



# **Anglesey & Gwynedd Gypsy and Travellers Accommodation Needs Assessment 2016**

**Date document adopted by Gwynedd Council:-**

**Date Document Adopted by Anglesey Council:-**

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## **Introduction**

Under Part 3 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 Local Authorities are required to carry out an Accommodation Needs Assessments of Gypsies and Travellers in their area. Welsh Government guidance states that the accommodation needs of the Gypsies and Travellers should be identified, understood and addressed on the same basis as other sectors of the Community.

Welsh Government requires Local Authorities to undertake a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment every 5 years due to the transient nature of this population.

The aim of this assessment is to identify current accommodation needs and to forecast residential pitch/ transit and temporary stopping site provision in the Counties of Gwynedd (including the area of the Snowdonia National; Park within Gwynedd) and Anglesey.

The previous Gypsy and Travellers Accommodation Assessment was completed in March 2013 and covered Gwynedd, Anglesey, Snowdonia National Park, Conwy, Denbighshire and Flintshire.

Whilst complying with legislation in carrying out this study Gwynedd and Anglesey Councils will also use the information to inform the emerging Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan. In addition it will assist the Snowdonia National Park in the review of its adopted Local Development Plan.

# 1. Chapter One: Policy Context

## 1.1 Legislation and Guidance

**1.1.1** Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers are distinct ethnic groups, and are protected from discrimination under the Equality Act 2010. The Government is also under a duty through the Human Rights Act 1998 to facilitate the gypsy way of life' in relation to ethnic Gypsies.

**1.1.2 Section 225 and 226 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014** states that Local Authority has a duty to carry out an assessment of the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers residing in the area. If need has been identified the Local Authority must identify suitable sites in their Local Development Plan for residential and transit use.

**1.1.3 Planning Circular 30/07** from Welsh Government highlights the requirement for Local Authorities to identify and make provision for appropriate sites in their local plans.

**1.1.4 Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013.** The Act consolidates the legislation on mobile home sites in Wales. It aims, via its provisions, to improve the management and maintenance of residential mobile home sites in Wales. It removes the power of the site owner to “block” sales of mobile homes. Gwynedd Council has already changed its written terms with licence holders to reflect the requirements of the Act”.

## 1.2 Local Development Plan Policies

**1.2.1** The Isle of Anglesey County Council and Gwynedd Council decided to work together to prepare a joint Plan covering the Anglesey and Gwynedd Local Planning Authority Areas. The deposit version of the Plan was subject to formal public consultation between the 16 February 2015 and 31 March 2015.

**1.2.2** The existing development plans in force at present for the Gwynedd Planning Area and Anglesey as well as the policies in the emerging Deposit Plan are highlighted and explained in Appendix B to this report. When the new JLDP is adopted, it will replace the various existing Development Plans referred to in Appendix B that are applicable for the Gwynedd Planning Area and Anglesey.

**1.2.3** The Councils recognise that they will need to identify sufficient sites to meet the need for additional pitches for Gypsies and Travellers calculated from this Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment. These additional sites will be set out in an addendum to the Deposit Plan and described as 'Focussed Changes'. All Focussed Changes will be submitted to the Planning Inspector as recommended amendments to the Deposit Plan.

**1.2.4** At the Public Examination into the Plan, the Planning Inspector will assess the soundness of the Plan. The Inspector could recommend changes to policies and to proposed allocations (including the Gypsy Traveller policies and proposed site allocations) to ensure that the Plan complies with the tests of soundness. The Focussed Changes and any Changes arising from the Examination will be subject to public consultation (anticipated during 2016).

**1.2.5** The Snowdonia National Park Authority adopted their Local Development Plan in July 2011. At this time a criteria based policy was drafted for Gypsy and Traveller sites (see Appendix B) as no definitive evidence of the need for a site within the National Park Area had been identified. The Authority will use the evidence and findings of the Gypsy and Travellers Needs Assessment 2016 when preparing for the Local Development Plan review.

**See Appendix A & B** for further details.

### 1.3 Welsh Government Definitions of Key Terms

Gypsies and Travellers	<p>(a) Persons of a nomadic habit of life, whatever their race or origin, including:</p> <p>(1) Persons who, on grounds only of their own or their family's or dependant's educational or health needs or old age, have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, and</p> <p>(2) Members of an organized group of travelling show people or circus people (whether or not travelling together as such); and</p> <p>(b) All other persons with a cultural tradition of nomadism or of living in a mobile home.</p>
Residential site	<p>A permanent residential site can be privately owned or owned by the Local Authority. This site will be designated for use as a Gypsy and Traveller site indefinitely. Residents on these sites can expect to occupy their pitches for as long as they abide by the terms of their pitch agreements, under the Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013.</p> <p>Working space may also be provided on, or near, sites for activities carried out by community members.</p>
Temporary residential site	<p>These sites are residential sites which only have planning permission or a site licence for a limited period. Residents on these sites can expect to occupy their pitches for the duration of the planning permission or site licence (or as long as they abide by the terms of their pitch agreements, under the Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013 – whichever is sooner).</p>

Transit site	<p>Transit sites are permanent facilities designed for temporary use by occupiers. These sites must be designated as such and provide a route for Gypsies and Travellers to maintain a nomadic way of life. Individual occupiers are permitted to reside on the site for a maximum of 3 months at a time.</p> <p>Specific terms under the Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013 apply on these sites. Working space may also be provided on, or near, sites for activities carried out by community members.</p>
Temporary Stopping Place	<p>Also known as a ‘stopping place’, ‘Atchin Tan’, or ‘green lane’, amongst other names. These are intended to be short-term in nature to assist Local Authorities where a need for pitches is accepted, however, none are currently available. Pro-actively identified temporary stopping places can be used to relocate inappropriately located encampments, whilst alternative sites are progressed.</p> <p>Temporary stopping places must make provision for waste</p>
Residential pitch	<p>Land on a mobile home site where occupiers are entitled to station their mobile homes indefinitely (unless stated in their pitch agreement). Typically includes an amenity block, space for a static caravan and touring caravan and parking.</p>
Transit pitch	<p>Land on a mobile home site where occupiers are entitled to station their mobile homes for a maximum of 3 months.</p> <p>Transit pitches can exist on permanent residential sites, however, this is not recommended.</p>

<p>Unauthorised encampment</p>	<p>Land occupied without the permission of the owner or without the correct land use planning permission.</p> <p>Encampments may be tolerated by the Local Authority, whilst alternative sites are developed.</p>
<p>Unauthorised development</p>	<p>Land occupied by the owner without the necessary land use planning permission.</p>
<p>Current residential supply</p>	<p>The number of authorised pitches which are available and occupied within the Local Authority or partnership area.</p> <p>This includes pitches on Local Authority or private sites.</p>
<p>Current residential demand</p>	<p>Those with a need for authorised pitches for a range of reasons, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an inability to secure an authorised pitch leading to occupation of unauthorised encampments;</li> <li>• an inability to secure correct planning permission for an unauthorised development;</li> <li>• households living in overcrowded conditions and want a pitch;</li> <li>• households in conventional housing demonstrating cultural aversion;</li> <li>• new households expected to arrive from elsewhere.</li> </ul>
<p>Future residential demand</p>	<p>The expected level of new household formation which will generate additional demand within the 5 year period of the accommodation assessment and longer LDP period.</p>



Overall residential pitch need	The ultimate calculation of unmet accommodation need, which must be identified through the Gypsy and Traveller accommodation assessment process. This figure can be found by adding the immediate residential need to the future residential demand. The overall residential need will capture the needs across the 5 year period within which the accommodation assessment is considered to be robust.
Planned residential pitch supply	The number of authorised pitches which are vacant and available to rent on Local Authority or private sites. It also includes pitches which will be vacated in the near future by households moving to conventional housing or in other circumstances. Additional pitches which are due to open or private sites likely to achieve planning permission shortly should be included as planned residential supply.
Household	In this guidance this refers to individuals from the same family who live together on a single pitch / house / encampment.
Concealed or 'doubled-up' household	<p>This refers to households which are unable to achieve their own authorised accommodation and are instead living within authorised accommodation (houses or pitches) assigned to another household.</p> <p>This may include adult children who have been unable to move home or different households occupying a single pitch.</p>
Household growth	Household growth is defined by the number of new households arising from households which are already accommodated in the area.

## **2.0 Chapter two: Background and analysis of existing data**

### **2.1 North West Wales Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment**

The above study was conducted on behalf of Anglesey, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Snowdonia National Park and Gwynedd Councils by Bangor University during 2011/12. With no current transit site provision in North Wales, the report recommends that relevant local authorities work together to consider providing three or four sites accommodating seven pitches across the study area. From the report the recommendation for the number of residential pitches for Gwynedd Council was 10 and 11 for Anglesey.

The Action Plan from the 2013 Accommodation Assessment has been updated and any outstanding actions will be discussed at the bi-annual meetings.

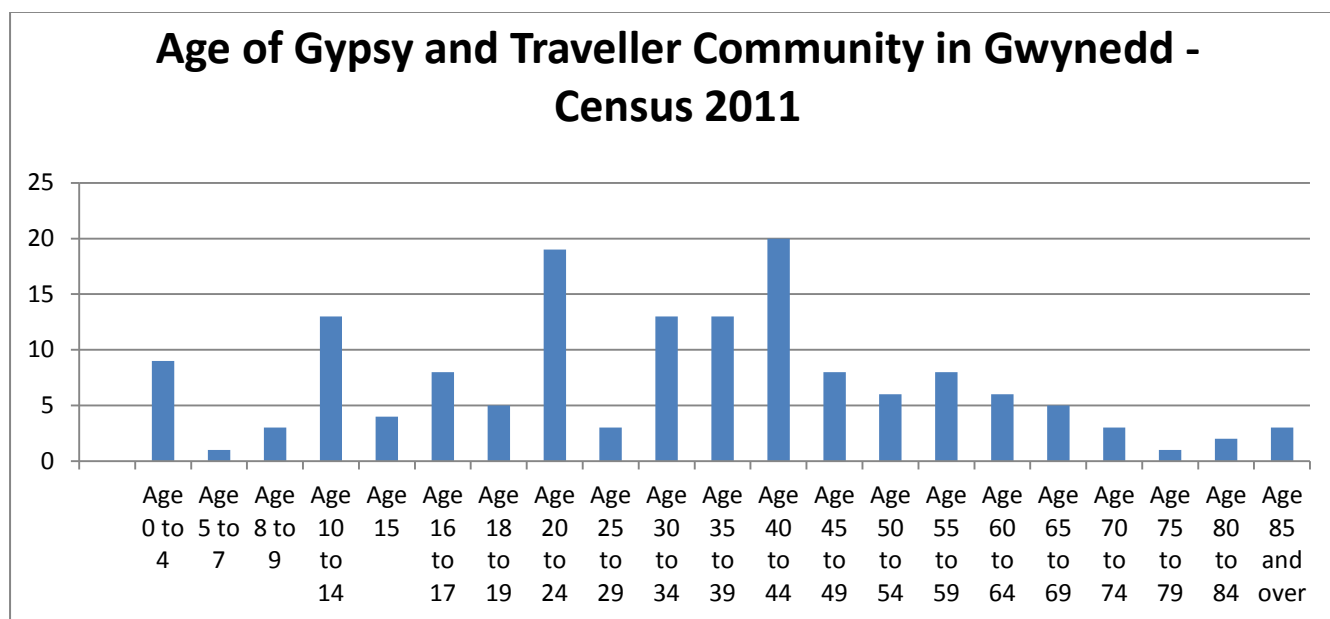
### **2.2 Population Data for Gwynedd**

The 2011 census identified that Gwynedd have 153 declared their ethnic origin\* to be Gypsy or Irish Traveller. This total includes all age groups and therefore includes children.

From the information there are a higher proportion of people between the age of 20 to approximately 55 years of age in Gwynedd, with the highest number being in the 20-24 and 40-44 age category. See graph No. 1 below.

