



TORFAEN GYPSY AND TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION ASSESSMENT

Statutory review period February 2016 - February 2022

Abstract

An analysis of the accommodation needs of the Gypsy and Traveller Community in Torfaen

Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg
(This document is available in Welsh)

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Chapter 1: Executive Summary

This Assessment has been carried out in accordance with the current Welsh Government Guidance 'Undertaking Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments' (GTAA's) (May 2015); and was approved by the Welsh Government Cabinet Secretary of Culture and Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip on 19 July 2024.

The GTAA update was completed by Torfaen County Borough Council with assistance from Opinion Research Services (ORS) Ltd. who are a social research consultancy based in Swansea. ORS assisted by providing general advice on conducting the fieldwork, advice on additional information that will be required from the household interviews, technical advice on the analysis of the household interviews and the completion of the assessment of need and technical advice on the calculation of new household formation rates.

The purpose of this Assessment is to update the 2016 Torfaen Cycle 1 GTAA (2016-21), which normally would have been reviewed in 2021, given the legal requirement for it to be reviewed every 5 years. However, in a letter from the Welsh Government (dated 16th December 2020) The Deputy Minister confirmed her intention to extend the review period for undertaking GTAAs by 12 months for those Local Authorities whose Assessment is due in 2021. This assessment is therefore for the statutory review period 2016 - 2022.

In addition, the Council is currently reviewing the Torfaen Local Development Plan (LDP) (2006-2021), and the Torfaen Replacement LDP (2018-2033) is required to identify a suitable supply of sites (pitches) to meet any identified need for permanent and transit accommodation amongst the Gypsy and Traveller community over the remaining plan period up until 31st March 2033.

Therefore, 2020 Cycle 2 GTAA review was brought forward and provides a robust assessment of need for the next five years (2020-2025) and an indicative estimate of need over the Replacement LDP plan period (2020-2033); noting it is legally required to be reviewed every five years. However, the forthcoming 'South East Wales Strategic Development Plan' (SDP), to be produced by a statutory Corporate Joint Committee (between 2022 and 2026), is required by the Welsh Government's 'Future Wales: the national plan 2040' (Policy 19) to establish "the gypsy and traveller need" for the region (and where required constituent Local Development Plans); which may necessitate an early review of this 2020 GTAA.

Finally, the Council, who have a statutory duty to provide any unmet need for Gypsy & Traveller accommodation, will also use the finding of the Assessment, after taking account the provision of private sites.

In summary, the 2020 Cycle 2 GTAA found that there were currently 54 Gypsy & Traveller households in Torfaen located on 5 sites, 2 public and 3 private; which are forecast to rise to 65 households (an increase of 11 households) by 2025; and estimated to rise to 79 households (an increase of 24 households) by 2033.

Therefore, after taking account of permanent pitches that will become vacant in the future and the 21 permitted pitches yet to be built at the Council's Lower Shepherds Hill site, it is considered that there is enough existing / permitted permanent pitches to meet forecast demand over the next five years.

As regard the indicative estimate of need over the Replacement LDP plan period (2020- 2033), there could be an unmet need for 7 new permanent pitches up until 2033. To this end, it is noted that the owner of the private Rose Cottage site is currently seeking to obtain planning permission to build 10 new permanent pitches allocated in the current Torfaen LDP; which would be enough new pitches to meet this forecast need. Although it is recognised that will be a matter for the RLDP Inspector to consider at the Torfaen RLDP Examination in due course.

Finally, based upon previous levels of demand, the GTAA considers that the current provision for 2 Transit pitches currently meets the need for such accommodation.

Therefore, as a result of this Assessment it is recommended that the Council: -

1. continues to maintain a robust and up to date waiting list to monitor demand for pitches;
2. monitors demand and implements Phase 2 of the Council's Lower Shepherds Hill site, as and when required; and
3. works with the owner of the private Rose Cottage site to bring forward 10 new pitches.

Chapter 2: Policy context

This Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) aims to provide a comprehensive assessment of current and future needs amongst the Gypsy and Traveller community within Torfaen. It identifies whether additional accommodation provision is required over the next five years (2020-2025) and will inform the new Torfaen Replacement Local Development Plan (2018-2033), which is currently being prepared.

The definition of 'Gypsies and Travellers' for the purpose of this assessment is contained in section 108 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014:-

"Persons of a nomadic habit of life, whatever their race or origin, including:

- 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*
- 2. Members of an organized group of travelling show people or circus people (whether or not travelling together as such); and*
- 3. All other persons with a cultural tradition of nomadism or of living in a mobile home."*

A broad definition ensures that a wide range of communities are included, and this will provide a much better understanding of the accommodation needs of these communities.

A Glossary of terms can be found in Appendix 1

Legislation and Guidance

Housing (Wales) Act 2014

This Act places a legal duty upon local authorities to ensure that the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers are properly assessed and that the identified need for pitches is met.

Welsh Government - Undertaking Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments Guidance (May 2015)

This publication sets out the process of assessing these accommodation needs and how to undertake a GTAA.

Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013

Under this Act, Local authorities are required to exercise their powers, as far as necessary, to ensure Gypsy and Traveller sites are provided for the unmet need. This does not necessarily mean that additional local authority owned sites will be required, but where they are needed the local authority is responsible for ensuring they are provided.

Welsh Government - Circular 005/2018 "Planning for Gypsy, Traveller and Showpeople Sites" (June 2018)

This circular provides updated guidance on the planning aspects of identifying sustainable sites for Gypsies and Travellers. It also outlines how planning authorities and Gypsies and Travellers can work together to achieve this aim.

