



THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL: TRAVELLER NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2013 UPDATE



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1. Updated Traveller Needs Assessment

The Survey

- 1.1 In 2012 Opinion Research Services (ORS) was commissioned by Dacorum Borough Council and Three Rivers District Council to undertake a Traveller Needs Assessment.
- 1.2 The main objective of this study was to determine the scale of unmet current and future needs for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showmen within the two areas and to translate these into recommended pitch and plot targets that are useable within the Council's respective Local Plans and to enable the assessment of a rolling five year supply. This also required the identification of whether any extra site provision should be on public or private sites, and whether the local authority need to plan for the provision of transit sites or emergency stopping places.
- 1.3 This document represents a short update of the report for Three Rivers District Council taking in changes which have occurred since the time of the original report.

Overall Needs in the Original Report

- 1.4 The estimated extra pitch provision that was required in 2012 and in the future until 2027 in Three Rivers was 8 pitches to address the need for the existing households on the sites with temporary planning permissions due to expire in the near future, for the family on an unauthorised site (due to the expiry of temporary permission) and a small amount of household growth over time.
- 1.5 We would note that Bedmond site in Three Rivers contained a number of empty pitches. However, these were in private ownership and will be used by family members in the future. While these pitches were not available for use for households not currently on the site they will prevent the need for the development of new sites to meet the needs of existing households on the Bedmond site. Therefore, these vacant pitches were not available to meet the needs of other households in Three Rivers.
- 1.6 It was also noted that it is likely other households will come forward seeking to develop new sites in Three Rivers from elsewhere in the country, but it is not possible to use any past trends to forecast how many households this will equate to. This must be considered against the local authorities site criteria because they have not been explicitly included in this need assessment.

Changes Since 2012 and Updated Overall Needs for Three Rivers

- 1.7 Since the time of the original assessment, one household occupying a single pitch with an expired temporary permission have left the area and are not seeking to renew the planning permission. This means

that one fewer pitch will be required in the future from the household on the unauthorised site. This has no impact on the projected household formations.

- 1.8 It is also the case that a single pitch has been granted planning permission. This pitch has not yet been developed due to issues around access. The pitch is not expected to be occupied by any children and therefore it does not affect future formations.
- 1.9 Therefore, the estimated extra site provision that is required now and in the near future will be 7 pitches to address the needs of all identifiable households. This includes the existing households, those with temporary planning permissions and growth in household numbers due to household formation. There are currently no households on unauthorised sites.

Figure 1
Extra Pitches which are Required in Three Rivers from 2013-2027

Reason for Requirement/Vacancy	Gross Requirement	Supply	Net Requirement
Current unauthorised developments or encampments	0	-	0
Currently on sites with temporary planning permission	5		5
Waiting list for public sites	0	-	0
Migration from elsewhere	0	-	0
New household formation	2	0	2
Movement from bricks and mortar	0	0	0
Currently overcrowded and require to move	0	0	0
Additional supply from out-migration	-	0	(0)
Additional supply from empty pitches		0	(0)
Additional supply new sites	-	0	(0)
Total	7	0	7

Split to 2028 in 5 year Time Period

- 1.10 In terms of providing results by 5 year time periods we have assumed that all unauthorised sites/those with expired temporary permissions are addressed in the first 5 years. Any supply from empty pitches is assumed to be occupied in the first 5 years. Household formation is apportioned over time.
- 1.11 In summary, the current need of 5 pitches is included in the initial period 2013-2018 and the identified need arising from new household formation is included in the period 2019-2023.

Figure 2
Extra Pitch Provision in Three Rivers by Public and Private Sites 2013-2027

	2013-2017		2017-2022		2022-2027	
	Public/Private Rented Sector	Owner occupied Private/New Traveller	Public/Private Rented Sector	Owner occupied Private/New Traveller	Public/Private Rented Sector	Owner occupied Private/New Traveller
Three Rivers	0	5	0	2	0	0