*(\* Ethnic group classifies people according to their own perceived ethnic group and cultural background)*

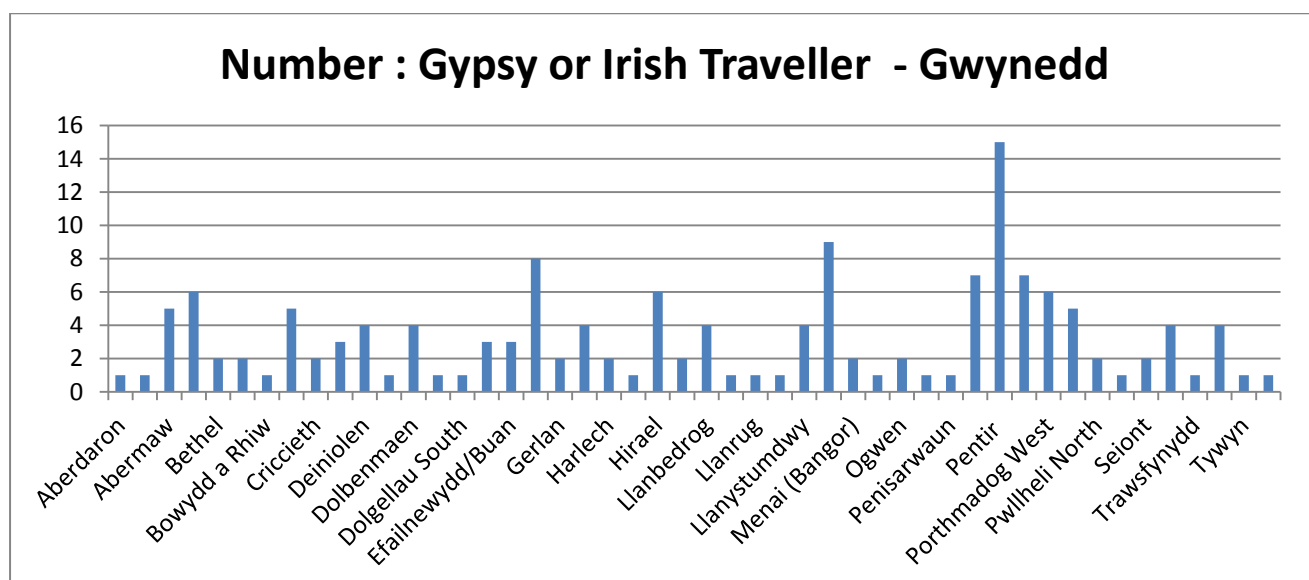
**Graph No. 1 Gypsy and Traveller Age Category - Gwynedd**



Source:-2011 census

**Graph No 2:- Number of Gypsy or Irish Travellers by Area – Gwynedd**

The graph below provides information on the location of Gypsy and Irish Travellers in the Gwynedd Area by village.



Source: Office for National Statistics

From the 153 individuals identified through the 2011 Census, the Office for National Statistics have highlighted the two highest occurring type of households in Gwynedd are :-

- 65 in bricks and Mortar (house or bungalow & flat/masionette or apartment) and;
- 7 in caravans or other mobile temporary structure.

In partnership with the Housing Association we have identified 13 households in bricks and mortar. The 7 carvans or other mobile temporary structure has been identified as the Gwynedd Council Gypsy and Traveller site in Lladygai.

**Table No. 1- Accommodation Type \*\* – Gwynedd**

	Total Accommodation Type	House or bungalow	A flat, maisonette or apartment	A caravan or other mobile or temporary structure
Gwynedd	72	54	11	7

Source: Census 2011/ Office for National Statistics

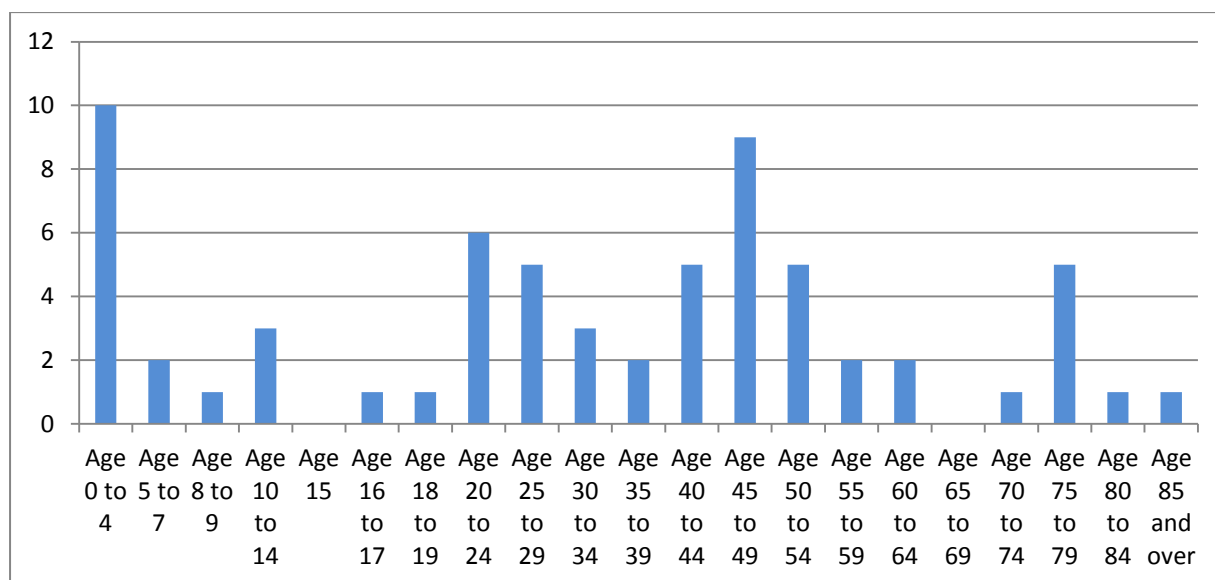
*\*\*The Household Reference Person (HRP) is now used in the census rather than 'head of the household'. HRPs provide an individual person within a household to act as a reference point for producing further derived statistics and for characterising a whole household according to characteristics of the chosen reference person*

## 2.3 Population data – Anglesey

In the 2011 census there were 65 people on Anglesey who declared their ethnic origin\* to be Gypsy or Irish Traveller. This total includes all age groups and therefore includes children.

(\* Ethnic group classifies people according to their own perceived ethnic group and cultural background)

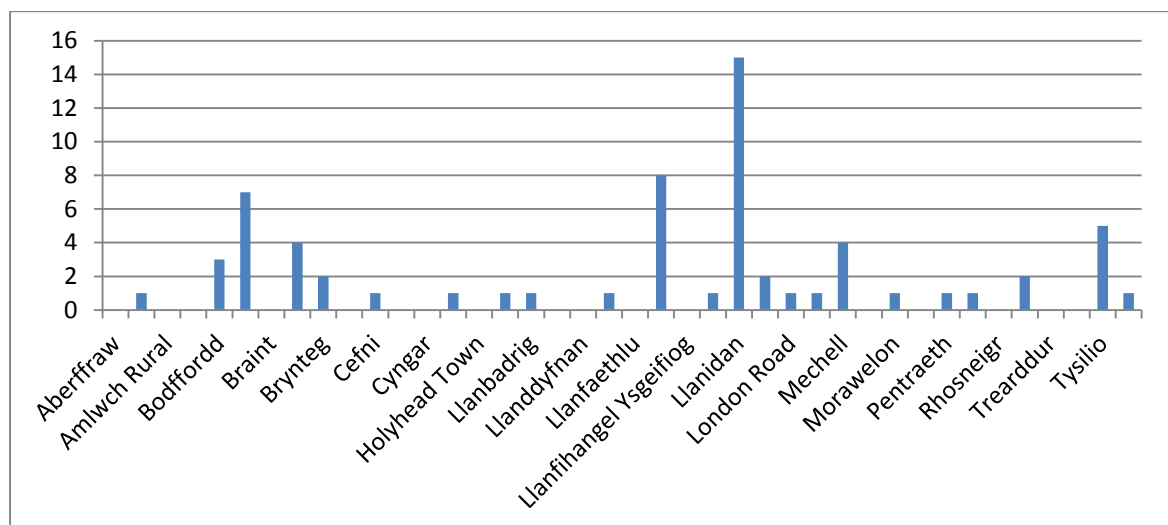
**Graph no 3 – Age of Gypsy and Traveller Community in Anglesey – Census 2011**



Source:-2011 census

When this information is further broken down across the 40 ward areas of Anglesey, the 65 are found to be dispersed widely across Anglesey with only one ward area where there are more than 10 people who have identified as Gypsies or Irish Traveller in the census

**Graph no 4 - Gypsy or Irish Travellers - by ward Anglesey (2011 boundaries)**



Source: Office for National Statistics

The total number of households where the household reference person\* declared their ethnic origin as Gypsy or Irish Traveller was 30. Of these 30 households 25 lived in bricks and mortar and 5 in a caravan or other mobile or temporary structure.

**Table no 2 – Accommodation Type \*\* (Anglesey)**

	Total Accommodation Type	House or bungalow	A flat, maisonette or apartment	A caravan or other mobile or temporary structure
Anglesey	30	19	6	5

Source: Census 2011

*\*\*The Household Reference Person (HRP) is now used in the census rather than 'head of the household'. HRP's provide an individual person within a household to act as a reference point for producing further derived statistics and for characterising a whole household according to characteristics of the chosen reference person*

## 2.4 Caravan Count - Gwynedd

Gwynedd Council reports to Welsh Government on a bi-annually basis on the number of caravans in the County. See below information from 2013 to 2015:-

**Table No 3 - Number of Sites by authorisation and local Authority 2013 to 2015 – Gwynedd**

	Jan 2013	July 2013	Jan 2014	July 2014	Jan 2015	July 2015
Authorised sites (with Planning Permission)	2	2	2	2	2	2
Unauthorised Sites (without Planning Permission)	3	4	4	3	3	3

Source: Stats Wales - Wels Government

**Table No 4 - Number of Pitches by residential status, occupied status and Local Authority – Gwynedd**

The 7 units noted below is the Local Authority Llandygai Site on the outskirts of Bangor.

	Jan 2013	July 2013	Jan 2014	July 2014	Jan 2015	July 2015
Residential Occupied	7	7	7	7	7	7
Residential Vacant	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transit occupied	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transit Vacant	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total of all pitches	7	7	7	7	7	7

Source:- Stats Wales – Welsh Government

**Table No 5 - Number of caravans by authorisation and local authority – Gwynedd**

	January 2013	July 2013	January 2014	July 2014	January 2015	July 2015
	All Caravans	All Caravans	All Caravans	All Caravans	All Caravans	All Caravans
Gwynedd	13	22	10	13	13	14

Source:- Stats Wales – Welsh Government



## 2.5 Caravan Count – Anglesey

The following tables show the information provided to the Welsh Government by Isle of Anglesey County Council from the bi-annual caravan count. This is conducted by Council officers at the date notified by the Welsh Government in January and July.

In Anglesey there is a funfair each July in Holyhead and a number of the caravans recorded on the return are those of travelling showpeople.

While travelling for the purpose of their business travelling showpeople enjoy permitted development rights under the planning system for the use of the land

The table below therefore has separated these permitted sites from the unauthorised sites.

**Table no 6 - Number of authorised and unauthorised sites (Anglesey)**

<b>Caravan count data for Anglesey</b>				
	<b>Authorised</b>	<b>Unauthorised</b>	<b>Travelling showpeople</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Feb 2013</b>	0	1	0	1
<b>July 2013</b>	0	2	2	4
<b>Feb 2014</b>	0	1	0	1
<b>July 2014</b>	0	1	2	3
<b>Feb 2015</b>	0	1	0	1
<b>July 2015</b>	0	2	1	3

**Table no 7 - Number of pitches / caravans on authorised and unauthorised sites – Anglesey.**

<b>Caravan count data for Anglesey</b>				
	<b>Authorised</b>	<b>Unauthorised</b>	<b>Travelling showpeople</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Jan 2013</b>	0	12	0	12
<b>July 2013</b>	0	23	16	39
<b>Jan 2014</b>	0	12	0	12
<b>July 2014</b>	0	14	18	32
<b>Jan 2015</b>	0	14	0	14
<b>July 2015</b>	0	23	12	35

#### **Interpretation of the above caravan count data**

The data above captures trends but does not provide an overall picture of number of encampments that take place on Anglesey because it only takes place twice a year.

It should be noted that the number of caravans recorded does not tally with the number of people occupying the site.

The unauthorised but tolerated encampment occupied by New Travellers is included on all dates in the above tables. 14 vehicles were recorded at this site in January and July 2015. The number of vehicles is higher than the number of occupants as not all vehicles are in use as accommodation but fit the definition used by Welsh Government for the count.

## 2.6 Unauthorised sites data recorded by Gwynedd Council

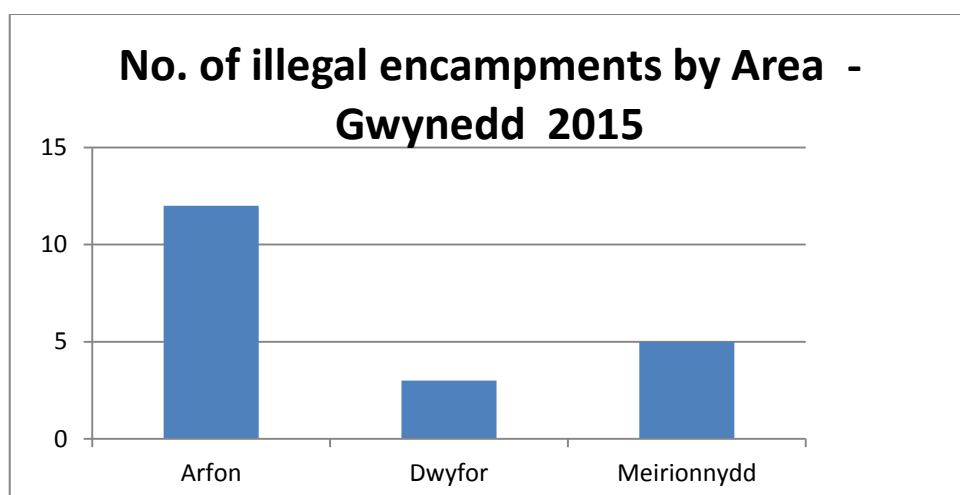
Records show that the number of unauthorised sites has been consistent in 2013 and 2014 with 7 per year.

There has been an increase in the number of illegal encampments in 2015 (January 2015 – November 2015) and to date 20 have been reported with an average stay of 3 nights per encampment and none being for longer than 10 nights.

