

**Cotswold Local Plan Examination**

**Draft Statement of Common Ground on Matter 11**

**Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Sites**

**Between Cotswold District Council and John Norris and family**

1. The two parties are not in agreement about whether the outcomes of the Gloucestershire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA), produced by Opinion Research Services (ORS), March 2017 provide the robust evidence to inform preparation of the plan required by PPfTS para 7c).
2. For the GTAA, ORS were able to interview occupants of 18 (46%) of the 39 implemented and occupied pitches they were able to identify (Fig 22).
3. Based on those interviews, ORS identified 3 households who would be in need of accommodation during the plan period amongst those who were assessed as having met the revised definition of Gypsy and Traveller for planning purposes at Annex 1 to Planning policy for traveller sites (PPfTS), August 2015.
4. The GTAA also identified a further 13 Gypsy and Traveller households, who were assessed as not having met the definition, but who would be in need of accommodation during the plan period.
5. The two parties do not agree on the adequacy of the ORS interview questions to determine whether a household meets the definition. Paragraphs 16-19 of Michael Hargreaves' statement explain why he is sceptical whether the consultants' approach will produce robust results.
6. It is possible that further need could arise from the occupants of the pitches ORS identified, but who could not be interviewed. Table 51 indicates ORS's view that this group could result in need for up to up to 11 additional pitches from the 24 households who may meet the definition. Michael Hargreaves does not accept that 11 is the maximum number of pitches required from the households ORS could not interview.
7. The Local Plan has a criteria-based policy against which any future planning applications for pitches arising from currently unidentified need could be considered.
8. In addition to need for pitches that ORS identified, there may be additional need from other sources, such as Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar housing, net movement of Travellers into the area, and Travellers who do not admit their identity, or who are unidentified.
9. The two parties are not in agreement about whether the Council is required to make provision in the plan for Gypsies and Travellers, who do not meet the August 2015 definition. Paragraphs 20 & 21 of Michael Hargreaves' statement outlines why he believes it is.

Signed

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M Hargreaves'.

Michael Hargreaves for John Norris and family

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Vickery'.

Chris Vickery for Cotswold District Council