Welsh Government - Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites Guidance (May 2015)

A non-statutory guide to Local Authorities who are considering the provision of services for Gypsies and Travellers living on residential sites in their authority and how these services can best be delivered.

Local Development Plan Policies

The current Torfaen Local Development Plan (LDP) (2006-2021) sets out the legal framework for the development and use of land within the County Borough (excluding the area administered by the Brecon Beacons National Park Local Planning Authority). The Torfaen Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) (2018-2033) is currently in development and the results of this 2020 Cycle 2 GTAA will be fed into the new plan.

Site specific allocations

The previous 2016 Cycle 1 GTAA identified a need for an additional 6 permanent pitches and 2 transit pitches up to 2021. This requirement was met with the development of 10 new pitches on the Former Race AFC Football Pitch, which became known as the Lower Shepherds Hill site. An adjustment was also made to the existing Shepherds Hill site, to create 1 additional permanent pitch and 2 transit pitches; which would meet the need for transit provision locally.

Former Race AFC Football Pitch (Pontypool)

This former playing field site is located adjacent to the Council's existing Shepherds Hill Gypsy and Traveller site and was allocated in the Torfaen LDP for 32 permanent pitches (under **Policy H7/2**); and received planning permission for **31** permanent pitches in January 2015. Phase 1 was completed in 2016, providing **10** additional pitches by March 2016.

Rose Cottage (Pontypool)

This 'expansion' to the current private site is allocated in the Torfaen LDP (under **Policy H7/1**) for **10** additional permanent pitches and a planning application has been submitted for this number of pitches. The Council is currently liaising with the landowner who intends to complete the planning application process and bring the site forward soon.

Criteria-based policies

The current Torfaen LDP contains a criteria-based **Policy H8** for assessing new Gypsy and Traveller sites; and it is expected that a similar policy will be set out in the new RLDP. Therefore, until the new Torfaen RLDP is adopted, applications for new Gypsy and Traveller sites will be determined against LDP Policy H8, national policy, Circular 005/2018 "Planning for Gypsy, Traveller and Showpeople Sites" and any other LDP Policies as appropriate.

Chapter 3: Background and analysis of existing data

Previous Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment Findings

Torfaen has undertaken previous Gypsy and Traveller studies (2009, 2011, 2012 and 2016) which have helped to inform the Councils understanding of the needs and requirements of the Gypsy and Traveller Community located in the borough.

Identified need to be met and progress to date

The 2009 Gypsy and Traveller study, using a household growth rate of 4%, identified a need for an additional **46** pitches over the life of the LDP (2011 - 2021). The study also highlighted the necessity to address a number of issues on the existing Shepherds Hill site; in particular overcrowding, poor design and ongoing concerns over subsidence, which were making the site unsafe for the existing residents.

The 2009 study was updated in 2011 and in 2012 when the Council produced the Torfaen Gypsy and Traveller Study - Identification of Permanent Gypsy & Traveller Sites: Site Options Report. This study built upon the findings of the 2009 and 2011 studies, the Deposit Torfaen LDP and reports produced by Capita Symonds, whom the Local Authority had engaged to carry out development feasibility studies of the Shepherds Hill site. The 2012 study identified a need for **42** pitches (2012-2021), a slight revision from the previous figure of **46**.

When the 2016 Cycle 1 GTAA was completed, this identified a need for an additional 6 permanent pitches and 2 transit pitches over the following 5 years (2016-2021). Following the assessment, Torfaen have successfully, with the aid of Welsh Government Gypsy & Travellers Sites Grant, delivered 10 additional permanent pitches on a new site known as 'Lower Shepherds Hill' and 2 transit pitches on the existing Shepherds Hill site.

Population data

A number of data sources have been used to identify Gypsy and Traveller households in Torfaen, which has enabled the Local Authority to carry out targeted engagement techniques, to ensure that all community members had sufficient opportunity to contribute.

Gypsy and Traveller Sites

Details of all residents living on the local authority sites are recorded by the Council, as part of their housing management of the site.

Caravan Count

Torfaen has 4 Gypsy and Traveller sites:

1. Shepherds Hill (Local Authority) & Lower Shepherds Hill (Local Authority)

2. Mountain View
3. Rose Cottage
4. The Stables

The majority of known Gypsy and Traveller households are resident on these sites.

The July 2019 caravan count found that there were **80** caravans in Torfaen on authorised sites, demonstrating a steady increase in recent years, with the January 2012 count identifying only **60** caravans.¹

Unauthorised Encampments

Torfaen has been monitoring unauthorised encampments for a number of years. Since 2011, **56** unauthorised encampments occurred in Torfaen:

Figure 1 - Number of Unauthorised encampments by year

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of Encampments	2	2	25	5	9	3	3	6	1

2013 saw a higher-than-average number unauthorised encampments in Torfaen, but 23 of these 25 encampments were members of the same extended family, who had advised the Council that they did not require permanent accommodation in Torfaen. Since 2016, this family has not returned to Torfaen and the number of unauthorised encampments has remained fairly low.

Most encampments consisted of only 1 or 2 caravans, but there have been some larger encampments from time to time.

Figure 2 - Number of unauthorised encampments by size

Number of Caravans	1	2	3	4	5	7	13
Number of Encampments	14	23	7	5	3	3	1

When these households were contacted about their accommodation needs, all of them stated that they were not looking for settled accommodation in Torfaen, but were just passing through.