The increase in the number of illegal encampments may be in that Gwynedd Council's internal communication/recording processes have improved and are identifying more illegal encampments than in previous years, or more gypsies and travellers have stopped in the Gwynedd area in comparison with previous years.

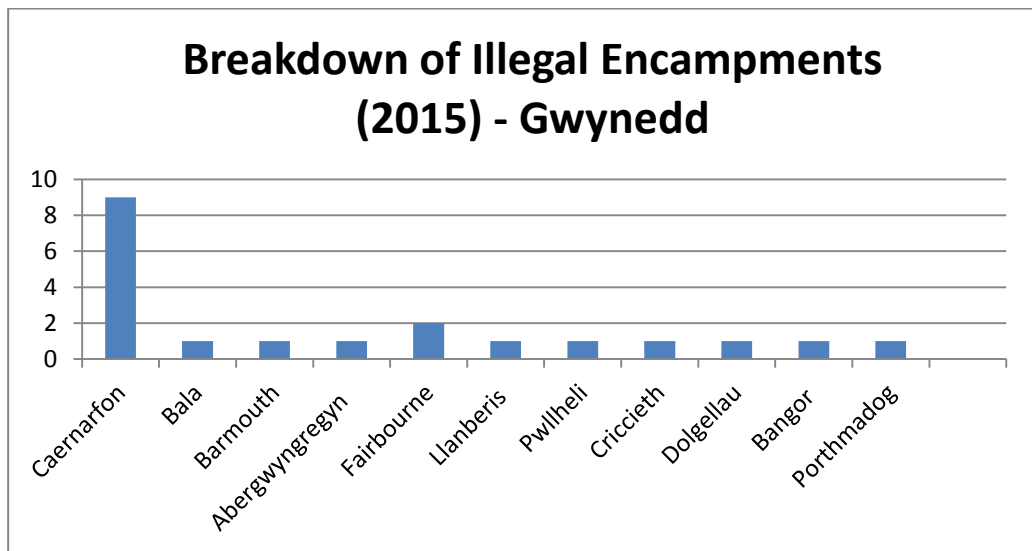
### Graph No.5 No of Illegal Encampments by Area – January –November 2015 - Gwynedd

The Arfon Area mostly in Caernarfon (9 encampments) has received the most illegal encampments during 2015. See graphs below for further information.



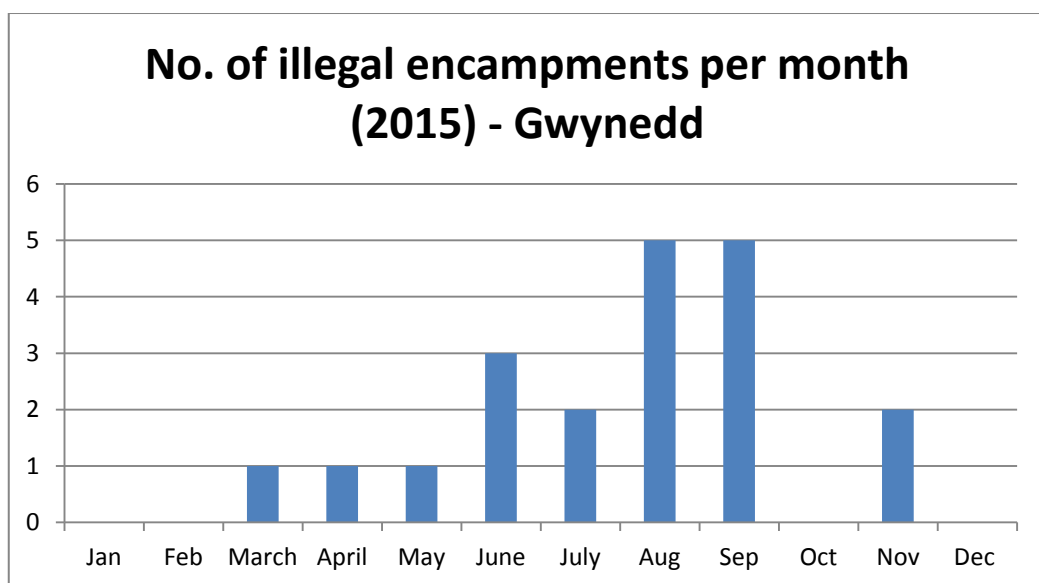
**Graph No 6 - Breakdown of Illegal Encampment by town/village – January- November 2015**

The graph below indicates the exact village or town where illegal encampments have stayed. **See Appendix C** for location on the Gwynedd Map.



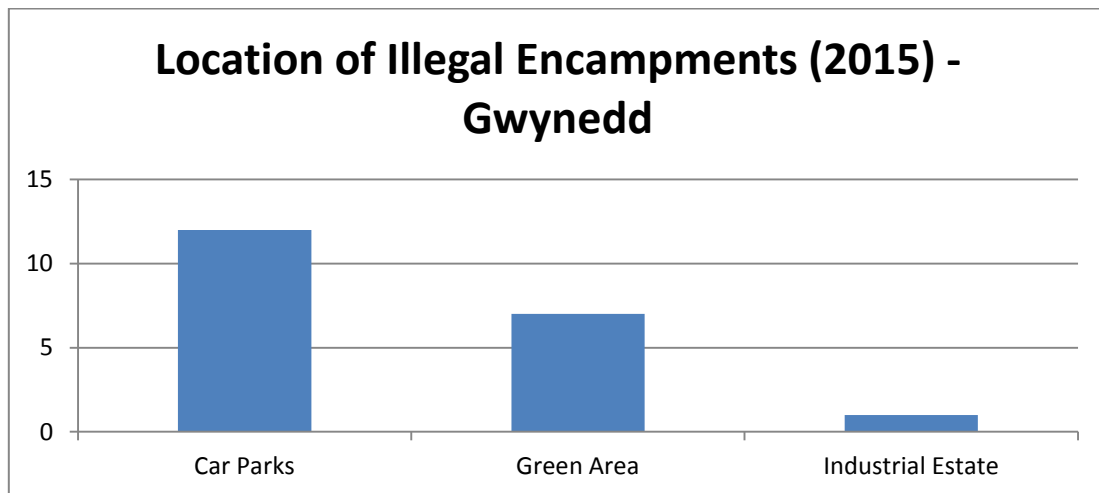
**Graph No 7 - Number of illegal encampment per month – January – November 2015 – Gwynedd**

There has been an increase in illegal encampments in Gwynedd during August and September.



**Graph No 8 - Location of Illegal Encampments – January 2015 – November 2015**

Most of the encampments locate themselves on car parks within the County, as most car parks have facilities that can be accessed such as toilets and running tap water.

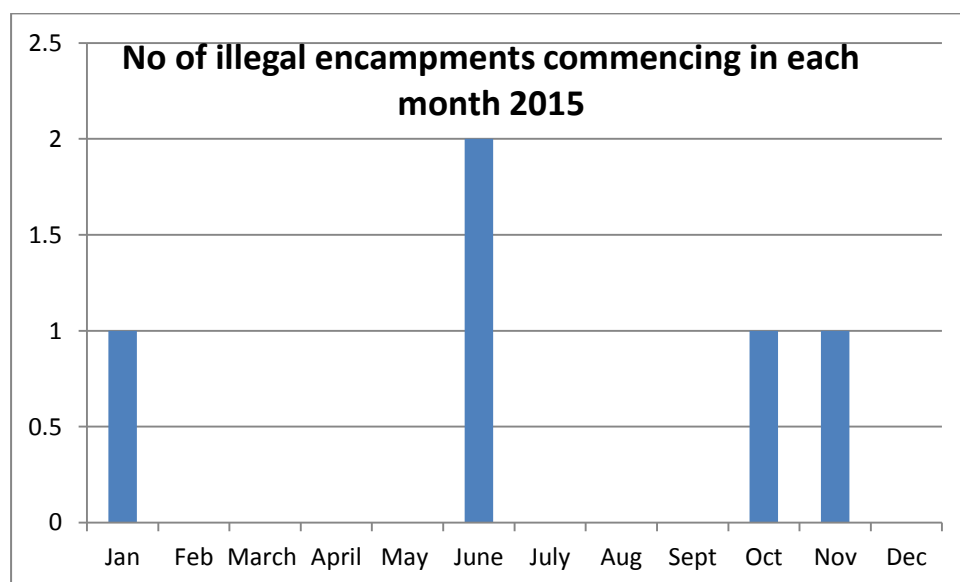


## 2.7 Unauthorised sites data recorded by Anglesey

### Records of short term unauthorised encampments

Records are now kept of unauthorised encampments occurring on Anglesey at other times in the year, though these are only wholly complete for the last 12 months.

**Graph no 9 - This shows the occurrence of unauthorised encampments in Anglesey during 2015.**



In addition Council records show that for the last three years a large encampment has taken place in July/August of several weeks on Council land on the Mona Industrial estate. There have been between 11 and 15 caravans and the duration has been between 10 and 19 days.

Smaller encampments (2-3 caravans) also took place at the Mona Industrial Estate in September 2014 and October 2015.

Other encampments have occurred in the Holyhead area. Since August 2014 three unauthorised encampments have been recorded in different locations in Holyhead including Local Authority, Welsh Government and private land (supermarket car park). These were of short duration of between 1 to 4 nights.

One encampment of 5 caravans occurred in Llangefni on a Council car park during November 2015

It is known from Police or Council contact with the Travellers that these encampments sometimes arise from Irish Travellers travelling from or to Ireland. Reasons for stopping can be waiting for other travellers, weather conditions and/or break to the journey.

The large encampment in July / August occurs as a result of Romany gypsies meeting together as part of their travelling patterns for both work and community reasons.

## 2.8 Current Accommodation provision - July 2015 - Gwynedd

The current accommodation provision for Gwynedd is seven. All seven are situated on the Llandygai Site on the outskirts of Bangor and all pitches are occupied.

Three private sites have been identified, two in the Arfon area and one in the Dwyfor area. All 3 households have been contacted to take part in the Accommodation Assessment.

**Table No 8 – Current Accommodation Provision - July 2015 - Gwynedd**

	Authorised sites with Planning permission		Unauthorised Sites (without planning permission)			
	No. of Caravans		No. of caravans on sites on Gypsies own land		No. of caravans on sites on land not owned by Gypsies	
	Socially Rented	Private	Tolerated	Not Tolerated	Tolerated	Not Tolerated
Gwynedd	7	3	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>



## **2.9 Current Accommodation provision - July 2015 - Anglesey**

There are no Local Authority sites on Anglesey.

There are no privately owned sites on Anglesey.

There is a long term unauthorised encampment in a lay by beside the A5025 Pentraeth Road. This has been tolerated since unsuccessful court action by the Council in 2009. The current occupancy of this site was assessed in the course of the GTAA as described in Section 5.2.

## **3.0 Chapter Three: Methodology**

### **3.1 Project Steering Group Composition.**

In line with Welsh Government Guidance (page 14- 5.6 Project Management) a steering group was established. The steering group included those who have established networks with the Gypsy and Traveller communities and those accountable for meeting the accommodation needs of the Gypsy and Traveller Communities (**See Appendix D**). 4 meetings were held dated 15.06.15/28.09.15/02.11.15 and 02.12.15

### **3.2 Study Methodolog**

#### **3.2.1 Approach to the Research**

The study was project managed in-house by Anglesey and Gwynedd Council, Housing Strategy Units. The approach for the study was formulated through partnership working with key individuals. North Wales Housing was commissioned to support individuals with the completion of the questionnaire to ensure impartiality.(**See Appendix E**).

#### **3.2.2 Engaging Key Stakeholders**

A joint visit was made by Gwynedd Council and North Wales Housing to residents on the Llandygai site. Anglesey Council and North Wales Housing visited the Pentraeth site. During the initial visits an explanation was provided on the accommodation assessment process. Residents were also informed that North Wales Housing were an independent organisation that would support individuals to complete the questionnaire.

Gwynedd and Anglesey Council used various social media sites /organisations and the press to raise awareness of the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs assessment (**See Appendix F**).

### **3.2.3 Delivery of questionnaires**

- 3.2.3.1** Each household were encouraged to complete a questionnaire with support from North Wales Housing staff. North Wales Housing were then asked to input the information in to Lime Survey which is a recording mechanism used by Gwynedd Council. Gwynedd Council would then work with Anglesey Council to explore the findings.
- 3.2.3.2** North Wales Housing was asked to provide feedback to the steering group on progress made and additional support required, if any.
- 3.2.3.3** Further information was gathered through Education Departments, Trading Standards, Housing Associations, census, historic reports and documents and the bi-annual caravan count.
- 3.2.3.4** Due to confidentiality Housing Associations and Education Department were unable to share personal information regarding tenants/service users with the project managers. We therefore relied on the Housing Associations and Education Department to make contact on our behalf.
- 3.2.3.5** Gwynedd and Anglesey Council in partnership with North Wales Housing have recorded all attempts made to engage with individuals who were identified to be Gypsy or Irish Traveller under **Appendix G**.

