

MINUTES of the MEETING of the COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE held at THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THE GROVE, SWANSCOMBE on WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER 2019 at 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor Peter Harris - Chairman
Councillor Peter Harman -Vice-Chairman
Councillor Emma Ben-Moussa
Councillor Lesley Howes
Councillor Jay Shah

ALSO PRESENT: Martin Harding – Assistant Town Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer
Billy Unsworth (Kent County Council (KCC) Community Warden).
PCSO Rob Young – Kent Police
Simon Taylor – Arriva Buses
Chris Hennis – Play Place
2 x member of the public

ABSENT: Councillor Anita Barham

352/19-20. ARRANGEMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS REGARDING FILMING OR RECORDING THE MEETING.

The Chairman explained the arrangements and constraints relating to the filming or recording of the meeting.

353/19-20. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors' Sue Butterfill and Lorna Cross.

Apologies were also received from Zoe Harris (Kent County Council), Martin Smith (Dartford Borough Council Parking Enforcement), Sgt Siobhan Rowe (Kent Police) and Sarah Rawlinson (Youth & Community Engagement Officer, Diocese of Rochester).

354/19-20. SUBSTITUTES.

There were none.

355/19-20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

There were none.

356/19-20. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND THEIR POSITION ON THE AGENDA.

There were none.

357/19-20. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2 OCTOBER 2019.

Recommended: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 October 2019 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

The Chairman gave the opportunity for the meeting to be adjourned at this point to accept questions from the public.

A resident explained an incident of theft from her son in Broomfield Park. The resident was given the opportunity to speak to both the PCSO and Community Warden to formally report and further this matter.

358/19-20. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER (PCC) - UPDATE.

Members were provided with a confirmation email from the PCC that, following the coffee morning on 4 June 2019, and the recent attendance of Chief Inspector Neil Loudon, a further public meeting with the PCC was not felt to be needed.

Members expressed their dissatisfaction that the impetus was placed only on the PCSO's and the Sergeant to attend and answer queries.

Recommended: That the item be noted.

359/19-20. POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS (PCSO) REPORT.

PCSO Rob Young gave a summary of recent crime levels and incidents of note that had occurred in both Swanscombe and Greenhithe. These included the graffiti at St Peter and St Pauls Church, attempted burglaries and the recent attacks on local buses.

Recommended: That the report be noted and PCSO Young be thanked for his attendance.

360/19-20. KCC COMMUNITY WARDENS REPORT.

KCC Warden Unsworth gave an update on cases he had been involved with in the area, including suspected scams, anti-social behaviour and support at recent community events.

Recommended: That the report be noted and KCC Warden Unsworth be thanked for his attendance.

361/19-20. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR – ARRIVA BUS SERVICES.

Members were provided with a map indicating the incidents that had occurred with buses being attacked with projectiles.

Simon Taylor from Arriva Buses explained that the incidents had decreased as these tended to occur around the times of Halloween and Bonfire Night. Mr Taylor was very thankful for the support they had received from Kent Police on this issue which had included officers riding on buses and also patrols along bus routes.

Recommended: That the information be noted and Mr Taylor be thanked for his attendance

362/19-20. COMMUNITY SAFETY LIAISON.

Local Schools – Members were provided with some example leaflets on Anti-Social Parking that had been sent by the Chairman to local schools for consideration. These would be handed out by pupils to parents during the schools drop off and pick up times.

Youth services / officers – Chris Hennis from Play Place gave a summary of the activities they were currently undertaking in the area. These included the weekly youth club at the Heritage Community Hall, occasional detached work in Broomfield Park and a multi sports activity

Neighbourhood Watch – PCSO Young confirmed that a new Neighbourhood Watch for Swanscombe was being set up by a young resident and that work was underway to support this with the necessary materials and signage.

Community Speed Watch – The Chairman confirmed that a recent session had been undertaken in Ingress Park.

Kent County Council – The Chairman gave a summary from a recent conference conducted by Kent County Council on Serious & Organised Crime.

Recommended: That the information be noted.

363/19-20. DETAILED ANALYSIS OF CRIME STATISTICS FOR SWANSCOMBE AND GREENHITHE.

Members were provided with the up to date detailed analysis of crime figures for Swanscombe and Greenhithe.

Recommended: That the item be noted.

364/19-20. **KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (KCC) – 20MPH ZONE TRIAL.**

Further to minute 252/19-20 members were provided with maps of the three wards of the Town indicating the roads that were already subject to a traffic order restricting the speed to 20 mph.