(See Appendix 2 for a full breakdown of unauthorised encampments)

Census 2011

The 2011 Census identified **50** households living in Torfaen, containing **155** Gypsies and Travellers. The greatest concentration of these households was in the Cwmynyscoy ward, where the Gypsy and Traveller sites are located. The 50 households contained 33 dependent children, suggesting that there is likely to be an increase in newly forming households over the next 10 years.

Common Housing Register

The Common Housing Register was examined to determine how many members of the community had applied and were waiting for social housing. 5 Gypsy and Traveller households that are

¹ <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Equality-and-Diversity/Gypsy-and-Traveller-Caravan-Count/numberofcaravans-by-authorisation-localauthority>

currently living on a site had applied to join the social housing register; 2 were living on the Council's Shepherds Hill sites, and 3 were living on a private site.

Torfaen Education Service

The Council's Traveller Education Service has a comprehensive knowledge of Gypsy and Traveller families in Torfaen and by utilising their existing networks and local expertise, they provided invaluable assistance in identifying members of the community and have acted as a conduit for conveying information between the community and the researchers, helping to raise the profile of the assessment.

Specialist Local Knowledge

The Council's Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) Steering Group (see Chapter 4 for details) included representation from the local Gypsy and Traveller community and local service areas who work with the Gypsy and Traveller community. Having these representatives on the steering group helped to ensure that local knowledge was utilised and that the assessment was promoted as widely as possible.

Current accommodation provision

Shepherds Hill and Lower Shepherds Hill, Pontypool

These sites are owned and managed by the Torfaen CBC. Both have planning permission; and as local authority owned sites, no caravan site licence is required. Shepherds Hill provides **24 residential pitches** and **2 transit pitches**; whilst on Lower Shepherds Hill there are currently **10 residential pitches** (with 21 permitted pitches remaining to be built on further phases at a future date). This equates to a total of **34 households** living on the sites, and the July 2019 caravan count found that there were **56 caravans/mobile homes** across the two sites.

Figure 3 - Shepherds Hill and Lower Shepherds Hill, Pontypool



Mountain View, Pontypool

This is a privately owned family run authorised (permitted under planning and with a caravan site licence) site which contains **10 residential pitches**, with **18 caravans/mobile homes**. There are currently **10 households** living on the site but there is room for further pitches should the family continue to grow.

The Stables, Pontypool

The Stables is a private site, with planning permission, which currently accommodates **1 household** on **1 residential pitch** (so no caravan site licence required); and **4 caravans/mobile homes** are currently located there.

Rose Cottage, Pontypool

A private, family run site that has a lawful planning use, but is an unauthorised but tolerated caravan site by the Local Authority. The number of permanent pitches/caravans on the site fluctuates due to extended family visiting, but there are currently **8 caravans/mobile homes**, providing accommodation for **6 households**. The owner is looking to provide 10 additional residential pitches on the site, in accordance with the Torfaen LDP allocation, and is in the process of applying for planning permission.

Extant Planning Permissions / Future Planning Applications

The Rose Cottage site has been allocated for an additional 10 permanent pitches in the current LDP (2006-2021); a planning application has been submitted for the site (which is currently invalid due to lack of information), but the applicant expects it to be progressed in the near future and provide the accommodation shortly thereafter.

Lower Shepherds Hill was granted planning permission for 31 pitches; 10 have already been delivered, with capacity to deliver a further 21 pitches as and when required.

Chapter 4: Methodology

Steering Group

The following representatives were members of the steering group and oversaw the completion of the GTAA:

- Representatives from the local Gypsy & Traveller community in Torfaen
- Gypsy and Traveller Community Liaison Officer (Torfaen County Borough Council)
- Principal Planner (Torfaen County Borough Council)
- Senior Environmental Health Officer (Torfaen County Borough Council)
- Housing Strategy Team Leader (Torfaen County Borough Council)
- Equalities, Cohesion and Community Safety Manager (Torfaen County Borough Council)
- Traveller Education Service Manager (Torfaen County Borough Council)
- Support Worker, Gwent Gypsy and Traveller service (Pobl Group)
- Research and Development Officer (Torfaen County Borough Council)

None of organisations listed in Annex 1 of the WG GTAA Guidance were formally invited to join the Steering Group, but Travelling Ahead were consulted as part of the assessment process to help us raise awareness of the GTAA and attempt to reach the wider Gypsy and Traveller community both within and outside Torfaen, with details of our GTAA promoted by them through their various communication channels.

During the previous 2015 GTAA assessment, when an organisation from Annex 1 was invited to the steering group, they did not possess the local knowledge required to help us identify households and so provided minimal input to the GTAA process.

Torfaen has an extremely effective Traveller Education Service and Gwent Gypsy and Traveller Service project, both of which played a fundamental role in promoting the GTAA, identifying community members and completing survey work; especially with those living in Bricks and Mortar accommodation and private sites. They also possessed the relevant skills and experience to engage effectively with the community. As such, Torfaen was able to identify and complete the assessment with several community members across various tenures.

So, this time, steering group membership was focused primarily on those members who knew and worked with the local Gypsy and Traveller community and could assist us to engage with them.

Study Methodology

The consultation was conducted between October and December 2019, using the interview questions set out in the Welsh Government GTAA guidance. Prior to the fieldwork being completed, the steering group met to consider the preparation for the assessment and to assist in identifying households to be included in the assessment process, utilising available knowledge and expertise, as well as existing data sources. Opinion Research Services (ORS) Ltd. were also consulted and provided advice on conducting the fieldwork.