### 3.2.4 Engagement Checklist

#### See interview Log (Appendix G)

Action required	Comments
Visit every Gypsy and Traveller household identified through the data analysis process up to 3 times, if necessary.	Contact made via letter/telephone call and personal visits have been made to known Gypsy and Travellers in the Gwynedd and Anglesey Area. North Wales Housing supported the individuals to complete the questionnaires.
Publish details of the GTAA process, including contact details to allow community members to request an interview, on the Local Authority website, Travellers' Times website and World's Fair publication.	See Appendix CH for details of work undertaken to publicise the GTAA in Anglesey and Gwynedd.
Consult relevant community support organisations.	See Appendix Ch for details of work undertaken to publicise the GTAA in Gwynedd and Anglesey.
Develop a Local Authority waiting list for both pitches and housing, which is accessible and communicated to community members.	Electronic waiting list being developed to link to the social housing register. Paper waiting list in place at present in Gwynedd.  Anglesey has developed a register for those interested in pitches and both paper copies and an online form are now available.

Action required	Comments
Endeavour to include Gypsies and Travellers on the GTAA project steering group.	Member of the Gypsy and Traveller community participated on the Steering Group.
Ensure contact details provided to the Local Authority by community members through the survey process are followed up and needs assessed.	Contact made via letter/telephone call and personal visits to known Gypsy and Travellers in the Gwynedd and Anglesey Area
Consider holding on-site (or nearby) GTAA information events to explain why community members should participate and encourage site residents to bring others who may not be known to the Local Authority.	Recommended by Gypsy and Traveller representative that it would be better to visit individuals on a 1:1 basis rather than holding an event.  Initial introductory visits were made explaining the process, followed by visits from North Wales Housing staff.

### **3.3 Findings - Gwynedd**

- 3.3.1** Gwynedd Education Department identified 26 children in Gwynedd schools who were of Gypsies and Traveller origin – ranging from Year 0 to Year 11.
- 3.3.2** Out of the 26 children 9 families were identified and all received a letter and a phone call from the Education department to inform them about the survey. 3 responded confirming they did not wish to complete the questionnaire and 6 did not make any contact. 22 out of the 26 children went to school in the Arfon area mostly Bangor and Bethesda and 4 children went to school in the Dwyfor Area.
- 3.3.3** North Wales Housing confirmed that they had no tenants which have identified themselves as Gypsies and Travellers. Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd had 21 individuals (12 households) and Grwp Cynefin had 1 tenant (1 household).
- 3.3.4** Housing Associations and Gwynedd Council worked in partnership to send tenants the information leaflet with details of the contact person in Welsh Government and Gwynedd Council. Contact was also made by telephone where possible. Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd posted information on their web-site to raise awareness amongst their tenants.
- 3.3.5** From the 13 households identified through the Housing Associations, 8 were in the Arfon area, mostly Bangor and 5 in the Dwyfor area.
- 3.3.6** As noted in 4.2 the office for National Statistics identified 72 households in Gwynedd who were Gypsies and Travellers.

Gwynedd have managed to contact 13 out of the 65 in bricks and mortar via Housing Associations.

**3.3.7** The 7 caravans/temporary structures reported on in the Office for National Statistics were known to Gwynedd as the Gypsy and traveller site in Llandygai. All 7 were contacted and 4 completed the questionnaire.

**3.3.8** Three unauthorised developments were contacted by letter due to having no telephone numbers. 1 did not respond, 1 made contact over the phone refusing to be contacted again and the third arranged for North Wales Housing to visit to complete the questionnaire.

**3.3.9** Gwynedd' Council's licencing department was able to identify locations of the fairs and circuses. This information was passed on to North Wales Housing in August 2015 to make arrangements to visit. North Wales Housing were unable to make arrangements to visit these events due to staffing arrangements.

**3.3.10** Gwynedd Council visited the circus in Dinas at the end of August 2015. They confirmed that they did not want to complete the questionnaire and wanted us to note that as showpeople they didn't want to be categorised as Gypsies and Travellers.

**3.3.11** North Wales Housing and Gwynedd Council staff made arrangements to visit a fair in Bangor on the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2015. Unfortunately upon arrival on the site the fair had moved on.

**3.3.12** Contact has been made with the Kirk Mulhearn of the Showman's Guild and Lynn Whatmore who edits the World's Fair magazine. An advert was placed by Welsh Government in

July 2015 edition. This provided an opportunity for the travelling showpeople to make contact and arrangements made to complete the questionnaire.

**3.3.13** Twenty illegal encampments have been recorded in the Gwynedd Area in 2015/16, a total of 69 caravans.

**3.3.14** From August 2015 onwards (start of the consultation period), 11 illegal encampments, a total of 27 caravans were offered the opportunity to complete the questionnaire. An explanation was provided regarding the reason behind the questionnaire and the potential to explore transit or temporary stopping site for the future. Although some of the encampments noted that a transit site/temporary stopping site would be welcomed they also noted that at present there is no charge when they stop as they mostly stop in car parks where there are facilities close by.



### **3.4 Findings – Anglesey**

- 3.4.1** Tenant profiling information for tenants in social housing on Anglesey was examined to identify any tenants who were of Gypsy and Traveller origin. This identified 1 tenant in social housing a tenant of the Isle of Anglesey County Council who was approached by North Wales Housing for an interview.
- 3.4.2** Records for the Education services for the Isle of Anglesey County Council enabled three households to be identified where an ethnic origin of Gypsy or Traveller was recorded for children in Anglesey schools.
- 3.4.3** Approaches were made to these families by letter and then follow up phone call. The families agreed to complete the questionnaire via phone call.
- 3.4.4** Visits were made to the tolerated site on the Pentraeth road. Council officers visited to explain the survey and to offer the opportunity to attend the steering group. Officers from the, North Wales Housing, attended to try to arrange appointments. North Wales Housing officers experienced difficulties setting up interviews. Ultimately one survey was partially self completed and one was completed through an interview with a Council officer.
- 3.4.5** During the timespan of the survey two travelling fairs took place on Anglesey. An interview was arranged with the owner of a fair in Benllech in September. Attempts were made by North Wales Housing Staff to interview travelling showpeople at the annual Menai Bridge fair but it was not possible to arrange as no one was present in the caravans when they visited.

**3.4.6** As described in para 3.3.12 Gwynedd and Anglesey jointly approached the Showman's Guild and publicity was given to the survey in the World's Fair Magazine in November.

**3.4.7** In the course of the survey 2 unauthorised encampments were reported to Isle of Anglesey County Council. At one the travellers had moved on prior to a visit by the Council officer. At the second a formal interview was declined but a discussion was held about the reason for encampment. The group of travellers were returning to Ireland and had delayed their journey in part because of bad weather. The interviewee stated that he had not regularly stopped in Anglesey previously.

## **4.0 Chapter Four :Survey Findings**

### **4.1 Gwynedd Council's Findings**

#### **4.1.1 Household Interviews**

Seven households were interviewed in Gwynedd and three on Anglesey. As noted previously North Wales Housing supported the individuals with completing the questionnaires.

Three out of the 7 households were on the Local Authority Site, 1 was in private rented accommodation and 2 on an unauthorised development. The households identified themselves as Irish Traveller/Romani Traveller/ Showperson, Irish Traveller/English or English/Gypsy.

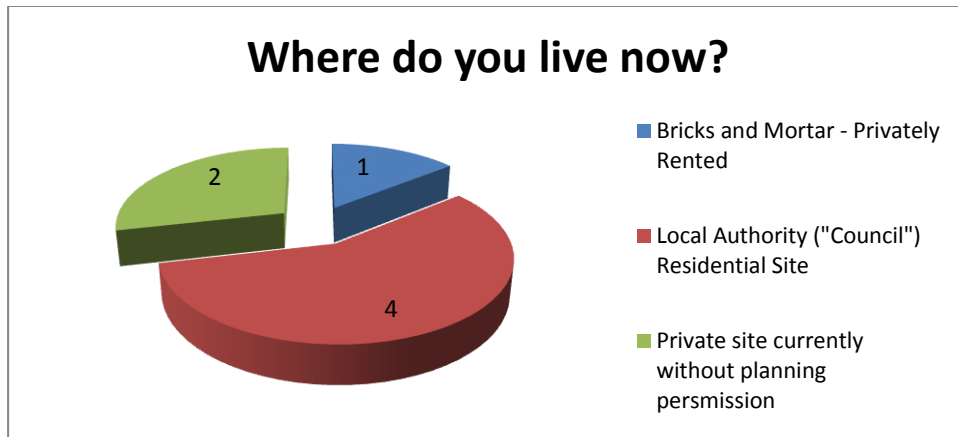
#### **4.1.2 Household Information**

The number of people in each household was as follows:-

- 3 x households – 1 person per household and the 3 were males;
- 1 x household – 5 people, 3 males and 2 females;
- 1 x household – 6 people, 3 males and 3 females;
- 1 x household – 9 people, 4 males and 5 females.
- 1 x household – 2 people, 1 male and 1 female.

The household with the 9 people are currently living in bricks and mortar.

**Graph No 10 – Where Gypsies and Travellers live now (Gwynedd)**

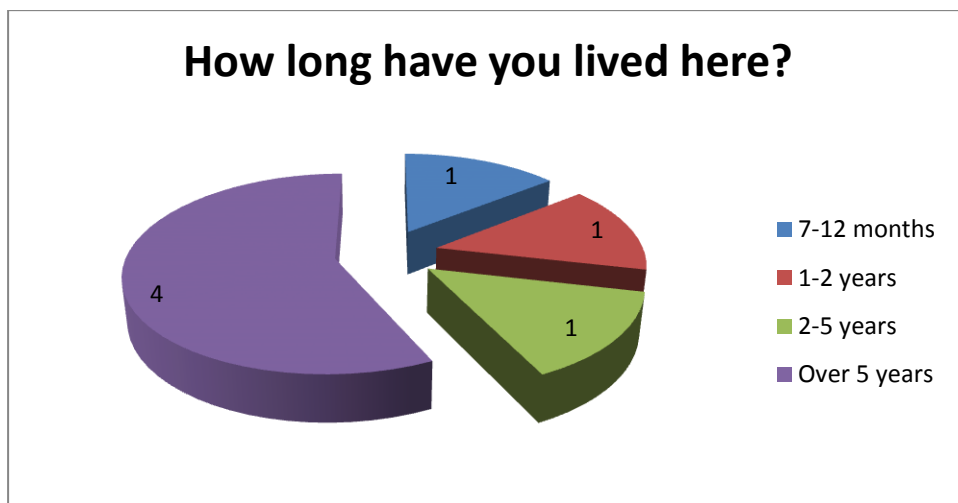


When asked why they live there, the responses were as follows:-

- **Local Connections (Family or Work) (6)**
- **Other (1) – “In Wrexham prior to move - moved house so that children could go to school and access a bit of education”.**

Length of time at current location – 4 had lived at the location for over 5 years. 1 has lived at their current location since 7-12 months, 1 since 1-2 years and 1 since 2-5 years. 4 out of the 7 noted that they don't intend to move from current location and didn't know how long they would remain at their current location.

**Graph No. 11 - Length of time at current location (Gwynedd)**



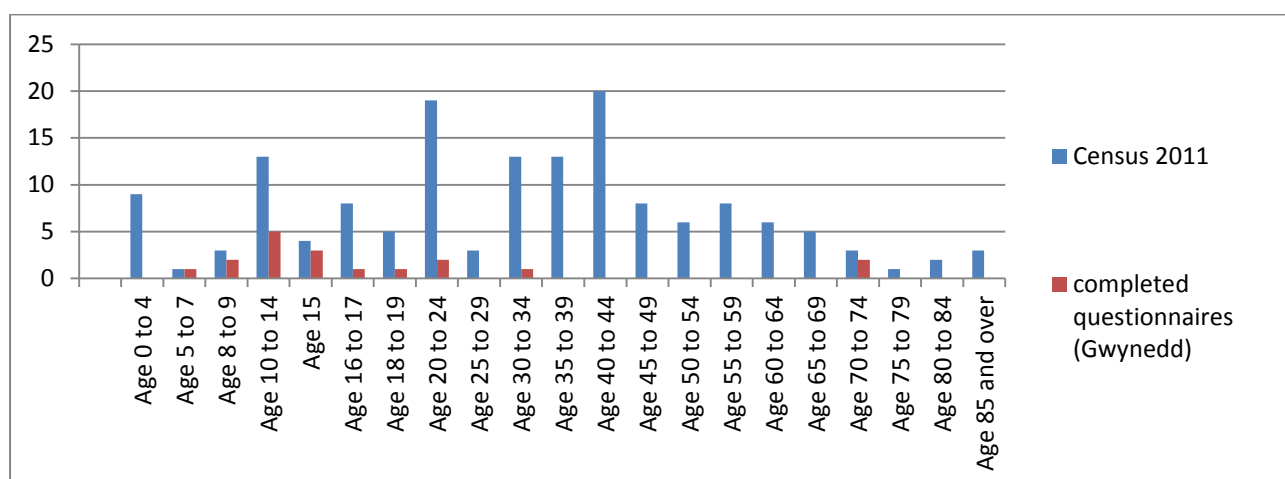
The reason for the two households moving in the last 12 months is noted below:-

- **Got married;**
- **Had a caravan in Wrexham, moved over 12 months ago.**

### 4.1.3 Demographic profile of population

The chart below compares the census data in comparison with the actual data received through the completed questionnaires. Some of the main respondent didn't disclose their age/age of partner on the questionnaire but did disclose the ages of the children.

