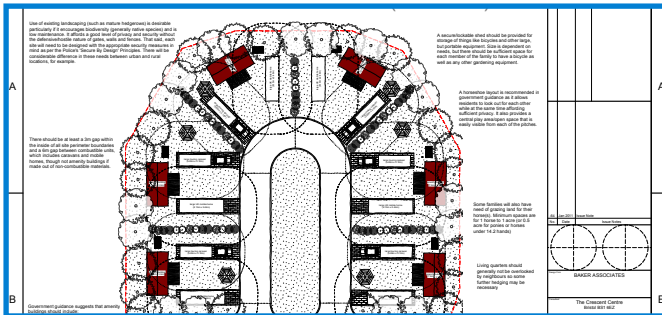


Have your say: finding sites in Dorset for Gypsies and Travellers

Consultation – November 2011

Site options summary and response form (Bournemouth)



Produced by Baker Associates on behalf of Dorset councils

Introduction

Councils in Dorset (including Bournemouth and Poole) are working together to identify sites to meet the current and future needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in the area.

The councils would like to hear your views on the content of the site options included in this booklet.

We would also like to hear your views on the full Issues and Options Consultation Document which is available to view, together with other background documents, at council offices and at www.dorsetforyou.com/travellerpitches

Public exhibitions to explain the need for this plan and the options suggested are being held at the following places in Bournemouth:

- 5 December 3:30-7:30pm, Bournemouth Training Centre, Jewell Road, Bournemouth, BH8 0LT
- 13 December 3-7pm, The Bournemouth Library, 22 The Triangle, Bournemouth, BH2 5RQ

You can have your say by:

- Completing and returning the attached response form
- Completing the online questionnaire at www.dorsetforyou.com/travellerpitches
- Completing the questionnaire available at the public exhibitions

The deadline for comments to be received is **10 February 2012**.

Background

Gypsies and Travellers have been living in England for hundreds of years. The number living in Dorset is estimated at between 2,400 and 3,000 people. There are seasonal differences, with more Travellers arriving during the summer months. Many Gypsies and Travellers move around the country and need temporary transit sites in the areas they travel to. However, travelling communities are becoming increasingly settled and need permanent residential sites which also act as a

base from which to travel.

Travelling Showpeople play an important role in the leisure economy, travelling the country to hold fairs and circuses. They need secure, permanent bases in which to live and store their equipment. There are established family businesses currently based in Dorset.

Why should councils find places for Gypsies and Travellers to stay?

The Government wants to significantly increase the number of Traveller sites with planning permission and address the shortage of sites in recent years.

It's important that local councils plan for the needs of all of their communities, including Gypsies and Travellers. Councils will help meet the needs of the travelling communities by producing a plan that identifies enough sites for them. This should help reduce the number of illegal camps. It should also reduce tension and help make enforcement by councils and the police more effective.

More generally, councils have a duty to promote good race relations, equality of opportunity and community cohesion.