Following the initial meeting of the steering group, the Torfaen Gypsy and Traveller Community Liaison Officer worked in partnership with the Torfaen Traveller Education Service and the Gwent Gypsy and Traveller Service (Pobl Group) to carry out the assessments and visit participants on existing sites, in bricks and mortar properties and on unauthorised encampments.

Torfaen also liaised closely with neighbouring local authorities; Blaenau Gwent and Monmouthshire, to share best practice and ensure that households who had expressed an interest in being housed in neighbouring authorities could be included in the relevant assessments.

To ensure that Torfaen had the full support of the Council, the Executive Member for Adult Services & Housing, the Executive Member for Economy, Skills & Regeneration and the Executive Member for Corporate Governance & Performance, who had oversight of Equalities, were briefed and updated regularly on the progress of the assessment.

All potential Gypsies and Travellers who were identified during the assessment process were visited and given the opportunity to be interviewed; in total 14 households did not take part.

Engagement Checklist

1. All community members (who were identified through the data analysis process) were contacted during the assessment period and follow up visits carried out for any members who were not available on the first attempt. (Full details are available in the **Interview Log - Appendix 3**)
2. The GTAA was publicised widely in Torfaen via the local authority website, through various social media channels including Travelling Ahead, Traveller Times and Torfaen Homes and by members of the Steering Group. Information was also distributed in Council Offices, libraries, local Churches, GP surgeries and (through the Traveller Education Service), to all Gypsy and Traveller children who were enrolled in local schools. World's Fair Ltd went into administration during the assessment period and ceased publication of the World's Fair Newspaper; so instead, we focused on the other publications listed above and social media to promote the GTAA.
3. Torfaen used the expertise of the Traveller Education Service and the Gwent Gypsy and Traveller service, who assisted in identifying best practice approaches for engaging with local community members and raising the profile of the assessment. Travelling Ahead were consulted to assist us in promoting the assessment more widely through their various communication channels.
4. Torfaen maintains a Common Housing Register; Homeseeker. At the time of the assessment there were 5 Gypsy and Traveller households registered for bricks and mortar accommodation. Torfaen's Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer also retains details of households interested in moving onto the Local Authority site.
5. The manager of the Shepherds Hill site joined the steering group and was regularly consulted to provide advice and assistance with promoting the assessment amongst the community.
6. During the assessment process, none of the respondents who took part identified any other additional community members who may be interested in taking part, so no follow up was required. Some of the respondents stated that they wished to join the local housing register or be considered for a pitch on a local authority site, so they were provided with information and assistance to achieve this.
7. Torfaen is fortunate to have a number of Gypsy and Traveller sites, which made identification of community members more straightforward. The Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer publicised the assessment on the local authority sites and has been available to answer any questions or queries. Members of the Steering Group were also encouraged to publicise the assessment at any events that they were holding with the community. The Shepherds Hill site has a community hub which provides a central location for holding meetings on the site and information about the assessment was made available there.

Alterations to the questionnaire

In addition to the universal questionnaire, Torfaen added 2 additional questions, with the following results:

Q1 Where in Torfaen would you like to live?

Location	No	%	Where Preference Stated %
Shepherds Hill	16	33%	52%
Pontypool	12	24%	39%
Cwmbran	3	6%	10%
No Reply	18	37%	N/A
Total	49		

Q2 If a new site were to be built in Torfaen, would you consider living in:

- Blaenavon
- Pontypool
- Cwmbran

Location	No	%	Torfaen Location Only %
Blaenavon	4	6%	8%
Pontypool	30	45%	59%
Cwmbran	17	25%	33%
None of the Locations	8	12%	N/A
No Reply	8	12%	N/A
Total	67		

These questions were included to assist with planning future accommodation provision for the Gypsy and Traveller community, should a new site be required. It will be used assist in identifying those parts of the borough where the Gypsy and Traveller community would prefer to live.

Figure 4 - Online Adverts and Posters

 **Travellers' Times**
1 November at 11:24 · 🌐


Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment

Have your say

Do you or your family need a pitch in Torfaen?

Torfaen wants to speak to all Gypsy and Traveller families about their accommodation needs.

To take part, please contact Brett Korshaven on 01495 742998 or email Brett.Korshaven@torfaen.gov.uk

Deadline 1st December 2019



  10

6 shares

 **TravellingAhead@TGPCymru** @TravellingAhead · Oct 14

Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment - if you need a pitch or transit provision in the county of Torfaen - get in touch with [@torfaencouncil](https://twitter.com/torfaencouncil)


and Traveller Accommodation Assessment

Have your say

Do you or your family need a pitch in Torfaen?

Torfaen wants to speak to all Gypsy and Traveller families about their accommodation needs.

To take part, please contact Brett Korshaven on 01495 742998 or email Brett.Korshaven@torfaen.gov.uk

Deadline 1st December 2019




Asesiad Llety Sipsiwn a Theithwyr

Lleisio eich barn

Ydych chi neu eich teulu angen llain yn Nhorfaen?

ie Torfaen eisiau siarad gyda holl deuluoedd Sipsiwn a Theithwyr ynglŷn â'u hanghenion llety.

mryd rhan, cysylltwch â Brett Korshaven ar 01495 742998 neu ebosti Brett.Korshaven@torfaen.gov.uk

Dyddiad cau 1af Rhagfyr 2019





Association of Gypsies & Travellers wales and 3 others

  5  5 

Figure 5 - Local Authority Website and Local Free Press Advert

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Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment

Posted on: Monday 11 November 2019

Torfaen Council wants to speak to all Gypsy and Traveller families about their accommodation needs.

