of May 2018, so that we have a better idea how to support you and your family and meet our legal housing duty.

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council is supporting the Welsh Governments' Survey:

Gypsy Traveller and Showpeople Sites
"Your Say, Your Future"

Ffon/Telephone: 01792 535337
E-bost/Email: claire.thomas@ors.org.uk
Gwefan/Website: www.livingmerthyrtydfil.org.uk/

5. Survey Findings

Location and Ethnicity of Travellers in Merthyr Tydfil

- 5.1 A total of 12 Gypsy and Traveller Households were interviewed; 11 residents at Glynmil and 1 in social rented bricks and mortar accommodation. All of the 41 households that we identified were visited up to three times (if necessary). Of the 12 that were not available during the fieldwork period, information was sent out via post setting out how households could contact ORS to complete an interview. However, no further contacts were received. Figure 7 demonstrates where Gypsy Travellers are housed and how many interviews were completed.

Figure 7 – Where identified Gypsies and Travellers in Merthyr are housed and how many took part in an interview

Location of Household	Households	Interviews
Local Authority residential site	24	11
Private site with planning permission	2	0
Private site/pitch without planning permission	1	0
Unauthorised encampment	0	0
Bricks and Mortar	15	1

- 5.2 Of the 12 households interviewed, all stated their ethnicity. A total of 4 households identified as 'Traveller'; 3 households identified as 'Gypsy'; 3 households identified as 'Romany Gypsy'; a household identified as 'Irish Traveller'; and 1 household identified as 'Welsh Gypsy'. Please refer to Figure 8 below.

Figure 8 - Ethnicity of Households

Ethnicity	Number
Traveller	4
Gypsy	3
Romany Gypsy	3
Irish Traveller	1
Welsh Gypsy	1

Satisfaction with Accommodation

- 5.3 Of the 12 households, 8 stated that they were happy with the accommodation that they lived in and 4 were not. Figure 9 highlights this.
- 5.4 The reasons why the 4 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:

5.5 Issues at Glynmil:

- Lack of privacy and would like to relocate.
- Poor quality of utility blocks.
- Utility bills too expensive and not transparent (i.e. site wide rather than individual bills).
- Poor heating during winter months.

5.6 Issues in bricks and mortar accommodation:

- Currently no hot water.
- Damaged double glazing that the Council will not pay to replace.

Figure 9 - Satisfaction with your current accommodation

Satisfied with Accommodation?	Number of Households
Yes	8
No	4

- 5.7 Of the 11 residents interviewed on site (living in caravans), none stated that they were overcrowded. There was room on 5 of the pitches to accommodate additional travellers which could increase the number of sleeping areas on site by 6 (possibly taking the total to 30 households).

Figure 10 - Are there enough sleeping areas if living in caravans?

Yes	11
No	0

Figure 11 – is there enough room on the pitch for additional trailers?

Yes	5
No	6

How many additional sleeping areas can be added?	6
--	---

Current Accommodation

- 5.8 None of the households interviewed would like to join the Local Authority waiting list for pitches or housing, and 1 household is currently on the general waiting list for a bricks and mortar property. Given that an additional 3 households are seeking to move away

from the site this suggests that Gypsy Travellers living in both caravans are unlikely to seek help from the Local Authority when looking for a place to live.

Figure 12 - Would anyone in your family like to join the Local Authority waiting list for pitches or housing?

Yes	1
No	10

- 5.9 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. A total of 9 households that were interviewed fell into this category. The other 2 households stated that they planned to stay for between 3 months and 2 years. Figure 13 highlights this.

Figure 13 – Predicted length of stay

1 or 2 days	0
3 - 28 days	0
1 - 3 months	0
3 months - 2 years	2
2 - 5 years	0
Over 5 years	0
Don't intend to move	4
Don't know	5

- 5.10 None of the residents stated that changes to the site would impact on the time they were planning to stay, although a number did highlight some problems that did need to be addressed including the cost of utility bills, problems with utility buildings, and poor heating during winter months.

