

Allerdale Borough Council

Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showperson

Accommodation Assessment 2017

Update of Travelling Showperson Need

Allerdale Borough Council

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 In October 2013, arc⁴ published a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment for Cumbria. The GTAA presented an evidence base to inform the development of planning policies relating to Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople across the County and for individual local authority areas.
- 1.2 Data for Allerdale indicated the following needs:
 - Total need for 21 travelling showperson plots due to future household formation (the need was 7 plots 2013/14 to 2017/18, 7 plots 2018/19 to 2022/23 and 7 plots 2023/24 to 2027/28);
 - A total need for 10 Gypsy and Traveller pitches (the need was specifically over the period 2013/14 to 2017/18).
- 1.3 Allerdale BC has asked arc4 to update the evidence relating to Travelling Showpeople. This has involved a review of available yards and the extent to which the future need for plots has changed. The updated study also takes account of the August 2015 Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS) which uses the following definition to describe 'Travelling Showpeople':

*'Members of a group organised for the purposes of holding fairs, circuses or shows (whether or not travelling together as such). This includes such persons who on the grounds of their own or their family's or dependants' more localised pattern of trading, educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily, but excludes Gypsies and Travellers as defined above.'*¹
- 1.4 It is also helpful to clarify that when the report refers to a plot, this means a area to accommodate a single caravan located on a Showperson's yard.
- 1.5 In order to deliver the 2018 GTAA (Travelling Showperson) update, a review of all Showperson Yards across Allerdale has taken place. We have also spoken with the Showman's Guild of Great Britain to confirm yard locations within the Borough. Each yard has been visited and up to date information on yard occupancy and information on households living on yards has been obtained. We are very grateful to the Travelling Showperson community who have helpfully provided the information necessary to update the needs assessment.

¹ DCLG Planning policy for traveller sites August 2015 Annex 1, para 3

2. Travelling Showperson yards in Allerdale

- 2.1 The 2018 GTAA (Travelling Showperson) update has provided the opportunity to update the Council with information on the number and size of yards across the Borough. At present there are 3 yards used for residential occupancy and an additional yard used for storage (Table 2.1). Note that the yards in Wigton had traditionally been overcrowded and since the 2013 GTAA the number of households living on plots there has reduced.

Table 2.1 Yards in Allerdale Borough

Yard Name	Yard Location	Type of Yard	Ownership	Total Number of Plots on Yard	Number of occupied plots
Slater's Yard	Station Road, Wigton, CA7 9BA	Permanent residential	Private with planning permission	24	14
Printfield	Station Road, Wigton, CA7 9BA	Permanent residential	Private with planning permission	3	3
Fletcher's Yard	Silloth Airfield	Used for storage only*			
Meadow Lodge	Silloth, CA7 4PQ	Permanent residential	Private with planning permission	1	1
TOTAL				28	18

*Family believed to live in bricks and mortar housing in Maryport

3. Future need for plots

- 3.1 Updated occupancy and demographic analysis indicates that over the Plan Period to 2029 there is a need for an additional 8 plots broken down as follows:
- An immediate need for 5 additional plots based on adult children and newly formed households currently living on yards;
 - A longer-term need for an additional 3 plots from children who are likely to need plots from the age of 18.
- 3.2 Given that need is arising from households actively involved in Travelling Showperson activities, this need satisfies the PPTS definition of need.

- 3.3 This is a reduction on the 2013 GTAA requirement for 21 plots and this is due to the reduction in households living on Printfields to ease overcrowding plus the creation of an additional yard in Silloth.
- 3.4 It is estimated that around 1 acre of land would be sufficient to accommodate the need evidenced, assuming 1 plot requires one-tenth of an acre. We are not assuming that there is additional capacity on yards in Wigton as it is understood the yards have traditionally been overcrowded and the reduction in households has alleviated this and provided more space for the storage of equipment.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 The Council should note that the need for Travelling Showpersons' plots to 2029 has reduced to a shortfall of 8 plots. This would require around 1 acre of land to be developed for Travelling Showpersons use. The Council should therefore identify appropriate locations for additional yards within the Borough.
- 4.2 We would also suggest to the Council that providing additional yards within the Borough supports economic development given the valuable role that the Travelling Showperson community plays in providing employment and services to local communities.

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