The Housing (Wales) Act 2014 requires the Local Authority to complete a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) every 5 years. The assessment identifies whether Torfaen has sufficient accommodation for the Gypsy and Traveller community now and over the next 15 years

Participation in the GTAA will help us determine whether:

- We have enough pitches in Torfaen.
- We need to be developing more pitches on the existing sites.
- Whether a new site is needed and if so, where this should be located.

The assessment will be used to inform the new Local Development Plan (LDP), which is responsible for determining the use of land throughout the borough.

If you want to take part in the assessment, the Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer will arrange to visit you in your home to discuss your current accommodation needs and those of your family.

The deadline for all assessments to be completed is the 1st December 2019.

To arrange an assessment, please contact the Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer Brett Korshaven on 01495 742998 or email

Other news in Planning & Development

- Bethlehem Chapel opens its doors once again thanks to funding contributions
01/10/2019
- Open spaces consultation – we need your views
25/09/2019
- Seven fantastic trees ready to fight it out for this year's Wales Tree of the Year
18/09/2019
- Blaenavon World Heritage Site to be awarded £180,000 from Valleys Taskforce funding
16/09/2019
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Council wants to speak to Gypsies

TORFAEN council wants to speak to all Gypsy and Traveller families about their accommodation needs.

The Housing (Wales) Act 2014 requires the Local Authority to complete a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) every five years. The assessment identifies whether Torfaen has sufficient accommodation for the Gypsy and Traveller community now and over the next 15 years.

If you want to take part in the assessment, the Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer will arrange to visit you in your home to discuss your current accommodation needs and those of your family.

The deadline for all assessments to be completed is the December 1 2019.

To arrange an assessment, please contact the Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer Brett Korshaven on 01495 742998 or email Brett.Korshaven@torfaen.gov.uk

Chapter 5: Survey Findings

Households Interviews

A total of 49 Gypsy and Traveller households took part in the GTAA, representing members from the Romani, Irish Traveller and Gypsy and Traveller community.

A further 24 households were contacted during the assessment period but did not take part. *(Full details of these visits are recorded in the interview log in **Appendix 3**)*

Demographic Profile of Population

The following chart shows a breakdown of the accommodation and ethnicity of the 49 respondents:

Figure 6 - Location and Ethnicity of Respondents

	Romani	Irish Traveller	Gypsy & Traveller	No Reply	Total
Local Authority site	18	3	0	2	23
Private site with planning permission	5	0	2	0	7
Private site without planning permission	0	0	0	0	0
Bricks and Mortar - Owner Occupied	0	0	0	0	0
Bricks and Mortar - Privately Rented	4	0	0	1	5
Bricks and Mortar - Socially Rented	6	0	5	3	14
Unauthorised encampment	0	0	0	0	0
Total	33	3	7	6	49

The highest proportion of respondents were members of the Romani community currently living on the Local Authority sites; Shepherds Hill and Lower Shepherds Hill.

Suitability of Current Accommodation

Levels of satisfaction and the suitability of existing accommodation is mixed within the community, with 21 (43%) of the respondents stating that they were not satisfied with their current accommodation.

Figure 7 - Are you satisfied with your current accommodation?

Current Accommodation	Yes	No	No Reply	Total
Site	16	13	1	30
Bricks and Mortar	11	8	0	19
Total	27	21	1	49

13 of the respondents that were not satisfied with their current accommodation live on a site. Some of the main reasons for their dissatisfaction included:

- Needing a bigger amenity block
- New fencing needed
- Plot needed resurfacing
- Needing a larger plot

8 respondents living in bricks and mortar were dissatisfied with their current accommodation. Some of the reasons for their dissatisfaction included:

- Need more bedrooms
- Damp in property
- Wanting to move to a bungalow

1 of the respondents in Bricks and Mortar stated that they were dissatisfied because they wanted to return to living on a traveller site, preferring caravans to houses.

Figure 8 - Are there enough sleeping areas (if living in caravans)?

	Yes	No
Local Authority Site	19	4
Private Site	7	0

Only 4 of the respondents located on a site stated that there were not enough sleeping spaces on their pitch.

Accommodation Aspirations

Despite some dissatisfaction with their current accommodation, a significant number of respondents did not intend moving in the near future, or they intend to stay for at least 5 years:

Figure 9 - How long do you think you will stay in your current accommodation?

1 - 3 months	3 months - 2 years	Over 5 years	Don't intend to move	Don't Know	Grand Total
1	1	5	27	15	49

At the time of the assessment there were already 5 Gypsy and Traveller households on the common housing register, seeking a move to bricks and mortar accommodation. During the assessment, 7 households stated that a member of their household was registered or would be interested in registering for either bricks and mortar accommodation or a pitch on a site.

A number of site residents highlighted some issues with their current accommodation; however, these issues did not seem to make a difference to the length of time that they intended to stay. The majority of households surveyed (86%) during the GTAA either stated that they didn't want to move or that they didn't know when they will move, suggesting that they are fairly settled in their current accommodation.

7 households indicated that they were planning to move in the next few years, but most were seeking bricks and mortar accommodation; 1 in a neighbouring authority.

Figure 10 - Why are you planning to move?

Reason for moving	
Local connection	1
Need more space	3
Need more space and feel unsafe on site	1
Other	1
Served Notice	1
Grand Total	7

Household growth

The Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment identified that there is likely to be an additional 11 households forming in Torfaen over the next 5 years, followed by a further 14 households over the next 6-13 years.