Future Accommodation Aspirations

- 5.11 Of the 12 households that were interviewed, 8 households said that they were not planning to move to other accommodation, and 4 were planning to move. Of these 3 are seeking to move to bricks and mortar in Merthyr Tydfil, and 1 is planning to move to a site in another local authority in Wales.
- 5.12 The tables below (Figures 14-18) 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.

Figure 14 - Are you planning to move into other accommodation?

Yes	4
No	8

Figure 15 - Where are you planning to move to?

Within Merthyr	3
Another local authority in Wales	1
Somewhere else in the UK	0

Figure 16 - Why are you planning to move?

Need more space	1
Need different facilities	0
Local connection (family or work)	2
Need to be closer to services	0
Employment opportunities	0
Other (need more privacy)	1

Figure 17 - What type of accommodation are you planning to move to?

Site - social rented	1
Site - private owned by self	0
Site - private owned by other	0
Bricks and mortar - owner occupied	0
Bricks and mortar - social rented	3
Bricks and mortar - private rented	0

Figure 18 - Do you own land in the Local Authority which you would like to be considered as a possible future site?

Yes	0
No	12

Number of Expected New Households within 5 Years

- ^{5.13} The survey indicates (Figure 19) that there is 1 potential new household forming over the next five years and this is from a teenage child who will be in need of a pitch of their own in the next 2-5 years. In addition, households seeking to move to bricks and mortar chose to answer this question during the household interview – however these will not form new households as they are already established adult household units.

- 5.14 The accommodation needs of Travellers seeking accommodation in bricks and mortar accommodation will be met through social housing (the Housing Choice scheme).

Figure 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
LA Site (Caravan)	1	0	0	0	1

6. Assessing Accommodation Needs

Needs Assessment

- 6.1 Whilst the fieldwork for the updated assessment of need was completed in 2018, the assessment also needs to cover the Replacement Local Plan period 2016-2031. As this update includes survey data about existing Gypsy and Travellers current and future accommodation needs as at May/June 2018 it is necessary to use 2018 as the base date for the assessment. Consequently, the supply and demand for the period 2016-2018 has been netted to zero and the updated GTAA starts with a new baseline date of 2018 and projects forward to 2031. However, for consistency with existing Welsh Government guidance, and to clarify needs across the Replacement Plan period commentary is provided from 2016. This is an approach that has been used in a number of other GTAAs completed by ORS for local authorities in England which has been consistently accepted as evidence by Planning Inspectors at Local Plan Examinations.
- 6.2 Using the approved methodology from Welsh Governments “Undertaking Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments” guidance, it is anticipated that for Gypsies and Travellers, based on new need arising, there will be a surplus of 8 pitches at the end of the first 5-year period of the GTAA (2018-23)¹ and a surplus of 4 pitches by the end of the GTAA period in 2031¹. In addition, need to 2024-25 (to coincide with the future mandatory LDP Plan Review period) will be a surplus of 7 pitches as a result of further new household formation.
- 6.3 There were no Travelling Showpeople identified living in Merthyr Tydfil so there is no current or future need for any additional plots.
- 6.4 Given that there are no unlawful encampments; few incidences of people stopping by the roadside and the short-term 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.
- 6.5 The tables below set out the calculations for the assessment of need.

¹ Including zero additional pitches for the period 2016-18 (see Paragraph 6.1).

Figure 20 – Needs Assessment

Current Residential Supply	Number of Pitches
A. Occupied Local Authority Pitches	18
B. Occupied Authorised Pitches	2
Total	20

Planned Residential Supply	Number of Pitches
C. Vacant Local Authority pitches and available vacant private pitches	6
D. Pitches expected to become vacant in the near future	4
E. New Local Authority and private pitches with planning permission	0
Total	10

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

Current Households	Future Households at year 5 (2023): +1 teenager	Future Households (LDP Plan Period (2031) 21 households @ 1.90%)
K. 11 (Current Residential Supply + Current Residential Demand - Expected Vacant Pitches)	18	22
L. Additional household pitch need	1	4

Unmet Need	Need Arising	Need Accommodated
M. Current residential demand	1	
N. Future residential demand (5 year)	1	
O. Future residential demand (remaining LDP plan period to 2031)	4	
P. Planned residential supply		10
Q. Unmet need (5-year period to 2023)	Surplus of 8 pitches	
R. Unmet need (LDP Period to 2031)	Surplus of 4 pitches	