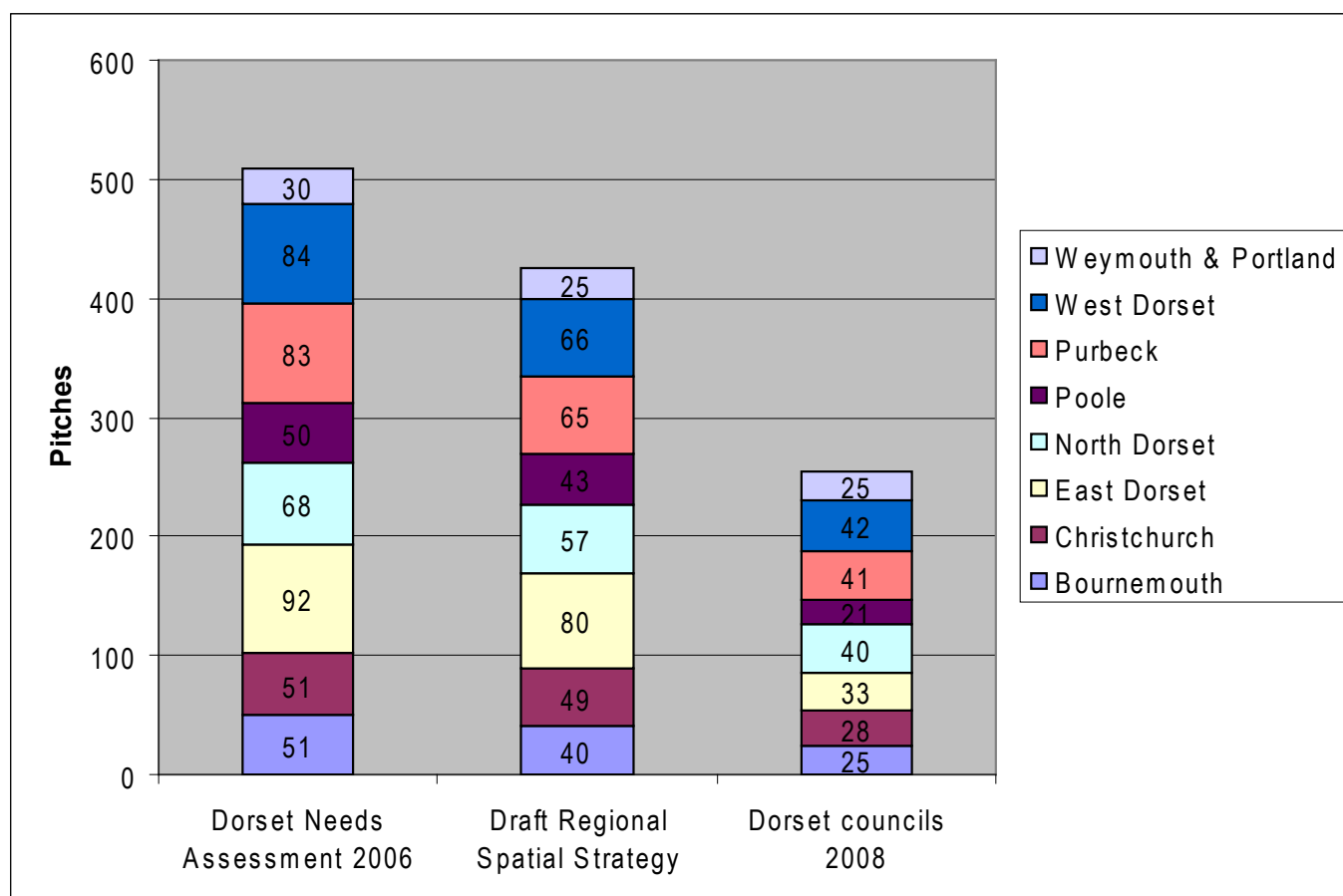
Meeting needs

There is currently a shortage of permanent residential and transit Gypsy and Traveller pitches¹ in Dorset. A site can contain up to 15 pitches, although travelling communities prefer small sites with up to six pitches.

A number of estimates have been made for the current needs of Gypsies and Travellers in Dorset, mainly based on local surveys of need.

The following table shows three different recent estimates of need. In addition a further 100 transit pitches are required on a temporary

Recent estimates of Gypsy and Traveller need in Dorset



basis each year for the annual Great Dorset Steam Fair in North Dorset².

A regional report on Travelling Showpeople in the South West has estimated that two plots³ should be provided in Dorset to meet current needs.

More work will need to be done to identify future needs. The plan will need to identify local targets for 5, 10 and 15 year periods.

Site options

The councils have started to assess potential sites within their areas. Independent planning consultants Baker Associates have identified a site which may be potentially suitable, available

and achievable for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in Bournemouth.

Three other sites within Green Belt could be investigated further if sufficient suitable sites outside Green Belt cannot be found.

The councils have yet to decide which, if any, of the identified sites are appropriate for Gypsy, Traveller or Travelling Showpeople uses.