Figure 11- New households forming

Current households	Future households (at year 5)	Future households (6-13 years)
54	65	79
Additional Households	11	14

Chapter 6: Assessing accommodation needs

Residential unmet need

Current Residential supply

There are currently **51** occupied pitches on Local Authority and private sites within Torfaen.

Current residential supply	Number of pitches
Occupied Local Authority pitches	34
Occupied authorised private pitches	17
Total	51

Planned Residential supply

Torfaen's planned residential supply is currently 23. This takes into account the number of pitches that are currently vacant, the number of pitches that are expected to become vacant and new pitches to be developed in the next 5 years.

Planned residential supply	Number of pitches
Vacant Local Authority pitches and available vacant private pitches	0
Pitches expected to become vacant in near future	2
New Local Authority and private pitches with planning permission	21
Total	23

Current Residential demand

Based on the results of the fieldwork, there is currently a demand for an extra 5 site pitches in Torfaen.

Current residential demand	Pitch demand
Unauthorised encampments	0
Unauthorised development	0
Overcrowded pitches	4
Conventional housing	1
New households to arrive	0
Total	5

Future Residential demand and Future Household Growth

Current households	Future households (at year 5)	Future households (13 years)
54	65	79
Additional Household Pitch Need	11	14

ORS Ltd provided the household formation information using their extensive knowledge of such matters; they did not apply a formation rate for the first 5 years of the assessment as this is based on local evidence, as the figure of 11 households was identified from the responses to Q.D1-D3 of the household interviews.

ORS then used a rate of 2.3% for the remainder of the RLDP plan period (2025-2033) (adjusting their national rate of 1.5% upwards based on the demographics of the local Gypsy and Traveller population in Torfaen); thus, using an adjusted household base from year 6 to project growth of 14 households to year 13.

Therefore, when the number of future households is subtracted from the number of current households, this provides an Additional Household Pitch Need of **11** over the next five years and a further **14** over the remaining 5-13 years.

Table of Needs

Unmet Need	Need arising	Need accommodated
Current residential demand	5	
Future residential demand (5 year)	11	
Future residential demand (13 years)	14	
Planned residential supply		23
Unmet need (5 year)		-7
Unmet need (Plan period)		7

Transit unmet need

There are 2 transit pitches within Torfaen, located at Shepherds Hill, which allow Gypsies and Travellers visiting the area to stop temporarily. The number of unauthorised encampments in Torfaen has also dropped since the transit pitches were created, although there is no direct correlation between these two instances.

Transit pitches on the Local Authority site in Torfaen are used extremely infrequently and primarily when existing site residents have family members staying. Last year only 2 households (who were not visiting site members) used the transit pitches for a couple of weeks each. There has only

been one incident in the last 10 years of a household from an unauthorised encampment making use of a transit pitch.

However, despite a reduction in unauthorised encampments and the 2 new transit pitches, respondents to the assessment identified a need for more transit provision across Wales. 88% of respondents stated that there should be more transit provision; 3 respondents identified Newport as an area where more transit provision would be welcome, with 2 of these respondents also mentioning Blackwood (Caerphilly). The majority of the other respondent's merely stated that more transit provision should be made available across Wales.

With low numbers of unauthorised encampments in Torfaen over the last few years (see figure 1) and very limited use of the existing transit provision, there is not currently a need for any further transit provision within Torfaen, with the 2 transit pitches sufficient to meet current demand.

Chapter 7: Conclusions and Recommendations

The findings of this assessment indicate that Torfaen is likely to see an increase of 11 new households forming over the next five years, followed by an additional 14 households by 2033.

Torfaen currently has sufficient land provision to effectively deliver 21 additional permanent pitches on Lower Shepherds Hill and 10 permanent pitches at Rose Cottage, which will ensure that suitable accommodation is available to these households during the next five years and the RLDP plan period up to 2033.

Recommendations

- 1.** Continue to maintain a robust and up to date waiting list to monitor demand for pitches;
- 2.** Monitor demand and implement Phase 2 of the Council's Lower Shepherds Hill site, as and when required; and
- 3.** Work with the owner of the private Rose Cottage site to bring forward 10 new pitches.

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Appendices

APPENDIX 1 - GLOSSARY

Gypsies & Travellers	Persons of a nomadic habit of life, whatever their race or origin, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 2. Members of an organized group of travelling show people or circus people (whether or not travelling together as such); and 3. (b) All other persons with a cultural tradition of nomadism or of living in a mobile home. <p><i>Source: Section 108, Housing (Wales) Act 2014</i></p>
Residential site	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. Working space may also be provided on, or near, sites for activities carried out by community members.
Temporary residential site	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).
Transit site	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. 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.
Temporary Stopping Place	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. Temporary stopping places must make provision for waste disposal, water supply and sanitation at a minimum.
Residential pitch	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.
Transit pitch	Land on a mobile home site where occupiers are entitled to station their mobile homes for a maximum of 3 months. Transit pitches can exist on permanent residential sites, however, this is not recommended.
Unauthorised encampment	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.
Unauthorised development	Land occupied by the owner without the necessary land use planning permission.
Current residential supply	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.
Current residential demand	Those with a need for authorised pitches for a range of reasons, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ an inability to secure an authorised pitch leading to occupation of unauthorised encampments; ▪ an inability to secure correct planning permission for an unauthorised development; ▪ households living in overcrowded conditions and want a pitch;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ households in conventional housing demonstrating cultural aversion; and ▪ new households expected to arrive from elsewhere.
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	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. This may include adult children who have been unable to move home or different households occupying a single pitch.
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.