**Graph No 12 – Age of Gypsies and Travellers in Gwynedd in Compariosn with 2011 Census data**



### 4.1.4 Suitability of current accommodation

Six households noted they were not satisfied with their current accommodation and comments are as follows:-

- **No improvements needed – don't want to live in a house anymore, been there 12 months – want to go back to a caravan. (1)**
- **Improved toilet facilities (1)**
- **Improved maintenance e.g. plumbing /drainage / waste collection (3)**

- **Play area for young children (3)**
- **Extra Car Parking Spaces (3)**
- **No facilities on site, nowhere else to go (1)**

One household noted that he was satisfied with his current accommodation as he owns his own field and the site is in good order, but is dealing with planning issues at present.

When asked if the households would stay longer at their current accommodation if improvements were made, responses were as follows. Please note multiple answers received:-

- **No – prefer living in a caravan (1)**
- **Yes – repairs needed (2)**
- **Yes - site made bigger (3)**
- **Yes – adaptations needed (4)**
- **Yes – accommodation made safer (3)**
- **Yes – planning permission granted (2)**
- **No answer (1)**

During visits to the Llandygai site some of the above were discussed and an action plan for improvements was formulated and work is on-going. Other issues raised are being explored.

Three out of the 7 households noted that there were enough sleeping areas for all residents.

Further breakdown as follows:-

- **1 noted that there was space on the pitch for 2 additional trailers**
- **1 noted that there was space on the field for 5 additional trailers;**
- **4 noted there was no space for additional pitches;**
- **1 household noted this was not applicable.**

### 4.1.5 Accommodation aspirations

Four out of the 7 households who highlighted the need for pitches wanted to join Gwynedd Council's waiting list. Application forms along with information sheets have been sent to all 4 households. Site Liaison Officer has also offered to arrange support to complete the forms.

**Graph 13:- Number of people who want to joint the Local Authoirty waiting list for pitches.**



When asked what type of accommodation the households are planning to move to, the responses were as follows. Please note some households had chosen more than one option and other has chosen not to reply.

- Council Social rented Sites (2)
- Private site owned by self (1)
- Private Site owned by other (2)
- Bricks and Morter (0)
- Rent from Council/Housing Association (0)
- Rent from private Landlord (0)

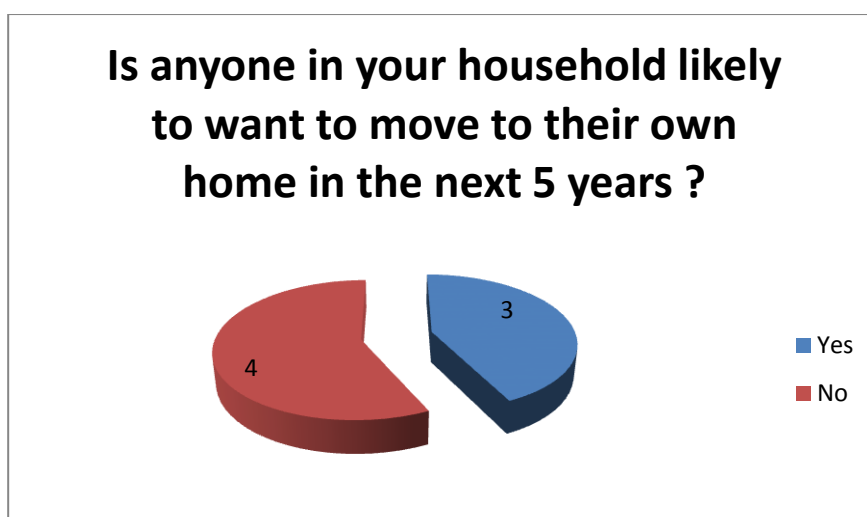
### 4.1.6 Household Growth

Three respondents have noted that they have members of their family who will want to move to their own home in the next 5 years.

Two out of the 3 respondents said they would want to stay in Gwynedd.

One out of the 3 respondent was not sure which Local Authority they would like to move to.

**Graph No 14:- Number of households likely to want to move to their own home in the next 5 years**



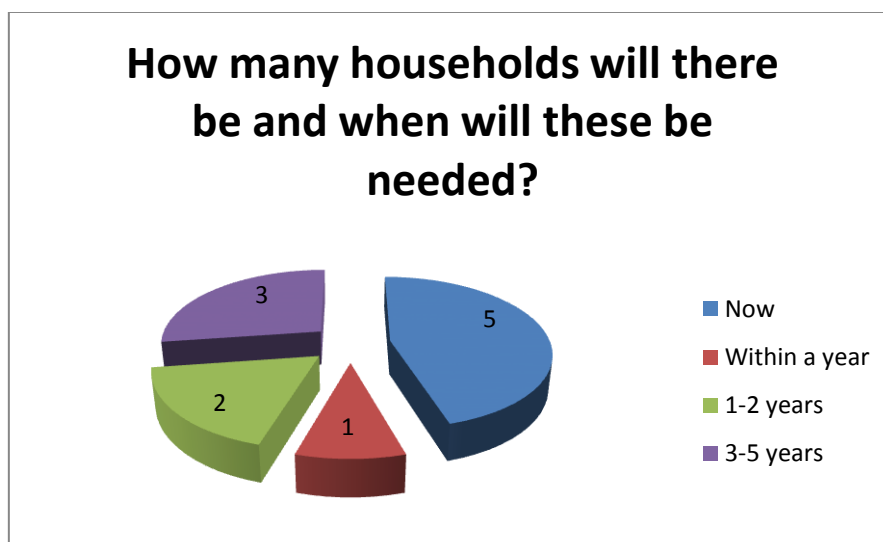
From the three respondents, 2 have specified that they wanted to stay in Gwynedd and would require 4 additional households (potential of 8 people) on Gwynedd Local Authority site.

The third respondent noted the type of accommodation required was a caravan for 2 households (potential of 4 people) but they were not sure if the households were required in Gwynedd.

To date 5 households have been recorded on the Gwynedd Council waiting list. Out of the 5 applicants on the waiting list, 3 of the applicants have taken part in the accommodation assessment and completed a questionnaire but have been included in the 5 that require accommodation now.



**Graph No 15:- Household Need in Gwynedd in the next 5 years**



**Table No 9 - The table below shows the type of households that could potentially require a tenancy/pitch in the next 5 years.**

	Age	Age	No of household required
Household No 1	17 years fo age	15 years of age	2
Household No 2	17 years of age	15 years of age	2
Household No 3	23 years of age	15 years of age	2

## **4.2 Isle of Anglesey County Council Findings**

- 4.2.1** 5 questionnaires were completed by households on Anglesey. In cases where, following approaches from North Wales Housing staff, it was not possible to arrange a face to face interview, telephone interview and self completion of the questionnaire was agreed. This did mean that some questionnaires were not fully completed.
- 4.2.2** The questionnaires achieved on Anglesey were completed by Gypsies and Travellers from a mixture of backgrounds including Travelling showman, New Travellers, and Gypsy / Traveller in bricks and mortar.
- 4.2.3** On the basis of the small number completed, the diverse nature of the respondents and for reasons of confidentiality no attempt has been made to present the responses obtained in graph form for Anglesey.
- 4.2.4** It is also useful to draw on information about the need for both permanent and temporary sites obtained through more informal conversations undertaken by both survey staff and Council officers who have had contact with Travellers and have discussed with them their accommodation needs and preferences in the course of the last year. Discussions with households staying at an unauthorised encampment during the summer showed that this was a gathering of families some of whom were related which took place as part of their travelling patterns. A number of the households also had contacts for work on the island or would look for work undertaking garden maintenance / tree surgery. Reference is made later on in the report under section 5 – Assessing Accommodation Needs.

#### **4.2.5 Families on sites – Anglesey**

Two questionnaires were completed by New Traveller households. On the basis of these and discussion with the New Travellers there are considered to be 4 households currently living on the Pentraeth site who require a pitch.

Both interviewees highlighted the lack of basic facilities on the site. One had lived at the site for over 5 years and one for 18 months. Both indicated that the location of the site was acceptable but the lack of electricity, showers and safety feature made the site unsatisfactory.

No households interviewed reported likely household growth over the next 5 years.

#### **4.2.6 Families in bricks and mortar – Anglesey**

As detailed in section 3.2 a number of ways were used to try to contact Gypsy and Traveller households living in bricks and mortar.

Three households living in bricks and mortar on Anglesey agreed to take part in interviews.

All households were satisfied with their current accommodation though one was seeking a transfer to another home in the social rented sector

All the households had lived in their existing homes for over 5 years.

In no cases was there evidence of cultural aversion to living in bricks and mortar. One household was satisfied with current accommodation but did indicate that living on a pitch would be a “preferable option”.

The information provided through the interviews was carefully considered. Although all households indicated they were currently happy in their existing accommodation they were keen that sites should be available so that Gypsies and Travellers could make a choice about living on a site dependent on their preferences and circumstances.

However it was not evident that there was a need for a pitch in the next

5 years from the households interviewed. None currently indicated that they wished to join the waiting list for a pitch.

Two of the households included young children. Their ages were such that there would be no household growth from these families which could create a need for pitches would take place in the next five years.

#### **4.2.7 Travelling Showpeople – Anglesey**

One questionnaire was completed by a member of the Travelling Showpersons guild who held a travelling fair on Anglesey. Anglesey was one of a number of destinations in North Wales where he travelled with the fair during the summer. While an interest was expressed in finding a storage site for equipment closer to his working area, a need for a yard in the Anglesey area was not apparent. Manchester was mentioned as area for a future potential move.

#### **4.2.8 Transit sites / Temporary Stopping Places - Anglesey**

Three respondents replied to the question E5 on where transit sites or temporary stopping places are needed. All three recognises the need for additional transit sites. A55 corridor, “anywhere on Anglesey” and North Wales coastal area were named as locations.

## 5. Chapter Five – Assessing Accommodation Needs

### 5.1 Residential Unmet Need - Gwynedd

From the responses received from the seven households 4 required a Local Authority application form to be considered for accommodation in Gwynedd. Out of the 4, 3 are currently on the waiting list.

Potential future needs from the seven households in the next 5 years would be 6 households. 4 households have specified that they would want to stay in Gwynedd. 2 households noted that they were not sure which Local Authority they would like to reside in.

In terms of residential need the following figures are identified in the study:

Period	Gwynedd
Now (currently on waiting List)	5
Within a year	1
1 to 2 years	2
3 to 5 years	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>

Those on the waiting list in Gwynedd have all expressed an interest in obtaining a pitch on the Council site in Llandygai.

The future need identified in the survey did not specify areas within individual Counties where they Gypsy / Traveller sought accommodation. However in relation to Gwynedd the future need came from the residents in the Bangor area (mainly the Llandygai site).

## **5.2 Transit/Temporary Unmet Need – Gwynedd**

**5.2.1** Gwynedd Council make ever effort to visit all illegal encampments in the Area.

**5.2.2** From August 2015 information was shared with individuals on the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment. It was highlighted how important it is to identify transit and temporary stopping sites and by completing the questionnaire.

**5.2.3** Although no questionnaires were completed some individuals noted that temporary stopping sites are required but were unsure on having to pay to stay on the site. Information shows that at present caravans park illegally mostly on car parks with facilities close by.

**5.2.4** All 7 respondents who completed the questionnaire noted there was a need for transit/temporary stopping sites and suggested the following:-

- **Think more needed – not sure where, but don't think they work that well. If sites require money will tend to use unauthorised sites with free facilities. Also can get different families who don't get on ending up on the same site. Prefer not to say where (1)**
- **Along the A55 (5)**
- **Bangor/ Gwynedd area (1)**

**5.2.5** The evidence obtained during this study shows that the need for Gypsies or Travellers passing through the area is for temporary stopping places rather than transit sites.

5.2.6 The level of illegal encampments seen in the majority of areas has been for one visit during the year. These are on sites that have historically seen such movements for a number of years and as such the temporary usage is tolerated for this annual visit.

5.2.7 There is however a specific areas where a higher level of usage is seen being the Shell Car park in Caernarfon (9 visits during 2015).

### 5.3 Residential unmet need – Anglesey

**5.3.1** As referred to in Section 4.2.5 above unmet need was identified at the unauthorised but tolerated site occupied by New Travellers. The questionnaires and more informal conversations have identified a need from 4 single person households permanently resident at the site.

Period	Ynys Môn
Now (currently on waiting List)	4
Within a year	0
1 to 2 years	0
3 to 5 years	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>

### 5.4 Transit/Temporary Unmet Need – Anglesey

**5.4.1** Two unauthorised encampments of 3 and 5 caravans were recorded on Anglesey during the survey period but no formal interviews could be arranged. Section 2.7 sets out the evidence recorded on recent unauthorised encampments.

**5.4.2** Discussions with some of the Gypsies and Travellers on these encampments have shown that these travellers have followed the A55 to or from Ireland or have gathered in Anglesey from a variety of parts for the UK as part of annual travelling patterns.

**5.4.3** There is a pattern to these encampments. Encampments near Holyhead have usually been for only a night or two and have generally involved no more than 6 caravans. As explained in s2.7 there is a larger encampment in the Mona area each summer which has up to 15 caravans. On this basis it is therefore concluded that a temporary stopping place near the centre of the island and a second in the Holyhead vicinity would provide suitable transit provision to meet present needs. The provision in the centre of the island needs capacity for at least 15 caravans.



