

# **Planning Advice Note**

## **Gypsy/Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Development**

This Planning Advice Note provides additional guidance in relation to the Renfrewshire Local Development Plan, with a specific focus on providing a framework for assessing proposals for Gypsy/Traveller and Travelling Showpeople sites for the transient and settled community as well as to determine applications for small privately-owned sites for Gypsy/Travellers and Travelling Showpeople \*.

Early contact should be made with Renfrewshire Council to discuss proposals for Gypsy/Traveller and Travelling Showpeople developments. It is also strongly recommended that early consultation with the Council is undertaken before purchasing land for development.

### **Renfrewshire Local Development Plan**

The Renfrewshire Local Development Plan sets out the spatial strategy to facilitate investment and guide the future use of land in Renfrewshire. It provides a framework for decision making to ensure development and changes in land use are appropriate.

The Renfrewshire Local Development Plan identifies land to meet the need and demand for an all tenure housing supply across Renfrewshire. This includes ensuring provision for the housing needs and requirements of the Gypsy/Traveller settled community, in or adjacent to existing residential areas. It focuses on and seeks to deliver mixed communities, prioritising and encouraging development in existing built up areas within communities as well as protecting the natural environment in Renfrewshire.

The Renfrewshire Local Development Plan - New Development Supplementary Guidance, adopted alongside the Plan in 2014, sets out the detailed development criteria for the assessment of proposals to ensure compliance with the overall strategy for Renfrewshire. It provides a Places Checklist that forms the basis of good design advice which should be considered and reflected in development proposals.

All relevant policies, guidance and advice in the Renfrewshire Local Development Plan and the New Development Supplementary Guidance will be considered in determining a planning application. This policy framework along with the planning considerations outlined in this Planning Advice Note will help guide site development to the right locations.

## **Site Provision for Gypsy/Travellers and Travelling Showpeople**

Development sites for Gypsy/Traveller and Travelling Showpeople that come forward during the Plan period will be assessed against the policy framework set out in the Renfrewshire Local Development Plan along with the following key planning considerations:

- **Residential environment**

Sites require to provide a good residential environment, amenity and setting.

Sites are required to complement and be compatible with the character and appearance of the surrounding area.

- **Density**

The number and nature of the pitches provided should be appropriate to the site size and general area;

- **Layout**

Where sites are to be occupied on a permanent basis, the siting/placing of caravans, chalets or other accommodation should ensure that prospective occupants have an acceptable level of residential amenity with regards to privacy and spacing;

- **Access**

A suitable means of access requires to be provided. The site should be well connected and/or is within a reasonable walking distance from services, education, community uses, health services, public transport and other facilities;

- **Services for the site**

The development makes provision for essential infrastructure such as water, sewerage disposal, electricity, lighting, refuse collection, internal roads as well as access for emergency vehicles. Provision of power through a sustainable means is encouraged;

- **Boundaries and landscaping**

Boundaries and landscaping around sites should be sympathetic to, and in keeping with, the surrounding area;

Parking and storage of material and/or equipment on the site should be satisfactorily accommodated and appropriately screened where required;

## **Planning Applications - Supporting Information**

Early pre-application discussions with Renfrewshire Council's Development Management officers will clarify which of the information listed below will be required in support of a planning application for Gypsy/Traveller and Travelling Showpeople developments:

- A location plan (1:1250 metric scale)
- A site/block plan (1:500 metric scale)
- Elevations
- Design and access statement

- A supporting statement
- Boundary treatment specification and details (where applicable)
- Details of any ancillary works or buildings proposed,
- Ancillary reports and assessments (where applicable)

### **Other Requirements**

Other consents/licenses/permission may be required depending on the nature of the development. Contact should be made with Renfrewshire Council to discuss other requirements.

### **Contact us**

Should you wish to discuss any of the information contained in this Planning Advice Note or would like to arrange a pre-application discussion with a Development Management officer, please contact:

**email:** [dc@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:dc@renfrewshire.gov.uk)

**phone:** 0300 300 0144

**fax:** 0141 618 7935

**visit or write** to us at:

Development and Housing Services

Renfrewshire House

Cotton Street

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### **\*Definition**

#### **Gypsy/Travellers**

For the purposes of this Planning Advice Note the term Gypsy/Travellers includes Romany Gypsies, European Roma, Scottish, Irish, English and Welsh Travellers as well as New Age/New Travellers.

#### **Travelling Showpeople**

The term Travelling Showpeople include 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.