Assumptions Underlying the Needs Assessment

- 6.6 There are currently 26 authorised pitches available in Merthyr Tydfil; 24 at the public site at Glynmil; 1 at land north west of Aartel Bungalow; and 1 at land to the north of The Marshalls. There is also a long-term tolerated pitch on a site at Bogey Road – however this has now been vacated and it is understood that there are no plans for it to be reoccupied.
- 6.7 There were 6 vacant pitches at Glynmil at the time of the fieldwork, and a further 4 households on the site that were interviewed stated that they are planning to move to either bricks and mortar in Merthyr or to a site in another local authority in Wales.
- 6.8 In terms of any additional supply, there are no planned supply of additional sites or pitches; no planning applications awaiting determination; and no planning appeals awaiting determination.
- 6.9 Records from the Estates Team at the Council suggests that on average 4 pitches at the Glynmil site become vacant per annum and historic records going back to before the 2008 GTAA indicate that there has been a surplus of vacant pitches in recent years – to the point that some pitches were mothballed.
- 6.10 There are also currently no households on the waiting list for a pitch on the Glynmil site, so it can be assumed that there is no demand for pitches on the site, including from households currently living in bricks and mortar.
- 6.11 There was one additional unauthorised static caravan on the site at land to the north of The Marshalls. This is the subject of an ongoing investigation by the Council. This is included in Row G of the assessment as an unauthorised development.
- 6.12 There was no over-crowding identified or observed at Glynmil or the 2 private sites. The outcomes of the household interviews identified that one new household is likely to form during the first 5 years of the GTAA period to 2023 and this is from a teenager who will need a pitch of their own in the next 2-5 years.
- 6.13 No demand was identified from the household that was interviewed who was living in bricks and mortar; no demand from households living in bricks and mortar was identified in the 2016 GTAA; no bricks and mortar households are on the waiting list for the public site; and there are no undetermined or pre-application enquiries for new sites from households in bricks and mortar. In addition, no travellers in bricks that were not interviewed and were sent a letter contacted ORS to inform them of any current or future accommodation needs. It is therefore reasonable to assume that there is no current or future residential demand arising from households in bricks and mortar in Merthyr Tydfil.
- 6.14 Analysis of the household demographics suggests that a new household formation rate of 1.90% should be applied to estimate new household formation for years 6-13 of the GTAA to 2031. This figure has been arrived at by adjusting the ORS national formation

rate of 1.50% based on the demographics of the households that were interviewed. The 1.50% national figure is based on 36% of the population being aged under 18. In Merthyr the proportion of site residents aged under 18 was 46% so the national rate of 1.50% has been adjusted upwards to 1.90%.

- 6.15 Whilst it was not possible to interview some of the households due to either a refusal or households not being present during the fieldwork, these households have been included in the base for the calculation of new household formation.
- 6.16 Overall this suggests that a further 4 households will form over the remainder of the GTAA period to 2031.
- 6.17 When the number of current vacant pitches and those additional pitches that are likely to become vacant based on past trends are factored into the need calculation, there are enough surplus pitches to meet demand over both the next five years, and the overall Replacement LDP period to 2031.

Transit Need

- 6.18 Caravan Count Data and local records do not show any unauthorised encampments in Merthyr Tydfil.
- 6.19 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.
- 6.20 During the interview process, only 3 of the 12 households stated that they had camped by a roadside/transit site/unauthorised encampment over the past year. These stays were all for periods of 1-3 months and were relatively local in nature (Bridgend, Herefordshire and Newport).
- 6.21 A total of 8 residents who were interviewed stated that they thought there should be more transit sites in Wales; with a small number stating that there should be some provision in Merthyr Tydfil.
- 6.22 In addition various discussions have taken place with both Caerphilly CBC and Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC. Along with Merthyr Tydfil, neither of these Authorities seemed to have a problem with unauthorised encampments or any issues with Travellers passing through.
- 6.23 Given that there are no unlawful encampments; few incidences of people stopping by the roadside and the short-term 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.

Figure 21 – Have you camped by the roadside / on an unauthorised encampment / on a transit site in Wales while travelling in the past year?