Members discussed this and felt that the remaining roads in Greenhithe Village (High Street and Eagles Road), Bean Road / Cobham Terrace, Mounts Road and the last section of Craylands Lane should be put to KCC for consideration.

Recommended: That the roads as detailed be put to KCC to be considered for 20mph zones.

There were no confidential items for discussion.

There being no further business to transact, the Meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Signed

Chairman

Date

Parish Council monthly update

AGENDA ITEM
CSC 12/2/20 6

From December
1st to December
31st 2019

Swanscombe

Information provided by: PCSO Robert Young 60354, Dartford Community Policing Team

Crimes of note:

There have been no serious offences/Crimes of note that the Parish Council need to be made aware of in Swanscombe in the month of December.

Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note:

- Heratige Park, Mini-motorbike incident 04/12/19, PCSO's attended could not locate the vehicle.
- Alkerden Lane, Swanscombe, this area is being focused for passing attention.

Items of good work:

- We are aware of robberies in neighbouring towns and the Community Policing Team (CPT) are working to arrest offenders and patrol hotspot areas that are likely to have any further offences.
- Nuisance youths who have been placed on Acceptable Behaviour Agreements (ABA) continue to be monitored and checked in line with their curfew and overall anti-social behaviour has decreased within the month of December.
- Nuisance vehicles are still causing issues all around Swanscombe. They continue to be dealt with by PCSO's via section 59. They will also be dealt with by Police Officers if offences are seen at the time.
- Increased Police patrols throughout Swanscombe.



**Kent
Police**

For more information about policing in your area, visit www.kent.police.uk

To report a non-urgent crime online, visit www.kent.police.uk/contactus

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Parish Council monthly update

January 1st to
January 31st
2020

Swanscombe

Information provided by: PCSO Robert Young 60354, Dartford Community Policing Team

Crimes of note:

- 04/01/20 – Shoplifter sustained very minor injuries by a member of the public with an axe, Co-Op Swanscombe High Street.
 - 12/01/20 – Burglary, High street, currently under investigation.
 - 11/01/20 – Burglary, Church road, currently under investigation.
 - 29/01/20 – Burglary, Manor Road, Currently under investigation.
 - We are currently experiencing a spike in theft from motor vehicle/theft of motor vehicle/vehicle interference, for people to be aware to take extra care in relation to their vehicles.
-

Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note:

- 02/01/20 – Youths spraying fire extinguishers, Swanscombe High street and Orchard Road.
- 15/01/20 – Youths doing wheelies on Milton road.
- 25/01/20 – Nuisance vehicle, Castle street, PCSO's attended at the time.
- Moped's and off-road vehicles continue to ride around the streets of Swanscombe.
- We have received a number of calls relating to people receiving fake calls from professional agencies, police and HMRC, please be aware this could be an ongoing scam, ask for reference numbers and force/badge/I.D. numbers from any callers claiming to be professionals.
- We are aware of complaints regarding youths in Broomfield park, there are regular patrols, both vehicle and foot patrols by PCSO's, at this time there is little concern with the activity based on number of calls and nature of what is being reported.



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Parish Council monthly update

Items of good work:

- We are aware of robberies in Swanscombe and neighbouring towns and the Community Policing Team (CPT) are working to arrest offenders and patrol hotspot areas that are likely to have any further offences.
- Nuisance youths who have been placed on Acceptable Behaviour Agreements (ABA) continue to be monitored and checked in line with their curfews.
- Increased Police patrols throughout Swanscombe.
- One person has been issued with a section 59 for riding an off-road vehicle in Swanscombe.
- 06/01/20 - Stolen vehicle recovered, Manor way business park.
- 06/01/20 – Vehicle seized for no insurance, Ames road.
- 13/01/20 – Stolen vehicle recovered, Manor road.
- 28/01/20 – Stolen vehicle recovered with drugs, Manor Way.



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Parish Council monthly update

Parish name Greenhithe (including Bluewater)

Dates 05-12-2019 to 10-01-2020

Information provided by: PCSO CRIPPS Community Safety Unit

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Crimes of note:

2x Robbery – 13/12/2019, Clovelly place, Greenhithe, Under investigation.
01/01/2020, Station Approach, Greenhithe, Under investigation.

Burglary – 03/01/2020, Clovelly place, Greenhithe, Under investigation.

