



Horsham
District
Council

Horsham District Local Plan Examination

Gypsy and Traveller Topic Paper

March 2026

Gypsy and Traveller Topic Paper

Introduction

1. This Topic Paper has produced to set out the Council’s approach to the provision of Gypsy and Traveller (G&T) Accommodation. In doing so, it covers the following matters:
 - Assessed Need
 - Current Supply
 - Approach in the **Plan (SD01)**

Assessed Need

2. A **Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) (H04)** was first published in January 2020 to understand and assess the needs for G&T provision. Given the length of time taken to progress the **Plan (SD01)**, a **GTAA Update (H05)** was undertaken to reassess the needs. This was published in November 2023. All references in Strategic Policy 43 of the **Plan (SD01)** relate to the findings of the **GTAA Update (H05)**.
3. Both of the above GTAAs were undertaken according to established methodologies, taking into account national policy at the time – including the national definition of who were considered members of the G&T community for the purposes of planning policy.
4. In December 2023, the **Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS)** was updated to reflect the Court of Appeal judgement in *Smith vs SSLUHC (2022)* and set out a new definition that reverts to defining travellers as all those of a travelling background.
5. In response to the updated definition, a **GTAA Targeted Update (H06)** was produced in July 2024. This assessed and updated the conclusions of the **GTAA Update (H05)** and set out need figures for those members of the G&T community who meet the **PPTS** definition, as well as those who do not. It also identifies a need for households where the need could not be determined (where it was not possible to conduct an interview). The findings are summarised as follows:

Table 1: Need for Gypsy and Traveller provision (2023-2040)

| Status | Need |
|--|------|
| Meets Planning Definition | 79 |
| Undetermined | 0-20 |
| Do not meet Planning Definition | 29 |
| Total | 128 |

6. The **GTAA Targeted Update (H06)** also confirmed that the need for Travelling Showpeople remains at 1 plot in the plan period.
7. In terms of when the needs for those who meet the planning definition need to be provided, the **GTAA Targeted Update (H06)** concluded the following:

Table 2: Needs for those who meet G&T definition in different phases of the plan periods

| Date Range | Need |
|------------------|-----------|
| 2023-2028 | 50 |
| 2028-2033 | 10 |
| 2033-2038 | 12 |
| 2038-2040 | 7 |
| 2023-2040 | 79 |

8. Accordingly, the Council has proposed several modifications to the plan in order to deal with the change in definition of Gypsies and Travellers and the revised need figure identified in the **GTAA Update (H06)**.

Supply

9. Several planning applications have been approved for G&T provision since the start of the plan period and therefore a contribution to the assessed need has already been made. By the end of February 2026, this amounted to **32 pitches**, of which **9 pitches** were on sites allocated in the Plan. Details of the approved planning applications are shown in the table below

Table 3: Sites with planning permission since the start of the plan period.

| Site | App Ref | Decision Date | Pitches | Proposed allocation |
|---|------------|---------------|---------|---------------------|
| Pear Tree Farm Furners Lane Woodmancote Henfield | DC/21/1796 | 29/02/2024 | 5 | |
| Redgates, Burnthouse Lane, Lower Beeding | DC/24/0273 | 26/04/2024 | 1 | |
| Land Parcel At 520128 116244 Stonepit Lane Henfield | DC/24/0367 | 21/11/2024 | 3 | |
| Parsons Field Stables Pickhurst Lane Pulborough West Sussex RH20 1DA | DC/24/0256 | 05/06/2025 | 1 | |
| Peacocks Paddock Stall House Lane North Heath RH20 2HR | DC/25/0150 | 08/08/2025 | 2 | |
| Sussex Topiary Naldretts Lane Rudgwick Horsham West Sussex RH12 3BU | DC/24/1502 | 18/12/2025 | 4 | YES |
| Land at Marches Road Warnham | DC/25/0982 | 18/11/2025 | 2 | |
| Greenfield Farm Valewood Lane Barns Green RH13 0QJ | DC/25/0055 | 24/11/2025 | 5 | |
| Land at Oldfield Stables Fryern Road Storrington Pulborough RH20 4BJ | DC/25/1581 | 27/11/2025 | 4 | |
| Land North West of Junipers Harbolets Road West Chiltington | DC/24/1409 | 27/11/2025 | 2 | YES |

| | | | | |
|---|------------|--------------|-----------|----------|
| Rose View Park Hill Farm Lane Codmore Hill West Sussex RH20 1BW | DC/25/0318 | 09/12/2025 | 2 | YES |
| Land East of Coolham Road West Chiltington | DC/25/1416 | 19/12/2025 | 1 | YES |
| | | TOTAL | 32 | 9 |

Approach to G&T Provision in the Plan

10. Throughout the preparation of the Plan, the Council has taken a proactive approach to the identification of sites. It undertook three separate call for sites exercises; in May 2019, September 2020 and May 2022. Such sites are assessed in the **Gypsy and Traveller Site Assessment (H07)**
11. Excluding the sites which have now been granted permission the following sites were identified for allocation, intensification or regularisation in the Plan. This is set out in the following table.

Table 4 Sites allocated in the Plan

| Site | Existing Authorised G&T Pitches | Proposed Additional Pitches | Total Gross Pitches (Total Net Pitches) |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Fryern Park, Storrington | 2 | 2 | 4 (2) |
| Northside Farm, Rusper | 1 | 3 | 4 (3) |
| Southview, The Haven, Slinfold | 1 | 4 | 5 (4) |
| Sussex Topiary, Rudgwick | 4 | 8 | 12 (8) |
| Plot 3 Bramblefield, Crays Lane, Thakeham | 1 | 3 | 4 (3) |
| Kingfisher Farm, West Chiltington Lane, Barns Green | 0 | 11 | 11 (11) |
| Downsview Paddock, New Hall Lane, Small Dole | 0 | 1 | 1 (1) |
| Land East of Billingshurst | 0 | 5 | 5 (5) |
| Land at Girder Bridge , Gay Street Lane, North Heath Pulborough | 0 | 5 | 5 (5) |
| Land North West of Southwater | 0 | 5 | 5 (5) |
| Land West of Ifield (part) | 0 | 15 | 15 (15) |
| TOTAL | 9 | 62 | 71 (62) |
| Travelling Showpeople Site | Existing Plots | Proposed Additional Plots | Gross Plots (Net Plots) |
| Honeybridge Lane, Dial Post | 4 | 1 | 5 (1) |

12. The PPTS explains in Policy B, paragraph 10 that Local Plans should set out sites to meet needs for the first ten years of the plan period and, where possible, for years 11-15. Taken together, the permissions and allocations amount to a supply of 94 pitches. As such, the approach would meet the entire needs of those who meet the PPTS definition throughout the plan period (79) and make substantial contribution of 15 pitches to those where it could not be determined if they meet the definition.
13. It is recognised that the approach does not meet in full the needs arising from those where it could not be determined they meet the definition and makes no contribution to those who do not meet the planning definition. The Council's approach to meeting Gypsy and Traveller requirements has been to allocate land on suitable smaller scale sites and also include provision within any new strategic scale allocations. It is therefore intended that additional provision would be provided within any further strategic allocations which the Council is considering - the Council's expectations are 15 pitches within a large-scale strategic site (around 2,000 homes or more) or 5 pitches within a smaller strategic site. This could ensure that additional needs are met. Should any further allocations come forward, related modifications to this policy would be necessary to reflect such circumstances.