Yes	3
No	9

Figure 22 – How long would you usually stay in one place whilst travelling?

1 - 2 days	0
3 days - 1 week	0
1 - 2 weeks	0
2 weeks - 1 month	0
1 - 3 months	3

Figure 23 - Do you think there is a need for more transit sites in Wales?

Yes	8
No	3
Don't know	1

7. Conclusions, Recommendations and Next Steps

- 7.1 This Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Update has analysed a range of secondary and primary data sources to assess the housing needs of the Gypsy and Traveller Community in Merthyr Tydfil County Borough.
- 7.2 Secondary information from the 2011 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. A total of 12 interviews were completed. The primary and secondary data gathered enabled a thorough needs assessment to be undertaken which questioned whether there were additional needs for pitches, sites or transit sites.
- 7.3 In addition to one unauthorised static caravan on a site which only has planning permission for a single park home, one new household is expected to form in the first 5 years of the GTAA period, with a further four new households forming in years 6-13 of the GTAA.
- 7.4 When the supply of pitches from the public site at Glynmil are taken in to consideration, there is a surplus of 8 pitches in the first 5 years, and a surplus of 4 at the end of the GTAA period in 2031.
- 7.5 There is also no evidence that suggests that a transit site or an emergency stopping place is needed. However, there may indeed be a need for a regional site. This will be duly discussed with neighbouring authorities based on data that has been collected since respective GTAA's were completed in 2016. Regional meetings will continue to take place to analyse the need for a transit site.
- 7.6 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.
- 7.7 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. This plan will be monitored annually and updated as necessary. It is understood that Welsh Government will be consulting on updated guidance prior to the next round of formal Gypsy and Traveller Assessments in Wales in 2020-21.

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Appendix 1 - GTAA Universal Questionnaire (ORS Formatting)



Wales GTAA Questionnaire



INTERVIEWER READ OUT:

Good Morning/afternoon/evening. My name is < > from Opinion Research Services, working on behalf of < > Council.

The Council are undertaking a study of Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation needs assessment in this area. This is needed by the Welsh Government to make sure that accommodation needs are properly assessed and to get a better understanding of the needs of the Travelling Community in Wales.

The Council need to try and speak with every Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople household in the area to make sure that the assessment of need is accurate.

Your household will not be identified and all the information collected will be anonymous and will only used to help understand the needs of Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople households.

You do not have to answer all the questions but the more information you can provide the better the survey will be. The survey will take around 20-25 minutes to complete.

Name of interviewer:

Name of local authority:

Name and address of site including pitch number:

Date/time of site visit(s):

We need to capture the number of attempts made to engage a household. If the engagement has failed insert the time and date of the attempt. If engagement has succeeded insert the time and date and a tick. To avoid doubt, engagement will be considered to have succeeded if the occupier refuses and gives a reason.

Engagement techniques:

We need to capture the various methods employed by the interviewer to try to engage with the occupier. It would be useful to note if the engagement attempt was pre-arranged with the occupier or unannounced, whether any contact details were left etc.

Interview Completed:

Yes

☐

No

☐

Reason for Refusal:

Name of Family:

A Your Home									
<p>For each question, put a cross in the appropriate box like this <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>. Mark only one box for each question unless otherwise instructed. If you mark the wrong box, fill in the box <input type="checkbox"/> and cross <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the correct one.</p>									
<p>A1 Where do you live now? Please cross one box only</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Local Authority ("Council") residential site <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Unauthorised encampment <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Council transit site <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Bricks and Mortar – Socially Rented <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Private site with planning permission <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Bricks and Mortar – Privately Rented <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Private site currently without planning permission <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Bricks and Mortar – Owner Occupied <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>		Local Authority ("Council") residential site <input type="checkbox"/>	Unauthorised encampment <input type="checkbox"/>	Council transit site <input type="checkbox"/>	Bricks and Mortar – Socially Rented <input type="checkbox"/>	Private site with planning permission <input type="checkbox"/>	Bricks and Mortar – Privately Rented <input type="checkbox"/>	Private site currently without planning permission <input type="checkbox"/>	Bricks and Mortar – Owner Occupied <input type="checkbox"/>
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Private site with planning permission <input type="checkbox"/>	Bricks and Mortar – Privately Rented <input type="checkbox"/>								
Private site currently without planning permission <input type="checkbox"/>	Bricks and Mortar – Owner Occupied <input type="checkbox"/>								
<p>A2(a) Are you satisfied with your current accommodation? Please cross one box only</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>No <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Prefer not to say <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say <input type="checkbox"/>					
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say <input type="checkbox"/>							
<p>A2(b) If 'no' please explain what could be improved: Please write in below</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100px; width: 100%;"></div>									
<p>A3 Can you tell me why you live here? Please cross all that apply</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Local connections (family or work) <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Prefer houses to caravans <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>No alternative authorised pitch <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Other <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Can't find a house to move into <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Please specify below</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Health or age reasons <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div></td> </tr> </table>		Local connections (family or work) <input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer houses to caravans <input type="checkbox"/>	No alternative authorised pitch <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Can't find a house to move into <input type="checkbox"/>	Please specify below	Health or age reasons <input type="checkbox"/>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div>
Local connections (family or work) <input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer houses to caravans <input type="checkbox"/>								
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Can't find a house to move into <input type="checkbox"/>	Please specify below								
Health or age reasons <input type="checkbox"/>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div>								
<p>A4 How long have you lived here? Please cross one box only</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Less than 1 month <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>1–6 months <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>7–12 months <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>1–2 years <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>2–5 years <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Over 5 years <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>		Less than 1 month <input type="checkbox"/>	1–6 months <input type="checkbox"/>	7–12 months <input type="checkbox"/>	1–2 years <input type="checkbox"/>	2–5 years <input type="checkbox"/>	Over 5 years <input type="checkbox"/>		
Less than 1 month <input type="checkbox"/>	1–6 months <input type="checkbox"/>	7–12 months <input type="checkbox"/>	1–2 years <input type="checkbox"/>	2–5 years <input type="checkbox"/>	Over 5 years <input type="checkbox"/>				
<p>A5(a) If you have moved within the last year, was your last home in this Local Authority? Please cross one box only</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>No <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>						
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>								

A5(b) If you have moved please give details below:*Please write in 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?*Please cross one box only*

1 or 2 days 3–28 days

1–3
months3 months –
2 years

2–5 years

Over 5
yearsDo not
intend to
move

Don't know

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐**A7(a) 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)**Please cross the boxes in the appropriate column***Yes****No**Reason

Repairs needed

☐

Site made bigger

☐

Accommodation made safer

☐

Planning permission granted

☐

Adaptations needed (please state below)

☐Reason

Just passing through

☐

Want authorised pitch in other area

☐

Want to move into housing

☐

Relationships broken down

☐

Prefer living in caravan

☐**A7(b) Please provide any other reasons as to whether you would or would not stay longer if changes or improvements were made to your current accommodation. Also if you said in question A7(a) that you would stay longer because adaptations are needed can you please tell us what these adaptations are?***Please write in below*

B Your Family					
	Relationship to respondent (eg. Spouse, son/ daughter etc.)	Age	Gender	Romani / Irish Traveller / New Traveller / Showperson / Roma / 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(a).

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

Please cross one box only

Yes

☐

No

☐

B3(a) 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)

Please cross one box only

Yes

☐

No

☐

B3(b) If yes, how many additional sleeping areas can be added?

Please write the number in the box below

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

Please cross one box only

Yes

☐

No

☐

B4(b) Please provide address for application pack to be posted to below:

Please state if already on a waiting list and which.

Please write in below

C

Your Plans

C1 Are you planning to move into other accommodation?

Please cross one box only

Yes

☐


Please go to C2

No

☐


Please go to D1

Refused

☐


Please go to D1

C2 Where are you planning to move to?