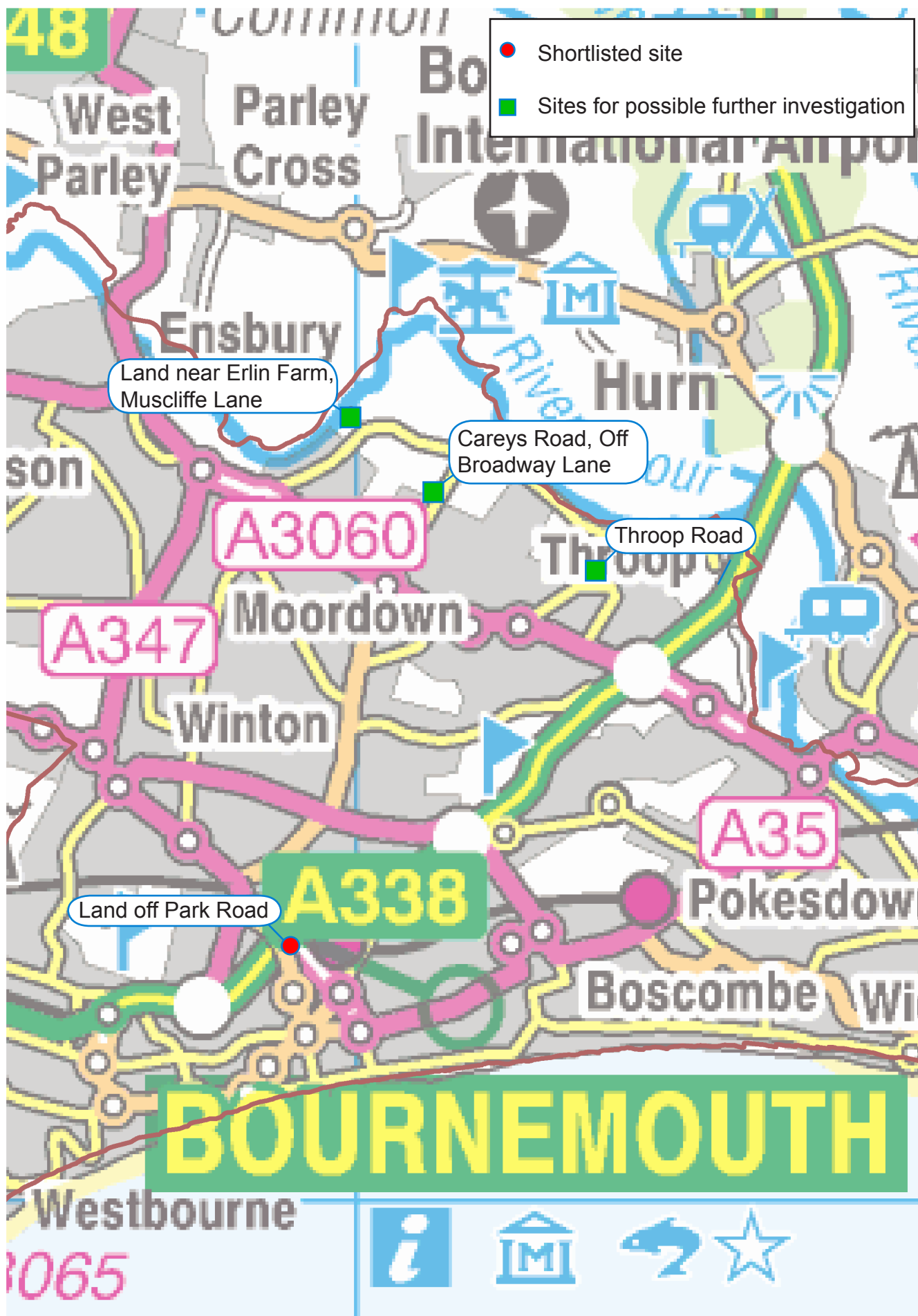
Your views are sought to help the councils come to an informed decision.

1. Gypsy and Traveller site needs are measured in terms of pitches. A pitch is an area of land where a Gypsy or Traveller household can reside. Typically, this may have a building, parking space and one or more caravans, with sufficient space so that caravans up to 20 metres in length can be moved around.


2. In July 2011, Dorset County Council granted planning permission for five years for a site off the A354 to be used during a three week period around the dates of the Steam Fair each year.

3. Travelling Showpeople needs are measured in terms of plots. A plot contains both residential and business uses for a household. It allows for the storage and repair of fairground equipment.