APPENDIX 2 - UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENTS

	Location	Caravans	Date Logged
1	Bus Turning Area Upper Race Pontypool	2	07.05.2011
2	Ty Bron Afon Llantarnam Industrial Estate Cwmbran	2	27.06. 2011
3	Ty Bron Afon Llantarnam Industrial Estate Cwmbran	2	19.06.2012
4	Race Club Blaendare Road Pontypool	3	26.07.2012
5	Ty Bron Afon/Raglan House Llantarnam Industrial Estate Cwmbran	4	07.01.2013
6	Ty Bron Afon/Beacon House Llantarnam Industrial Estate Cwmbran	1	09.01.2013
7	Former Losley Ice Cream site Llantarnam Industrial Estate Cwmbran	5	11.01.2013
8	Bus Turning Area Upper Race Pontypool	1	01.04.2013
9	Beacon House/Ty Bron Afon Llantarnam Industrial Estate Cwmbran	3	04.05.2013
10	Ty Bron Afon Llantarnam Industrial Estate Cwmbran	3	22.05.2013
11	Kays and Kear's Blaenavon	3	11.06.2013
12	Ty Bron Afon/ Tintern House Llantarnam Industrial Estate Cwmbran	4	27.06.2013
13	Bevans Lane Cwmbran	7	25.07.2013
14	Tintern House Llantarnam Industrial Estate Cwmbran	1	05.08.2013
15	Old Autopia Site Avondale Way Cwmbran	4	05.08.2013
16	Beacon House Llantarnam Industrial Estate Cwmbran	1	10.08.2013
17	Lakeside Highway Llantarnam Industrial Estate Cwmbran	1	17.08.2013
18	Kays and Kear's Blaenavon	2	02.09.2013
19	Pavillions, Lakeside Llantarnam Industrial Estate Cwmbran	3	29.09.2013
20	Brecon House/ Beacon House Llantarnam Industrial Estate Cwmbran	2	04.10.2013
21	Nortec House Llantarnam Industrial Estate	2	07.10.2013
22	Lakeside Highway Llantarnam Industrial Estate Cwmbran	2	13.10.2013
23	Pavillions, Lakeside Llantarnam Industrial Estate Cwmbran	2	19.10.2013
24	Lakeside Close (Highway) Llantarnam Industrial Estate Cwmbran	1	11.11.2013

25	Lake View Llantarnam Industrial Estate Cwmbran	2	25.10.2013
26	Springboard Llantarnam Industrial Estate Cwmbran	2	12.11.2013
27	Kays and Kear's Blaenavon	2	12.11.2013
28	Cooper Fullion Llantarnam Industrial Estate Cwmbran	1	19.11.2013
29	Lakeside Court Llantarnam Industrial Estate Cwmbran	2	09.12.2013
30	Kays and Kear's Blaenavon	2	10.02.2014
31	Garn Lakes Blaenavon	2	24.02.2014
32	Kays and Kear's Blaenavon	2	19.08.2014
33	Pavillions, Lakeside Llantarnam Industrial Estate Cwmbran	2	20.09.2014
34	Girlings Factory Grange Road Cwmbran	2	27.09.2014
35	Lakeside Court Cwmbran	2	02.04.2015
36	Rifleman's Arms - Car Park Blaenavon	2	07.04.2015
37	Rifleman's Arms - Car Park Blaenavon	2	14.05.2015
38	Car Park off Victoria Street Old Cwmbran	7	14.06.2015
39	Rifleman's Arms - Car Park Blaenavon	2	28.06.2015
40	Garn Lakes Blaenavon	2	01.07.2015
41	Llanfrechfa Grange Cwmbran	3	22.07.2015
42	Lakeside Court Llantarnam Industrial Estate Cwmbran	1	29.07.2015
43	Pontypool Active Living Centre Pontypool	4	13.10.2015
44	Public Car Park Old Cwmbran	5	04.03.2016
45	Cwmbran Stadium Car Park	4	04.03.2016
46	Llantarnam Park Industrial Estate Cwmbran	1	10.08.2016
47	Rifleman's Car Park Blaenavon	1	06.02.2017
48	Northfields Car Park Edlogan Way Cwmbran	13	07.03.2017
49	Car Park opposite Rifleman's Pub Blaenavon	1	07.03.2017
50	Kays & Kears Blaenavon	1	26.02.2018

51	Rifleman's Car Park Blaenavon	1	26.02.2018
52	Old ICI Car Park Mamhilad	1	26.02.2018
53	Rifleman's Car Park Blaenavon	3	30.07.2018
54	The Alders, Llanyrafon, Cwmbran	5	16.08.2018
55	Mill Street Car Park, Pontypool	7	19.11.2018
56	Pontypool Leisure Centre Car Park	2	13.08.2019

Notes

From July 2016, the Welsh Government's All Wales Caravan Count online data collection system was used to record unauthorised encampments that occurred in Torfaen, as per the WG guidance and details were recorded as to the location of the households and the number of days that they occupied this location.

The Environmental Health Officer would visit the encampment to identify whether the households were looking for permanent accommodation within the borough, or if they were simply passing through. If they were passing through, then the Officer would ascertain whether they wanted to make use of the transit pitches that are available on the local authority site. There has only been one incident in the last 10 years where a transit pitch was accessed by a household that had set up an unauthorised encampment in Torfaen.