Please cross one box only or write in the box where appropriate

Within the Local Authority

☐

Another Local Authority in Wales – please state which

Somewhere else in the UK

☐

C3 Why are you planning to move?
Please cross all that apply

Need more space <input type="checkbox"/>	Employment opportunities <input type="checkbox"/>
Need different facilities <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
Local connection (family or work) <input type="checkbox"/>	Please specify below
Need to be closer to services – schools etc. Please give details below <input type="checkbox"/>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div>	

C4 What type of accommodation are you planning to move to?
Please cross one box in the appropriate column

1. Site	2. Bricks and Mortar
Council / Social rented <input type="checkbox"/>	Owner / occupied <input type="checkbox"/>
Private site owned by self <input type="checkbox"/>	Rent from Council / Housing Association <input type="checkbox"/>
Private site owned by other <input type="checkbox"/>	Rent from private landlord <input type="checkbox"/>

C5(a) 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)
Please cross one box only

Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	→ Please go to C5(b)
No <input type="checkbox"/>	→ Please go to C6
Refused <input type="checkbox"/>	→ Please go to C6

C5(b) If you would like the Local Authority to discuss these plans with you, provide contact details below:
Please write below

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

Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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C7(a) If an authorised pitch was available in another Local Authority, would you consider moving there?
Please cross one box only

Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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C7(b) If 'yes', which Local Authorities?*Please write in the box below*

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D Family Growth**D1 Is anyone in your household likely to want to move to their own home in the next 5 years?***Please cross one box only*

- Yes ☐ → Please go to D2
- No ☐ → Please go to D4
- Don't know ☐ → Please go to D4
- Prefer not to say ☐ → Please go to D4

D2 Will this be in this Local Authority?*Please cross one box only*

- Yes ☐ → Please go to D3
- No ☐ → Please go to D4
- Prefer not to say ☐ → Please go to D4

D3 How many new households will there be and when will these be needed?*Please write in the table below and cross one box in each appropriate row*

	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	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Household 2	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Household 3	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Household 4	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

D4 Do you have family members living outside this area who camp in this Local Authority regularly? Or do you know any local households in bricks and mortar?*Please cross one box only*

- Yes ☐ → Please go to D5
- No ☐ → Please go to E1
- Don't know ☐ → Please go to E1
- Prefer not to say ☐ → Please go to E1

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:

Please write below

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)

Please cross one box only

Yes ☐ → Please go to E2

No ☐ → Please go to E4

Prefer not to say ☐ → Please go to E4

E2 In which Local Authority areas have you camped?

Please write below

Prefer not to say ☐

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

Please cross one box only

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?

Please cross one box only

Yes ☐ → Please go to E5

No ☐ → Questionnaire ends

Prefer not to say ☐ → Questionnaire ends

E5 Where are they needed?

(Probe for Local Authorities and specific locations)

Please write below

Prefer not to say ☐

May I also take your name, telephone number and address? ORS may wish to contact you to confirm that this interview took place. These details will only be used for this purpose and will not be passed on to anyone else.

INTERVIEWER: IN THE FIRST INSTANCE WE REQUIRE THEIR TELEPHONE NUMBER, FOLLOWED BY THEIR POSTAL ADDRESS

RESPONDENT'S NAME

RESPONDENT'S TEL

RESPONDENT'S ADDRESS

RESPONDENT'S POSTCODE

INTERVIEWER: IF THE RESPONDENT REFUSES ON ANY OF THE ABOVE DETAILS, PLEASE TRY TO OBTAIN AN EMAIL ADDRESS

RESPONDENT'S EMAIL ADDRESS

Would you be willing to take part in further consultations in the future (NB. this is for ORS purposes only)? This could either be other surveys, group discussions or online consultations.

Please cross one box only

Yes

☐

No thanks

☐

Thank you for your time and help completing this questionnaire.

Interviewer Declaration

I certify that I have conducted this interview personally with the person named above in accordance with the Market Research Society Code of Conduct.

Interviewer's signature

Interview Name (BLOCK CAPITALS)

Date of interview
(DD/MM/YYYY)

Time of interview
(24HR CLOCK)

Duration of Interview

Appendix 2 – Letter sent to Gypsies and Travellers



The Occupier



24/05/2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

Merthyr County Borough Council Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment

The Council is undertaking a Gypsy & Traveller accommodation needs study in your area. They want to know about where you live now and where you and your children want to live in the future. **It is really important that you take part in the study so that the Council can identify the true level of need for new pitches in the area.**

We are a company called Opinion Research Services (ORS) and have been asked by the Council to carry out this work. We have visited families on Gypsy and Traveller sites in this area. We also want to speak to Gypsies and Travellers who are living in houses and flats.