Location of sites in Bournemouth





Shortlisted site

<p>Site name & settlement: Land off Park Road, Bournemouth</p>	<p>Summary of assessment:</p> <p>A wooded, green area bordered by 2 main roads to the north and east (A338) and adjacent car park to the south.</p> <p><i>Is it suitable?</i> The site could be subject to noise and air pollution due to nearby busy roads and the main railway station. However, the site is safe with little adverse environmental impact and good access to public transport.</p>	<p>Number of pitches: 10</p>
<p>Site map</p> 	<p><i>Is it available?</i> The northern part is allocated in the Bournemouth Borough Wide Local Plan for the Wessex Way junction improvement. Therefore the site would only be available in the short/medium term for transit use. If the lease on the car park was to lapse, this part of the site would be suitable for longer term transit provision.</p> <p><i>Is it achievable?</i> There are no abnormal costs that would prevent the site from coming forward.</p>	<p>Type of provision: Transit</p> <p>Type of traveller: Romany Gypsies or Irish Travellers</p> <p>Delivery: Public managed</p>

Sites for possible further investigation

<p>Site name & settlement: Land near Erlin Farm, Muscliffe Lane, Bournemouth</p>	<p>Summary of assessment:</p> <p>The site is on the periphery of Bournemouth and is currently undeveloped.</p> <p><i>Is it suitable?</i> The site is within Green Belt. The site is adjacent a Conservation Area and Local Nature Reserve. It is also adjacent residential properties and may impact on residential amenity. However, this could be managed by good site design and subject to the site being accessed from the lane which leads to the farm. It has relatively good access to local services and buses.</p>	<p>Number of pitches: 3</p>
<p>Site map</p> 	<p><i>Is it available?</i> The site is publicly owned and therefore deemed available in principle.</p> <p><i>Is it achievable?</i> There are no abnormal site constraints needed to overcome.</p>	<p>Type of provision: Residential</p> <p>Type of traveller: New Travellers or Romany Gypsies</p> <p>Delivery: Privately owned and managed</p>

<p><i>Site name & settlement:</i> Careys Road, Off Broadway Lane, Bournemouth</p>	<p><i>Summary of assessment:</i> The site is a strip of unmanaged grassland.</p>	<p><i>Number of pitches:</i> 5</p>
<p><i>Site map</i></p> 	<p><i>Is it suitable?</i> The site is within Green Belt. Houses near the site are separated by an adjacent field. In terms of access to local services, there is no primary school within 2.5km, however there is a bus stop close by.</p> <p><i>Is it available?</i> The site is publicly owned and therefore available in principle.</p> <p><i>Is it achievable?</i> There are no abnormal site constraints needed to overcome.</p>	<p><i>Type of provision:</i> Residential</p> <p><i>Type of traveller:</i> New Travellers or Romany Gypsies</p> <p><i>Delivery:</i> Privately owned and managed</p>

<p><i>Site name & settlement:</i> Throop Road, Bournemouth</p>	<p><i>Summary of assessment:</i> The site is a green field site on the edge of the urban area.</p>	<p><i>Number of pitches:</i> 8</p>
<p><i>Site map</i></p> 	<p><i>Is it suitable?</i> The site is within Green Belt. There are trees on site which would need protecting in any scheme. Properties to the south are well screened by trees and bushes, although this could be improved with extra screening for properties to the very south eastern corner of the site. The site has quite good access to services.</p> <p><i>Is it available?</i> The site is publicly owned and therefore available in principle.</p> <p><i>Is it achievable?</i> There are no abnormal site constraints needed to overcome.</p>	<p><i>Type of provision:</i> Residential</p> <p><i>Type of traveller:</i> New Travellers or Romany Gypsies</p> <p><i>Delivery:</i> Privately or publicly owned and managed</p>

Other sites

A number of other sites have been assessed, but the independent planning consultants have recommended they be rejected. Details of these sites can be found in the full Issues and Options Consultation Document.

The councils would also like to hear of any other sites which you think they should be considering as part of this process.

What next?

Please complete the attached response form and return it by **10 February 2012** to:

Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Consultation
County Hall,
Dorchester,
Dorset,
DT1 1XJ

The councils will consider the responses received and will use them to develop proposals for further public consultation next year.

Site options response form Consultation – November 2011-February 2012

Dorset-wide Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Site Allocations Joint Development Plan Document

Please answer the questions below. You may use an additional sheet of paper if needed. Inappropriate, offensive or racist comments will not be accepted.

Do you have information about any of the sites in this booklet which will help Dorset councils decide whether they are suitable, available and achievable for Gypsy, Traveller or Travelling Showpeople provision?

Name of site: _____

Response: _____

Do you know of any other sites which the councils should be considering for future Gypsy, Traveller or Travelling Showpeople uses?

Name and location of site: _____

Please attach a map if possible.

Reasons why it should be considered _____