## **6. Chapter Six - Conclusion and Recommendations**

### **6.1 Conclusion**

#### **6.1.1 Assessment Process**

This report details how Gwynedd and Isle of Anglesey County Councils have followed the steps of the methodology recommended by the Welsh Government Guidance “Undertaking Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments”.

Both authorities have engaged with the Public via various means to raise awareness and to ensure that local communities and members of the Gypsy and Traveller Community have had an ample opportunity to provide input on future demand for residential pitches and temporary stopping places to ensure that relevant aspects of Community Cohesion have been taken into consideration.

Barriers encountered in the course of the study were reluctance of members of unauthorised encampments to engage in completing the questionnaire and difficulties in arranging interviews with some members of the Gypsy and Traveller community who were either unavailable for personal reasons or unwilling to take part. It is recognised that in the course of this study a better understanding of the local Gypsy and Traveller community has developed which provides foundations for engagement and the next formal assessment in five years time.

As part of the engagement process, both staff and Elected Member training has been arranged in each Local Authority and staff have had access to information and support to increase their awareness of Gypsies and Travellers and Community Cohesion aspects. Both Local Authorities have been as inclusive as they can in practical terms through adopting several methods of engagement with the Public and the local Gypsy and Traveller Community. The steering group has met at intervals throughout the planning process of the assessment and included representation from Housing,

Community Cohesion, Local Members and representatives of the Gypsy & Traveller Community.

**6.1.2** As a result of following this methodology, the identified need for sites in Gwynedd and Anglesey is

**Permanent residential pitches**

	Permanent residential pitches needed now	Potential need for residential pitches over the next 5 year period.
Gwynedd	5	6
Anglesey	4	0

**Sites for transit / temporary stopping places**

	Number of additional sites required	Location of sites needed
Gwynedd	1	Caernafon Area
Anglesey	2	Central Anglesey and Holyhead area.

## **6.2 Recommendations**

The local authorities are subject to a legal duty to exercise their functions to provide pitches to meet the identified needs.

In order to meet the need identified in the assessment the following recommendations are made.

### **6.2.1 That the identified need for residential pitches be met by**

- 6.2.1.1 Safeguarding existing residential provision in the Study Area in the Joint Local Development Plan.
- 6.2.1.2 Allocating an extension to the existing Gypsy Llandygai site in Bangor in the Joint Local Development Plan (JLDP) to meet the Gwynedd residential need.
- 6.2.1.3 Allocating a site in the JLDP in the Menai area to meet the assessed need for 4 permanent pitches arising from the tolerated Pentraeth Road site.
- 6.2.1.4 That the Councils seek funding from the Welsh Government Gypsy & Traveller Site Grants to develop the identified residential sites. Project Plans be agreed by the respective Councils.

### **6.2.2 The identified need for temporary stopping place should be met through:**

- 6.2.2.1 Allocating a temporary stopping place in the Caernarfon area;
- 6.2.2.2 In addition in Gwynedd, on the premise that the majority of illegal encampments in the Bala and Criccieth area have been for 1 visit continue to apply

the tolerated protocol for these type of visits in these areas.

- 6.2.2.3** Allocating two temporary stopping places along the A55 on Anglesey, one in the Holyhead area and one in the centre of the island, to provide for the needs of Gypsies and Travellers who have regularly made unauthorised encampments in these two areas. The site for the centre of the island should have capacity to accommodate up to 15 caravans. The Holyhead site should accommodate up to 12 caravans.

### **6.2.3 Additional recommendations**

- 6.2.3.1** That the councils commit funds towards facilitating the three temporary stopping places identified as needed.
- 6.2.3.2** That the Project Steering Group continues to meet twice a year to ensure that ongoing monitoring will be maintained and to identify whether further residential or temporary stopping places should be delivered to meet any further identified need.
- 6.2.3.3** Project Steering group to develop a joint action plan including any outstanding issues from the 2013 Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment along with the recommendations identified in 2015 study.

**Reference:-**

**1. Census 2011**

<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/KS201EW/view/1946157384?cols=measures>

**2. Office for National Statistics**

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/search/index.html?newquery=CT0128>

**3. Stats Wales – Welsh Government :-**

<https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Equality-and-Diversity/Gypsy-and-Traveller-Caravan-Count> - viewed 17.08.15

## Appendix A

### Local Development Plan Policies

#### Introduction

- The current development plan for Ynys Môn consists of the Gwynedd Replacement Structure Plan (1993) and the Ynys Môn Local Plan (1996). Due to the advanced stage reached in the preparation of Ynys Môn Unitary Development Plan, it is also given weight as a significant material consideration in dealing with current applications.
- The development plan for Gwynedd consists of the adopted Gwynedd Unitary Plan (2009).
- Ynys Môn and Gwynedd Councils are currently preparing a new Joint Plan for the two Counties, known as the **Joint Local Development Plan Anglesey and Gwynedd (2011 – 2026)**.
- The Eryri Local Development Plan (2011) relates to land within the boundaries of Snowdonia National Park Authority.
- Whilst the following Local Development Plan Policies provide guidance on land use planning matters related to Gypsy and Traveller developments, it is important to emphasise that these policies should not be read in isolation to other policies within the relevant Development Plan.
- **Ynys Môn - Existing Gypsy Traveller Local Plan Policies**
  - The development plan for Anglesey consists of the:
    - Gwynedd Replacement Structure Plan (Approved by Secretary of State 1993); and
    - Ynys Môn Local Plan (Adopted 1996).

These two plans were prepared under the old planning system with the Structure Plan dealing with the broad strategy whilst the Local Plan gave specific allocations and topic based policies. Local Plan was certified as being “in conformity” with the Structure Plan.

- **Gwynedd Structure Plan (Approved November 1993)**

- There are no specific policies that relate to Gypsy-Traveller Developments in the Gwynedd Structure Plan. No sites were proposed in the Gwynedd Structure Plan.
- A link to the copy of the Gwynedd Replacement Structure Plan can be viewed on the Council’s web-site the link to the document is:

<http://www.anglesey.gov.uk/planning-and-waste/planning-policy/current-plans-and-policies/gwynedd-structure-plan/>

**Ynys Mon Local Plan Written Statement (1996)**

The Ynys Mon Local Plan contains no specific policies or proposals that relate directly to the provision of Gypsy –Traveller Sites. However, reference is made to the gypsy site at Llandygai, which is the responsibility of Gwynedd Council. It is stated in this Plan that existing provision is adequate to meet needs over the Local Plan Period. The Plan explains that if planning applications for Gypsy Traveller Sites are submitted, they will be considered in the context of Policy 1 ‘General Policy’ and of advice given in Welsh Office Circular 2/94, Gypsy Sites and Planning.

A link to the copy of the Ynys Môn Local Plan can be viewed on the Council’s web-site the link to the document is:

<http://www.anglesey.gov.uk/planning-and-waste/planning-policy/current-plans-and-policies/ynys-mn-local-plan/>

## **Stopped Unitary Plan (December 2005)**

The Local Government (Wales) Act 1994 established unitary authorities in Wales and required authorities to produce Unitary Development Plans (UDP).

Anglesey Council started work on the UDP in the late 1990s and the plan advanced through deposit and proposed changes stages to a Public Local Inquiry. In 2004, the Council received the Inspector's Report and work progressed on the preparation of Proposed Modifications to the plan.

However, in December 2005, the Full Council decided to stop further work on the plan and the proposed modifications were never published.

The stopped UDP is given weight as a material consideration in decision making for development control purposes but does not have the status of a fully adopted plan. This position is supported by a letter dated the 6<sup>th</sup> July 2006 from the Welsh Assembly Government's Planning Division (copy of this letter is contained in the stopped UDP).

The weight to be attached to the various parts of the UDP (policies etc.) must be determined on a case by case basis in relation to the characteristics of the application, the Inspector's Recommendations of July 2004 and any outstanding objections.

A link to the copy of the stopped UDP (2005) can be viewed on the Council's web-site the link to the document is:

<http://www.anglesey.gov.uk/planning-and-waste/planning-policy/current-plans-and-policies/unitary-development-plan/stopped-udp-unadopted-december-2005/>

There are no specific site allocations or rural exception policies relating to Gypsies in the Plan. The following criteria based policy will be applied should evidence of a need arise.



### **Housing Policy HP13 – GYPSY SITES**

**Proposals for Gypsy caravan sites will be permitted where:**

- i) the site is adequately screened or being capable of being adequately screened; and**
- ii) the site is located in an area normally frequented by gypsies; and**
- iii) the site is located within a reasonable distance of schools, shops, medical and community facilities**

### **Gwynedd Planning Area - Existing Gypsy Traveller Local Plan Policies**

#### **Gwynedd Unitary Development Plan (Adopted 2009)**

When the above plan was being prepared, it was considered that there was sufficient provision for the needs of gypsies on the site in Llandygai near Bangor but applications for additional sites could be submitted to the Council. There are no site specific allocations in the Plan

### **Policy CH16 – GYPSY SITES**

**Proposals for Gypsy sites in the Plan area will be approved provided there is evidence of genuine need for the development.**

A link to the copy of the Gwynedd Unitary Development Plan can be viewed on the Council's web-site the link to the document is:

<http://www.cartogold.co.uk/gwynedd/>

In the explanation for the policy it is stated that for the purpose of this policy that Gypsies are defined as people who move and travel as part of their livelihood and this does not include people who drift from place to place unrelated to earning a living, namely those known as New Age Travellers.

Before an additional site is approved, the Authority must be satisfied that genuine need for the new site exists. As in the case of other developments, sites that would have an unacceptable impact on the landscape, coast or wildlife as a consequence of their location or site layout will not be approved. Proposals that would affect the amenities of nearby inhabitants or highway safety will not be approved.

### **Joint Local Development Plan Anglesey and Gwynedd (2011 – 2026) Deposit Plan (2015)**

In 2010 the Isle of Anglesey County Council and Gwynedd Council *decided to work together to prepare a joint Plan covering the Anglesey and Gwynedd Local Planning Authority Areas*. The deposit version of the Plan was subject to formal public consultation between the February 2015 and 31 March 2015. When the new JLDP is adopted, it will replace the various Plans referred to above and will provide the starting point for considering planning applications for the Isle of Anglesey and Gwynedd Planning Area.

Although at a relatively advanced stage it's policies currently do not carry weight as material planning consideration for development management purposes. The weight to be attached to an emerging draft LDP will in general depend on the stage it has reached, but does not simply increase as the plan proceeds towards adoption (Planning Policy Wales November 2014, paragraph 2.8.1).As the JLDP moves through the examination stage and therefore closer to adoption, its draft policies may be afforded some weight in the planning decision as material considerations. The appointed inspector who will conduct the examination will be required to consider the soundness of the whole plan in the context of national policy and all other matters material to it when conducting the examination. The weight of emerging policies will be lessened if there are objections to them; or if they are contrary to national planning policy.

The Deposit Plan contains three policies that relate directly to Gypsy and Traveller Sites. The policies may be viewed at:  
<http://www.anglesey.gov.uk/Journals/2015/02/13/r/v/e/Deposit-Plan-2015.pdf>

**POLICY TAI11: SAFEGUARDING EXISTING GYPSY & TRAVELLER SITES**

The existing Gypsy site at Llandygai, Bangor, as shown on the Proposals Map, is safeguarded as a permanent residential site to be solely used by Gypsies.

Any new Gypsy or Traveller sites granted planning permission and operated shall also be safeguarded for Gypsies or Travellers use.

Planning permission will be refused for an alternative use on a safeguarded site unless an alternative, replacement site has been identified and developed to provide facilities of an equivalent or improved standard (including its location) whilst there remains a need for such sites as evidenced by the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment or the best available evidence.

The purpose of this policy is to safeguard sites that have planning permission for Gypsy –Traveller residential use and sites that are granted such permission in the future. It will help ensure that Gypsy-Traveller sites are not lost to alternative uses, unless material planning considerations indicate otherwise.

**POLICY TAI12: GYPSY AND TRAVELLER SITE ALLOCATIONS**

To contribute to fulfilling the identified need for Gypsy and Traveller pitches as shown in the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment the following location, as shown on the Proposals Map (see Appendix C), has been identified for potential development for permanent residential Gypsy or Traveller use, to be solely occupied by Gypsies or Travellers:

### Permanent Gypsy or Traveller sites

Location	Number of pitches	Occupants
Extension to existing site at Llandygai, Bangor	5	Gypsies

As the Councils move towards the Submission stage (anticipated February 2016) in the Plan preparation process a Gypsies and Travellers Sites Assessment Methodology is being applied to identify sites for any gaps in provision to satisfy the most up-to-date needs assessment for permanent residential pitches as well as a series of temporary stopping pitches for Gypsies and Travellers.

The Deposit Plan contains guidance regarding the proposed assessment process that will be used to identify possible permanent residential pitches and temporary stopping sites as allocations in the Plan Area. Further information about the assessment process is set out in Topic Paper 18 Identifying Gypsy and Traveller Sites, which will be updated at the Submission stage.

A link to the copy of Topic Paper 18 can be viewed on the Council's web-site the link to the document is:

<http://www.anglesey.gov.uk/Journals/2015/02/16/r/a/r/Topic-Paper-Identifying-Gypsy-and-Traveller-Sites.pdf>

The following proposed criteria based policy has been drafted to enable new permanent residential Gypsy Traveller Sites and extensions to existing authorised sites to be granted planning permission on land that would not otherwise be released for "bricks and mortar housing" development.