We called but you weren't in. **If you would like to be included in the assessment please contact Claire Thomas by the end of May 2018 on 01792 535 307 or 07730 565962, or email claire.thomas@ors.org.uk. This would be a confidential interview and we do not pass personal details on to the Council. It should take no more than 20-25 minutes.**

If you have any questions about the study or want to check that the assessment is genuine, please call us on 01792 704771.

Thank you for your help.

Yours faithfully,

Claire Thomas
Senior Researcher
Opinion Research Services Ltd

Appendix 3 – Glossary

Gypsies and Travellers	<p>(a) 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</p>

	<p>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> <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</p>
Temporary Stopping Place	<p>Also known as a ‘stopping place’, ‘Atchin Tan’, or ‘green lane’, amongst other names. These are intended to be short-term in nature to assist Local Authorities where a need for pitches is accepted, however, none are currently available. Pro-actively identified temporary stopping places can be used to relocate inappropriately located encampments, whilst alternative sites are progressed.</p> <p>Temporary stopping places must make provision for waste disposal, water supply and sanitation at a minimum.</p>
Residential pitch	<p>Land on a mobile home site where occupiers are entitled to station their mobile homes indefinitely (unless stated in their pitch agreement). Typically includes an amenity block, space for a static caravan and touring caravan and parking.</p>

Transit pitch	<p>Land on a mobile home site where occupiers are entitled to station their mobile homes for a maximum of 3 months.</p> <p>Transit pitches can exist on permanent residential sites; however, this is not recommended.</p>
Unauthorised encampment	<p>Land occupied without the permission of the owner or without the correct land use planning permission. Encampments may be tolerated by the Local Authority, whilst alternative sites are developed.</p>
Unauthorised development	<p>Land occupied by the owner without the necessary land use planning permission.</p>
Current residential supply	<p>The number of authorised pitches which are available and occupied within the Local Authority or partnership area. This includes pitches on Local Authority or private sites.</p>
Current residential demand	<p>Those with a need for authorised pitches for a range of reasons, including:</p> <p>An inability to secure an authorised pitch leading to occupation of unauthorised encampments;</p> <p>An inability to secure correct planning permission for an unauthorised development;</p> <p>Households living in overcrowded conditions and want a pitch;</p> <p>Households in conventional housing demonstrating cultural aversion;</p> <p>New households expected to arrive from elsewhere.</p>

Future residential demand	The expected level of new household formation which will generate additional demand within the 5-year period of the accommodation assessment and longer LDP period.
Overall residential pitch need	The ultimate calculation of unmet accommodation need, which must be identified through the Gypsy and Traveller accommodation assessment process. This figure can be found by adding the immediate residential need to the future residential demand. The overall residential need will capture the needs across the 5-year period within which the accommodation assessment is considered to be robust.
Planned residential pitch supply	The number of authorised pitches which are vacant and available to rent on Local Authority or private sites. It also includes pitches which will be vacated in the near future by households moving to conventional housing or in other circumstances. Additional pitches which are due to open on private sites likely to achieve planning permission shortly should be included as planned residential supply.
Household	In this guidance this refers to individuals from the same family who live together on a single pitch / house / encampment.
Concealed or 'doubled-up' household	<p>This refers to households which are unable to achieve their own authorised accommodation and are instead living within authorised accommodation (houses or pitches) assigned to another household.</p> <p>This may include adult children who have been unable to move home or different households occupying a single pitch.</p>

Household growth	In this guidance household growth is defined by the number of new households arising from households which are already accommodated in the area.
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Appendix 4 – Interview Log