APPENDIX 3 - INTERVIEW LOG

Type of tenure	Interview attempts			Engagement techniques used	Questionnaire completed or refusal?	Reasons for refusal?	Additional Information
Bricks and Mortar	17/10/19			Face to Face	Completed		
Bricks and Mortar	21/10/19			Face to Face	Completed		
Bricks and Mortar	23/10/19			Face to Face	Completed		
Bricks and Mortar	23/10/19			Face to Face	Completed		
Bricks and Mortar	23/10/19			Face to Face	Completed		
Bricks and Mortar	18/11/19			Face to Face	Completed		
Bricks and Mortar	15/11/19			Face to Face	Completed		
Bricks and Mortar	15/11/19			Face to Face	Completed		
Bricks and Mortar	15/11/19			Face to Face	Completed		
Bricks and Mortar	15/11/19			Face to Face	Completed		
Bricks and Mortar	18/11/19			Face to Face	Completed		
Bricks and Mortar	30/11/19			Face to Face	Completed		
Bricks and Mortar	15/11/19			Face to Face	Completed		
Bricks and Mortar	18/11/19			Face to Face	Completed		
Bricks and Mortar	30/11/19			Face to Face	Completed		
Bricks and Mortar	15/11/19			Face to Face	Completed		
Bricks and Mortar	18/11/19			Face to Face	Completed		
Bricks and Mortar	30/11/19			Face to Face	Completed		
Bricks and Mortar	15/11/19			Face to Face	Completed		
LA Site	15/10/19			Face to Face	Completed		
LA Site	15/10/19			Face to Face	Completed		
LA Site	15/10/19			Face to Face	Completed		
LA Site	15/10/19			Face to Face	Completed		

LA Site	15/10/19			Face to Face	Completed		
LA Site	15/10/19			Face to Face	Completed		
LA Site	15/10/19			Face to Face	Completed		
LA Site	15/10/19			Face to Face	Completed		
LA Site	15/10/19			Face to Face	Completed		
LA Site	18/10/19			Face to Face	Completed		
LA Site	18/10/19			Face to face	Completed		
LA Site	18/10/19			Face to Face	Completed		
LA Site	18/10/19			Face to Face	Completed		
LA Site	18/10/19			Face to Face	Completed		
LA Site	21/10/19			Face to Face	Completed		
LA Site	23/10/19			Face to Face	Completed		
LA Site	29/10/19			Face to Face	Completed		
LA Site	29/10/19			Face to Face	Completed		
LA Site	21/10/19			Face to face	Completed		
LA Site	21/10/19			Face to Face	Completed		
LA Site	21/10/19			Face to Face	Completed		
LA Site	21/10/19			Face to Face	Completed		
LA Site	21/10/19			Face to Face	Completed		
Private Site with Planning Permission	21/10/19			Face to Face	Completed		
Private Site with Planning Permission	15/11/19			Face to Face	Completed		
Private Site with Planning Permission	18/11/19			Face to Face	Completed		
Private Site with Planning Permission	18/11/19			Face to Face	Completed		
Private Site with Planning Permission	18/11/19			Face to Face	Completed		

Private Site with Planning Permission	18/11/19			Face to Face	Completed		
Private Site with Planning Permission	18/11/19			Face to Face	Completed		
<u>REFUSALS</u>							
Bricks and Mortar	30/10/19	15/11/19	18/11/19	Face to Face	Refusal	Did not want to partake	
Bricks and Mortar	30/10/19	15/11/19	18/11/19	Face to Face	Refusal	Did not want to partake	
Bricks and Mortar	30/10/19	15/11/19	18/11/19	Face to Face	Refusal	Did not want to partake Became Aggressive	Stated that non- G&T would not be expected to complete an assessment
LA Site	30/10/19	15/11/19	18/11/19	Face to face	Refusal	Did not want to partake	Does not engage with Services
Bricks and Mortar	30/11/19	15/11/19	18/11/19	Face to Face	Refusal	Did not want to engage	
LA Site	30/10/19	15/11/19	18/11/19	Face to Face	Refusal	said they were 'not interested'	
LA Site	30/10/19	15/11/19	18/11/19	Face to face	Refusal	Did not want to partake	Does not engage with Services
LA Site	15/10/19			Face to face	Refusal	Resident has significant illness	
LA Site	15/10/19			Face to face	Refusal	Resident has significant family issues	
LA Site	15/10/19			Face to face	Refusal	Recent bereavement in family	
LA Site					VOID	VOID	Plot vacant at time of assessment

LA Site	15/10/19	18/10/19	21/10/19	Face to Face	Refusal	Resident too busy to complete	
LA Site	15/10/19	18/10/19	21/10/19	Face to Face	Could not complete	Resident travelling	
LA Site	15/10/19	18/10/19	21/10/19	Face to Face	Refusal	Resident did not want to partake	
Private Site with Planning Permission	15/11/19			Face to Face	Refusal	Resident did not want to partake	
Private Site with Planning Permission	15/11/19			Face to Face	Refusal	Resident did not want to partake	
Private Site with Planning Permission	15/11/19	18/11/19		Face to Face	Refusal	Did not want to engage	
Private Site with Planning Permission	15/11/19	18/11/19		Face to Face	Refusal	Resident did not want to partake	
Private Site with Planning Permission	15/11/19	18/11/19		Face to Face	Refusal	Resident did not want to partake	
Private Site with Planning Permission	18/11/19			Face to Face	Refusal	Resident did not want to partake	
Private Site with Planning Permission	18/11/19			Face to Face	Refusal	Resident did not want to partake	
Private Site with Planning Permission	18/11/19			Face to Face	Refusal	Did not want to engage	
Private Site with Planning Permission	18/11/19			Face to Face	Refusal	Resident did not want to partake	
Private Site with Planning Permission	18/11/19			Face to Face	Could not complete	Resident travelling	