### **POLICY TAI13: SITES FOR GYPSIES AND TRAVELLER PITCHES**

**Proposals for new permanent residential Gypsy or Traveller sites and extensions to existing authorised sites for Gypsies and Travellers will be granted on land that would not otherwise be released for residential development provided they conform to all the following criteria:**

- 1. A genuine local need is identified;**
- 2. That necessary transport and social infrastructure are accessible or can be readily provided;**
- 3. Cannot be accommodated on an existing authorised site;**
- 4. That environmental factors including high risk of flooding, ground stability, contaminated land, and proximity to hazardous locations do not make the site inappropriate for residential development;**
- 5. It is capable of being serviced with water, electricity, and waste management;**
- 6. The design of the development demonstrates that due regard has been taken to the Welsh Government Good Practice Guide in Designing Gypsy Traveller Sites;**
- 7. There would be no unreasonable impact on the character and appearance of the surrounding areas including impact on residential amenity of neighbouring occupiers or the operating conditions of existing businesses;**
- 8. There are no adverse effects on areas designated as being of international or national importance for biodiversity and landscape;**
- 9. That satisfactory arrangements are in place to restrict the occupancy of the pitches to Gypsies or Travellers.**

As well as being a criteria based policy, this policy could be described as being an “exception type” policy. This purpose of this policy is to enable the release of land outside development boundaries for affordable Gypsy Traveller accommodation where “bricks and mortar housing” would not normally be approved.

The Joint Planning Policy Unit is currently carefully considering representations that were submitted during a public consultation period about the Deposit Plan about elements of the policies described above. Any amendments required to address these representations will be set out in an addendum to the Deposit Plan and described as ‘Focussed Changes’.

The Councils recognise that they will need to identify sufficient sites to meet the need for additional pitches for Gypsies and Travellers calculated from the latest Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment. These additional sites will be set out in an addendum to the Deposit Plan and described as ‘Focussed Changes’. All Focussed Changes will be submitted to the Planning Inspector as recommended amendments to the Deposit Plan.

At the Public Examination into the Plan, the Planning Inspector will assess the soundness of the Plan. The Inspector could recommend changes to policies and to proposed allocations (including the Gypsy Traveller policies and proposed site allocations) to ensure that the Plan complies with the tests of soundness. The Focussed Changes and any Changes arising from the Examination will be subject to public consultation (anticipated during 2016).

## **Eryri National Park - Existing Gypsy Traveller Local Plan Policies**

### **Eryri 2007-2022 Written Statement (2011)**

The adoption of the Eryri Local Development Plan predated the publication of the North Wales Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment in 2013. In the absence of evidence of proven need for Gypsy and Traveller sites, the National Park Authority did not allocate any sites specifically for Gypsy and travellers use and set out the following interim criteria based policy to judge future planning applications for Gypsy and Traveller Sites.

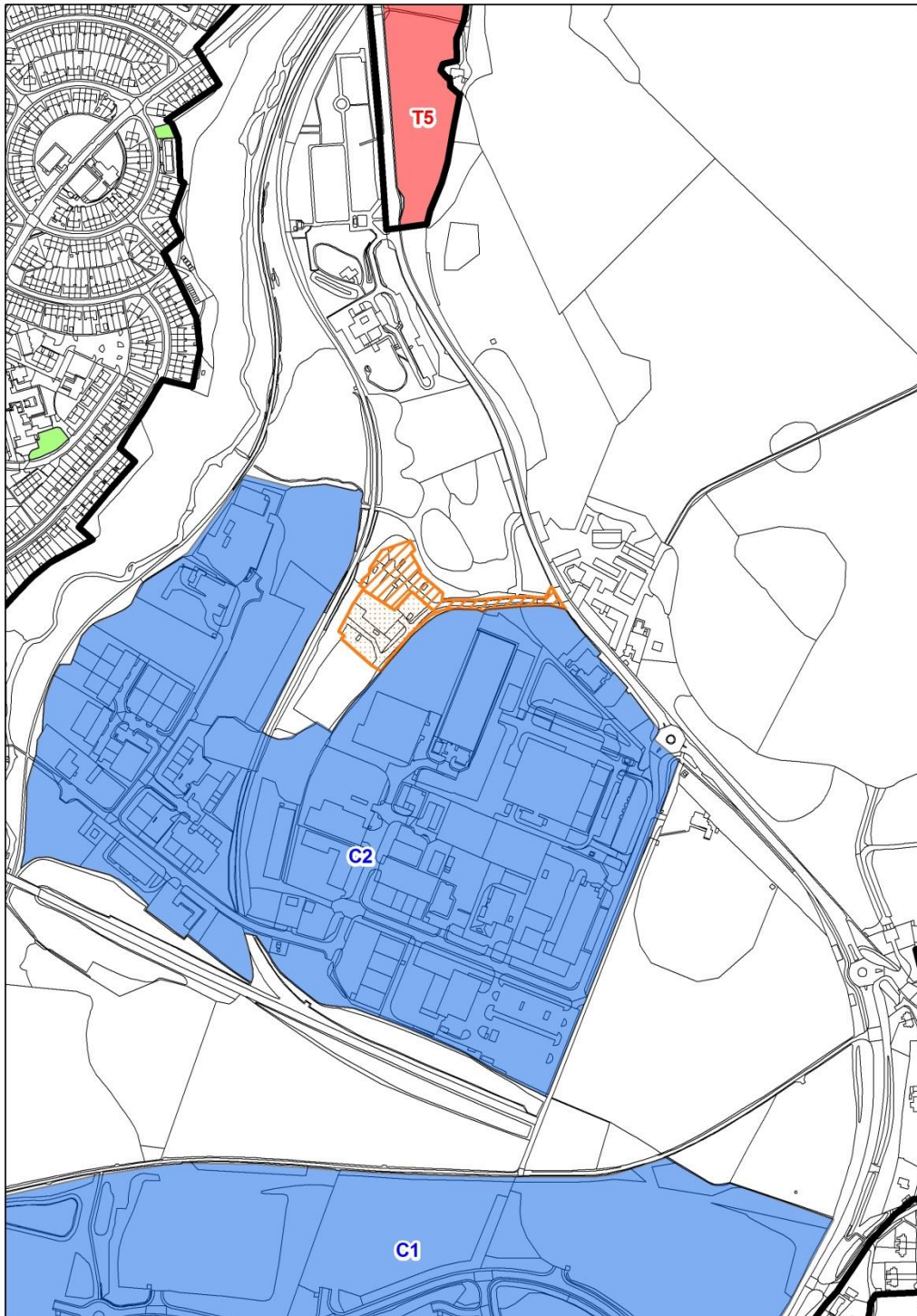
### **Development Policy 13: Gypsy and Travellers Sites**

Within the National Park planning permission for gypsy sites will be granted provided that the following criteria are satisfied:

- i. Evidence of need to locate or provide transitory arrangements in the area has been identified.
- ii. The use of the site will not cause significant harm to residential or public amenity.
- iii. The site is in scale with the nearest settled community.
- iv. The site has adequate provision of essential services including an efficient waste and recycling collection service and mains services, and does not place any undue burden on local infrastructure.
- v. The site has direct access onto a principal road, and is on a bus route accessing local services.
- vi. The proposal does not cause significant visual intrusion, is sensitively sited in the landscape and satisfactory landscaping is provided.

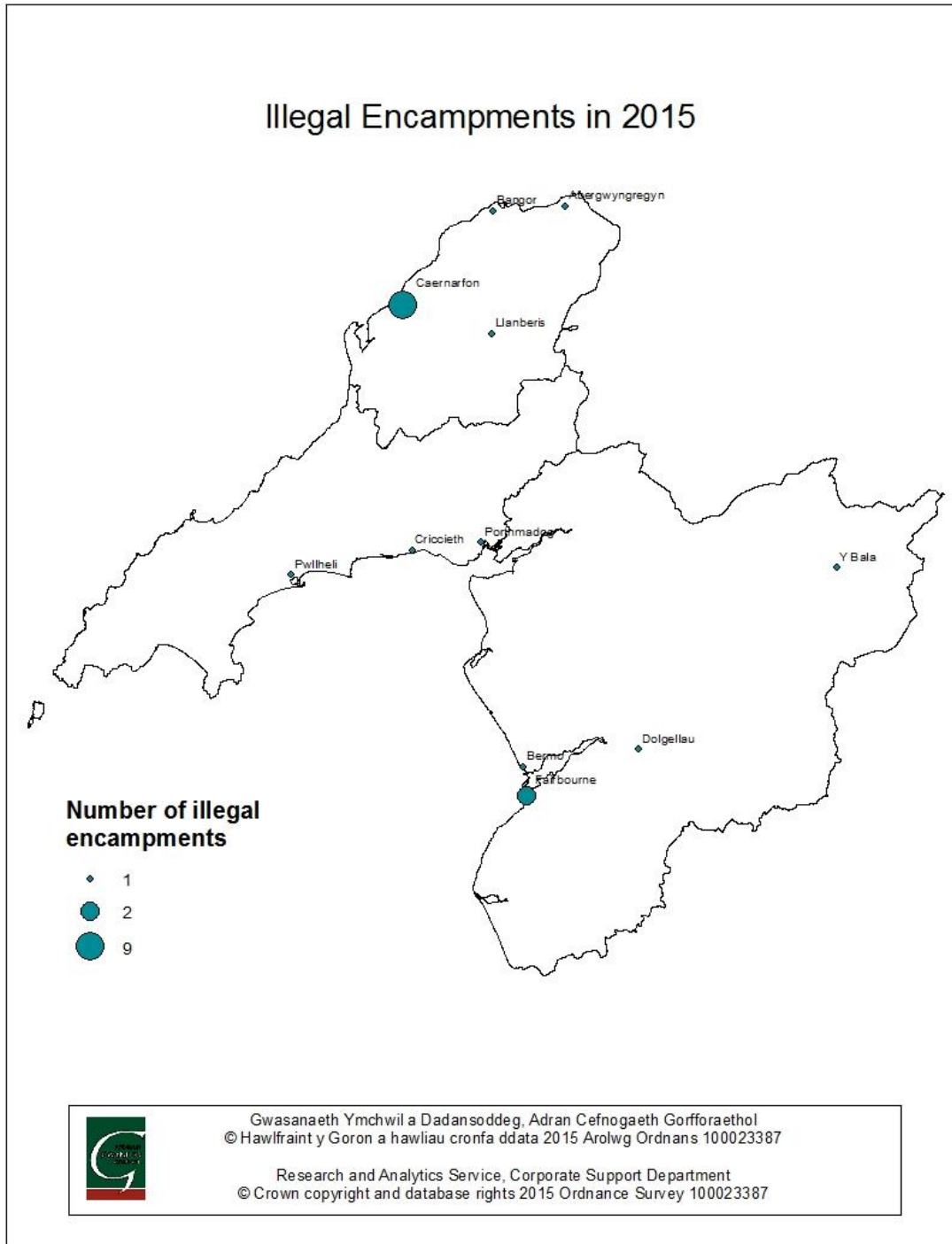
Paragraph 5.49 of the explanatory text stresses the importance of ensuring that Gypsy Traveller Sites are unobtrusively located and accord with the National Park purposes. The whole Plan can be viewed at: [http://www.eryri-npa.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0004/184684/ELDP-Final-6.1.12.pdf](http://www.eryri-npa.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/184684/ELDP-Final-6.1.12.pdf)

Map – Planning





## Appendix C



## Appendix D

### Gwynedd and Anglesey Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment Project Steering Group

Name	Department	Organisation
Councillor Ioan Thomas	Housing / Customer Care & Deprivation and Equality Portfolio Leader	Gwynedd Council
Councillor Dafydd Meurig	Planning & Regulatory Portfolio Leader	Gwynedd Council
Councillor Aled Morris Jones	Social Services and Housing Portfolio leader	Anglesey Council
Arwel Owen (Chair)	Senior Housing Officer	Gwynedd Council
Lucy Reynolds	Housing Strategy & Development Manager (Project Manager for Anglesey)	Anglesey Council
Catrin Roberts	Housing Strategy Development Officer (Project Manager for Gwynedd)	Gwynedd Council
John Hughes Jones	Senior Welfare Officer Education	Gwynedd Council
Bethan Roberts	Quality Assurance Officer Education	Gwynedd Council

<b>Name</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
<b>Robert Thomas</b>	<b>Team Leader – Gwynedd and Mon Joint Planning – Policy Unit</b>	<b>Gwynedd &amp; Anglesey</b>
<b>J Mike Evans</b>	<b>Senior Planning Officer – Gwynedd and Mon Joint Planning Policy unit</b>	<b>Gwynedd &amp; Anglesey</b>
<b>Rebeca Jones</b>	<b>Planning Officer (Policy)</b>	<b>Eryri National Park</b>
<b>Megan Marie Riley</b>	<b>Gypsy and Traveller Representative</b>	<b>Gypsy and Traveller Representative</b>
<b>Paulette Campbell</b>	<b>Supported Housing Operational Manager</b>	<b>North Wales Housing</b>
<b>Adrian Roberts</b>	<b>Gypsy and Traveller Liasion Officer – Housing</b>	<b>Gwynedd Council</b>
<b>Tony Jones</b>	<b>Regional Community Cohesion Co-ordinator</b>	<b>Conwy, Gwynedd &amp; Anglesey</b>

## Appendix E

### ANNEX 2 – QUESTIONNAIRE

#### SECTION A – YOUR HOME

##### A1 Where do you live now?

Local Authority (“Council”) residential site	
Council transit site	
Private site with planning permission	
Private site currently without planning permission	
Unauthorised encampment	
Bricks and Mortar – Socially Rented	
Bricks and Mortar – Privately Rented	
Bricks and Mortar – Owner Occupied	

##### A2 Are you satisfied with your current accommodation?

Yes	
No	
Prefer not to say	

If ‘no’ please explain what could be improved:

**A3 Can you tell me why you live here?**

Local connections (family or work)	
No alternative authorised pitch	
Can't find a house to move into	
Health or age reasons	
Prefer houses to caravans	
Other:	

**A4 How long have you lived here?**

Less than 1 month	1–6 months	7 – 12 months	1 - 2 years	2-5 years	Over 5 years

**A5 If you have moved within the last year, was your last home in this Local Authority?**

**YES / NO**

Please give details below:

Type of accommodation	Did it have planning permission?	Which Local Authority was it in?	Why did you leave?