Address	Status	Visit 1 - 12/05/18	Visit 2 - 15/05/18	Visit 3 - 21/05/18	Engagement Techniques
Pitch 1, Glynmil	Public Site	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Visited caravan and sent letter
Pitch 2, Glynmil	Public Site	No contact possible	Interviewed		Visited caravan
Pitch 3, Glynmil	Public Site	Interviewed			Visited caravan
Pitch 4, Glynmil	Public Site	No contact possible	Interviewed		Visited caravan
Pitch 5, Glynmil	Public Site	No contact possible	Vacant	Vacant	Visited caravan and sent letter
Pitch 6, Glynmil	Public Site	Interviewed			Visited caravan
Pitch 7, Glynmil	Public Site	No contact possible	No contact possible	No contact possible	Visited caravan and sent letter
Pitch 8, Glynmil	Public Site	No contact possible	Interviewed		Visited caravan
Pitch 9, Glynmil	Public Site	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Visited caravan and sent letter
Pitch 10, Glynmil	Public Site	No contact possible	No contact possible	No contact possible	Visited caravan and sent letter
Pitch 11, Glynmil	Public Site	Interviewed			Visited caravan
Pitch 12, Glynmil	Public Site	No contact possible	No contact possible	No contact possible	Visited caravan and sent letter
Pitch 13, Glynmil	Public Site	No contact possible	No contact possible	Interviewed	Visited caravan
Pitch 14, Glynmil	Public Site	No contact possible	No contact possible	No contact possible	Visited caravan and sent letter
Pitch 15, Glynmil	Public Site	Interviewed			Visited caravan
Pitch 16, Glynmil	Public Site	No contact possible	No contact possible	No contact possible	Visited caravan and sent letter
Pitch 17, Glynmil	Public Site	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Visited caravan and sent letter
Pitch 18, Glynmil	Public Site	Interviewed			Visited caravan
Pitch 19, Glynmil	Public Site	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Visited caravan and sent letter
Pitch 20, Glynmil	Public Site	No contact possible	No contact possible	No contact possible	Visited caravan and sent letter
Pitch 21, Glynmil	Public Site	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Visited caravan and sent letter
Pitch 22, Glynmil	Public Site	No contact possible	No contact possible	No contact possible	Visited caravan and sent letter
Pitch 23, Glynmil	Public Site	No contact possible	Interviewed		Visited caravan
Pitch 24, Glynmil	Public Site	No contact possible	Interviewed		Visited caravan
Land north west of Aartel Bungalow	Private Site	No contact possible	No contact possible	Refusal	Visited site
land to the north of The Marshalls	Private Site	Refusal			Visited site
Bogey Road	Tolerated Site	Unoccupied			Visited site
Beech Grove, Merthyr Tydfil	Bricks and Mortar	Refusal non-Travellers			Visited property
Blaen Dowlais, Merthyr Tydfil	Bricks and Mortar	Vacant - property for sale	Vacant - property for sale		Visited property
Dowlais, Merthyr Tydfil	Bricks and Mortar	No contact possible	No contact possible	No contact possible	Visited property and sent letter
First Avenue, Merthyr Tydfil	Bricks and Mortar	No contact possible	No contact possible	Refusal	Visited property
First Avenue, Merthyr Tydfil	Bricks and Mortar	Told to come back another day	No contact possible	No contact possible	Visited property and sent letter
Gwladys Street, Merthyr Tydfil	Bricks and Mortar	Non-Travellers			Visited property
Heol Scwrfa, Merthyr Tydfil	Bricks and Mortar	No contact possible but neighbour said Travellers have moved away			Visited property and sent letter
Laburnum Close, Merthyr Tydfil	Bricks and Mortar	Refusal			Visited property
Lewis Square, Abercanaid	Bricks and Mortar	Refusal			Visited property
Marshall Crescent, Merthyr Tydfil	Bricks and Mortar	Refusal			Visited property
Second Avenue, Merthyr Tydfil	Bricks and Mortar	Told to come back another day	No contact possible	No contact possible	Visited property and sent letter
Second Avenue, Merthyr Tydfil	Bricks and Mortar	Refusal			Visited property
Second Avenue, Merthyr Tydfil	Bricks and Mortar	No contact possible	Interview completed		Visited property
Sycamore Road, Merthyr Tydfil	Bricks and Mortar	No contact possible	Left letter with daughter	No contact possible	Visited property and left letter
Third Avenue, Merthyr Tydfil	Bricks and Mortar	No contact possible	No contact possible	No contact possible	Visited property and sent letter