**A6 How long do you think you'll stay here?**

1 or 2 days	3 – 28 days	1 – 3 months	3 months – 2 years	2 – 5 years	Over 5 years	Do not intend to move	Don't know

**A7 Would you stay longer if changes or improvements were made to your current accommodation?**

*(Note: The Local Authority may not be able to make these improvements but understanding the problems with your accommodation may help)*

**YES**

**NO**

Reason	Tick
Repairs needed	
Site made bigger	
Accommodation made safer	
Planning permission granted	
Adaptations needed (please state below)	

Reason	Tick
Just passing through	
Want authorised pitch in other area	
Want to move into housing	
Relationships broken down	
Prefer living in caravan	

Other:

**SECTION B – YOUR FAMILY**

	Relationship to respondent (eg. Spouse, son/daughter etc)	Age	Gender	Romani / Irish Traveller / New Traveller / Showperson / Roma / Other  (Self-ascribed)	Are there any reasons why you cannot continue to live in this accommodation? (give details)
Respondent					
Person 2					
Person 3					
Person 4					
Person 5					



Person 6					
Person 7					
Person 8					
Person 9					
Person 10					
Person 11					
Person 12					

*If not living in caravans proceed to B4.*

**B2 If living in caravans, are there enough sleeping areas for all residents?**

**YES / NO**

**B3 Is there room on the pitch for additional trailers to prevent overcrowding?**

*(Note: guidance suggests that there should be 6 metre gap between trailers and 3 metre gap to boundaries to be safely accommodated on pitch)*

**YES / NO**

**If yes, how many additional sleeping areas can be added?**

**B4 Would anyone in your family like to join the Local Authority waiting list for pitches or housing?**

**YES / NO**

**Please provide address for application pack to be posted to below:**

*Please state if already on a waiting list and which.*

## SECTION C – YOUR PLANS

### C1 Are you planning to move into other accommodation?

Yes	<i>Go to C2</i>	
No	<i>Go to D1</i>	
Prefer not to say	<i>Go to D1</i>	

### C2 Where are you planning to move to?

Within the Local Authority	
Another Local Authority in Wales – please state which:	
Somewhere else in the UK	

### C3 Why are you planning to move?

Need more space	
Need different facilities	
Local connection (family or work)	
Need to be closer to services – schools etc (Please give details below)	
Employment opportunities	
Other (Please specify below)	

**Services:**

**Other:**

--	--

**C4 What type of accommodation are you planning to move to?**

<b>1. Site</b>	
Council / Social rented	
Private site owned by self	
Private site owned by other	

<b>2. Bricks and Mortar</b>	
Owner / occupied	
Rent from Council / Housing Association	
Rent from private landlord	

**C5 Do you own land in the Local Authority which you would like to be considered as a possible future site?**

*(Note: Interviewer to explain that there is no guarantee that the site will be allocated or developed but planning officers may contact respondent to discuss their situation and offer support)*

Yes	<i>Give details below</i>	
No	<i>Go to C6</i>	
Prefer not to say	<i>Go to C6</i>	

**If you like the Local Authority to discuss these plans with you, provide contact details below:**

--

		YES	NO
<b>C6</b>	<b>If you are looking for an authorised pitch, would you live on a site managed by the Local Authority if offered one?</b>		
<b>C7</b>	<b>If an authorised pitch was available in another Local Authority, would you consider moving there?</b>  <b>If 'yes', which Local Authorities?</b>		

**SECTION D - FAMILY GROWTH**

**D1 Is anyone in your household likely to want to move to their own home in the next 5 years?**

Yes	<i>Go to D2</i>	
No	<i>Go to D4</i>	
Don't know	<i>Go to D4</i>	
Prefer not to say	<i>Go to D4</i>	

**D2 Will this be in this Local Authority?**

Yes	<i>Go to D3</i>	
No	<i>Go to D4</i>	
Prefer not to say	<i>Go to D4</i>	

**D3 How many new households will there be and when will these be needed?**

	Type of accommodation (LA site; private site; B&M housing)	No. of people	Now	Within a year	1-2 years	2-5 years
Household 1						
Household 2						
Household 3						
Household 4						

**D4 Do you have family members living outside this area who camp in this Local Authority regularly?**

Yes	<i>Go to D5</i>	
No	<i>Go to E1</i>	
Don't know	<i>Go to E1</i>	
Prefer not to say	<i>Go to E1</i>	

**D5 If they would like to be interviewed about the need for pitches, provide their contact details and Local Authority where they currently live below:**

**SECTION E - TRANSIT SITES**

**E1 Have you camped by the roadside / on an unauthorised encampment / on a transit site in Wales while travelling in the past year?**

*(Prompt: this information is only to be used to understand if more transit sites are needed)*

Yes	<i>Go to E2</i>	
No	<i>Go to E4</i>	
Prefer not to say	<i>Go to E4</i>	

**E2 In which Local Authority areas have you camped?**

Prefer not to say	

**E3 How long would you usually stay in one place whilst travelling?**

1 – 2 days	3 days – 1 week	1 – 2 weeks	2 weeks – 1 month	1 – 3 months

**E4 Do you think there is a need for more transit sites in Wales?**

Yes	<i>Go to E5</i>	
No	<i>Questionnaire ends</i>	
Prefer not to say	<i>Questionnaire ends</i>	

**E5 Where are they needed?**

*(Probe for Local Authorities and specific locations)*

Prefer not to say	



## Appendix F

### Method of raising awareness of the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment

#### Gwynedd Council

Dates		
June & July 2015	Travellers on-line magazine	Arranged by Welsh Government
18.08.15	Briefing Session for North Wales Housing Staff	Meeting
30.07.15 & 02.10.15	Gwynedd Homeless Forum	Meeting x 2 & Emails
August 2015 & 16.09.15	Supporting People Forum	Meeting x 1 & Emails
14.09.15	Gwynedd Council's Newsletter – distributed to Gwynedd Residents	Newsletter
From 19.10.15 onwards	Gwynedd Council Twitter	Social network Site
From 19.10.15 onwards	Gwynedd Council Facebook	Social network Site
From 13.08.15 onwards	Gwynedd Council Web-site	Social network Site <a href="https://www.gwynedd.gov.uk/cy/Trigolion/Tai/Tai.aspx">https://www.gwynedd.gov.uk/cy/Trigolion/Tai/Tai.aspx</a>
September 2015	Housing Associations	Emails Letters distributed to tenants via Housing Associations  <a href="http://www.ccgwynedd.org/cy-GB/Ymgynghori">http://www.ccgwynedd.org/cy-GB/Ymgynghori</a>

## Appendix F

### Method of raising awareness of the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment

#### Isle of Anglesey County Council

Dates		
June & July 2015	Travellers on-line magazine	Arranged by Welsh Government
18.08.15	Briefing Session for North Wales Housing Staff	Meeting
September 2015	Isle of Anglesey County Councillors	Email explaining the Assessment and asking them to bring it to the attention of any members of the Gypsy Traveller community they are aware of.
September 2015	Section on Council's website established with information about the Assessment	Social media used to promote the survey <a href="http://www.anglesey.gov.uk/housing/anglesey-local-housing-strategy-and-the-anglesey-housing-partnership/gypsy-and-traveller-accommodation-assessment">http://www.anglesey.gov.uk/housing/anglesey-local-housing-strategy-and-the-anglesey-housing-partnership/gypsy-and-traveller-accommodation-assessment</a>
September 2015	Housing Associations working in Anglesey	Contacts in Gypsy / Traveller community
October 2015	Council's list of third sector stakeholders	Email asking for assistance in publicising the survey
November 2015	Contact made with individuals who had previously contacted the Council about Gypsy Traveller matters via Facebook	Social media used to promote the survey
November 2015	Isle of Anglesey County Council Twitter and Facebook	Social media used to promote the survey
November 2015	World's Fair magazine	Article included about GTAA in North Wales.

## Appendix G – Gwynedd Interview Log

Type of tenure	Interview attempts			Engagement techniques used	Questionnaire completed or refusal?	Reasons for refusal?
Bricks and mortar	√			Pre-arranged	Completed	
Local Authoirty Site	√			Pre-arranged	Completed	
Local Authoirty Site	√			Pre-arranged	Completed	
Local Authoirty Site	√			Pre-arranged	Completed	
Local Authoirty Site	√	√		Face to Face visit	Refused	Did not wish to partake at time
Local Authoirty Site	√	√		Face to Face visit	Refused	Did not wish to partake at time
Local Authoirty Site	√			Face to Face visit	Refused	Did not wish to partake at time
Local Authoirty Site	√			Pre-arranged	Completed	
Bricks and mortar	√	√	√	Cyswllt drwy'r Asiantaeth Dai (llythyr a galwadau ffon)		Unable to make contact
	√	√		Cyswllt dryw'r Adran Addysg		3 refused - unable to make wcontact with 6
Bricks and mortar	√	√	√	Llythyr a galwadau ffon		Unable to make contact
Bricks and mortar	√	√	√	Llythyr a galwadau ffon		Unable to make contact
Bricks and mortar	√	√		Llythyr a galwadau ffon	Refused	Happy in current accommodation

Type of tenure	Interview attempts			Engagement techniques used	Questionnaire completed or refusal?	Reasons for refusal?
	√	√	√			
Bricks and mortar	√	√	√	Llythyr a galwadau ffon		Unable to make contact
Bricks and mortar	√	√		Llythyr a galwadau ffon	Refused	Happy in current accommodation
Bricks and mortar	√	√	√	Llythyr a galwadau ffon		Unable to make contact
Bricks and mortar	√	√		Llythyr a galwadau ffon	Refused	Happy in current accommodation
Bricks and mortar	√	√		Llythyr a galwadau ffon	Refused	Happy in current accommodation
Bricks and mortar	√	√		Llythyr		Unable to make contact
Bricks and mortar	√	√	√	Llythyr a galwadau ffon		Unable to make contact
Bricks and mortar	√			Letter	Refused	Happy in current accommodation
Bricks and mortar	√			Letter	Refused	Happy in current accommodation
	√			Face to Face visit		Circus - had moved on
	√			Face to Face visit	Refused	Circus - Did not wish to partake at time
Unauthorised encampment	√			Face to Face visit	Refused	Did not wish to partake at time
Unauthorised encampment	√			Face to Face visit	Refused	Did not wish to partake at time
Unauthorised encampment	√			Face to Face visit	Refused	Did not wish to partake at time

Type of tenure	Interview attempts		Engagement techniques used	Questionnaire completed or refusal?	Reasons for refusal?
Unauthorised encampment	√		Face to Face visit	Refused	Did not wish to partake at time
Unauthorised encampment	√		Face to Face visit	Refused	Did not wish to partake at time
Unauthorised encampment	√		Face to Face visit	Refused	Did not wish to partake at time
Unauthorised encampment	√		Letter	Refused	Did not wish to partake at time
Unauthorised encampment	√		Letter	Completed	
Unauthorised encampment	√		Letter		Unable to make contact

## Appendix G – Gwynedd Interview Log

Type of tenure	Interview attempts			Engagement techniques used	Questionnaire completed or refusal?	Reasons for refusal?
Private authorised site	√			Face to face interview	Completed	
Unauthorised encampment	√	√	√	Appointment.	Completed	
Unauthorised encampment	√	√	√	Appointment.	Refusal	Appointment not kept
Unauthorised encampment	√	√		Visits	Completed (self completion)	Interviewee was away from site and only able to self-complete
Unauthorised encampment	√	√	√	Visits	Refusal	On the final visit sickness prevented interview taking place
Bricks and mortar	√	√	√	Phone interview	Completed	
Bricks and mortar	√			Letter and phone interview	Completed	
Bricks and mortar	√			Letter and phone interview	Completed	
Bricks and mortar	√	√	√	Letter and phone		An appointment for a telephone interview was arranged but not kept.
Private authorised site	√	√		Visits		No one present at time of visits and fair ended before further attempt could be made
Unauthorised encampment	√			Visit		Encampment had moved on that morning.
Unauthorised encampment	√			Visit	Refused	Did not wish to take part at this time