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Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note:

Nuisance Vehicles;

Alderman house 08/12/2019 – group of adults using nos canisters and throwing them out of the car window

Knockhall Road 18/12/2019 – Dirt bike riding up and down the road and on the pavements. PCSO attended, Area search no trace

Ingress Park Ave 08/01/2020 – 2 youth on moped with no helmets or lights on

Knockhall Road 10/01/2020 – Red dirt bike riding up and down the road

St Clements Way 06/12/2019 – 5 cars in convoy pulling handbrake turns and driving close to each other

Mcdonalds Restaurant 15/12/2019 – Car racing round and round the roundabout, PCSO attended, Area Search No Trace

Nuisance youths;

Crossways Blvd – 06/12/2019 – group of youths throwing stones at passing traffic and buses. Patrol attended, area search no trace.

Dial Close 10/12/2019 – 6 youths smoking, drinking alcohol and climbing up the nearby scaffolding. Passing attention was paid.

Dial Close 03/01/2020 – Group of youths throwing a scooter around and making a lot of noise



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Parish Council monthly update

Items of good work:

Fewer calls relating to nuisance bikes in the knockhall road area helped by high presence patrol.

Reduction in calls around damage to buses along bus routes helped by officers partolling bus routes on foot and in marked vehicles.

Updates of previous reported issues:

Active patrolling hotspot areas to deter ASB youths on mopeds, shoplifting and known drug supply areas.



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Parish Council monthly update

Parish name Greenhithe (including Bluewater)

Dates 11-01-2020 to 01-02-2020

Information provided by: PCSO CRIPPS Community Safety Unit

Crimes of note:

Attempted Burglary, 11/01/2020 - Ingress Park Avenue - Under investigation

2x Robbery, 19/01/2020 - Eynsford Road - Under investigation. **24/01/2020** - Mounts Road, Filed – No suspects identified. Investigated as far as reasonably possible.

Theft of Mail, 20/01/2020 - Clovelly Place - Under investigation

Possession of a controlled drug, 24/01/2020 - Knockhall Chase – Under investigation

Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note:

Nuisance Vehicles;

Knockhall Rd 19/01/2020 – 3-4 cars racing around area.

Alexander Rd 22/01/2020 – 3-4 males riding on a segway up and down road. Patrol attended, area search no trace.

Crossways Blvd 24/01/2020 – Cars heard revving engines and speeding up and down road.

Crossways Blvd 24/01/2020 – Second call relating to cars heard revving engines and speeding up and down road.

Knockhall Rd 30/01/2020 – Dirt bike riding up and down road. PCSOs in the area at the time spotted bike and are making enquires

Nuisance youths;

Mcdonalds Greenhithe 22/01/2020 – youths refusing to leave and causing disturbance.

Asda Stores Crossways 23/01/2020 – Group of youths took drinks from the café and caused a disturbance by the front door.

Greenhithe Railway Station 27/01/2020 – Youths tried taking a womans purse and started on other children in the area.



Parish Council monthly update

Dial Close 27/01/2020 – group of youths making large noise in the bin sheds. PCSO attended and moved youths on.

Items of good work:

Fewer calls relating to nuisance bikes in the knockhall road area helped by high presence patrol.

Reduction in calls around nuisance vehicles helped by high visibility patrolling.

Updates of previous reported issues:

Active patrolling hotspot areas to deter ASB youths on mopeds, shoplifting and known drug supply areas.



For more information about policing in your area, visit www.kent.police.uk

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Police surgery

Your local officers will be holding a police surgery on:

Saturday 22/02/2020

**Church Road Hall,
Church Road, DA10 0HF**

1400-1500



Come and speak to local officers about your concerns on crime and anti-social behaviour

Your local officer is **PCSO Rob Young** and will see people individually on a first come, first served basis.

For more information, please contact your local policing team by calling **101**.

Please see notice board for future dates and any changes.

For news, safety advice and information about policing in your area, visit **www.kent.police.uk**



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Police surgery

Your local officers will be holding a police surgery on:

Wednesday 22/01/2020

**At Swanscombe Library
Discovery Centre, Southfleet
Road, DA10 0BB**

At 1030-1130



Come and speak to local officers about your concerns on crime and anti-social behaviour

Your local officer is **PCSO Rob Young** and will see people individually on a first come, first served basis.

For more information, please contact your local policing team by calling **101**.

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1. Home (<https://www.gov.uk/>)
2. Crime, justice and the law (<https://www.gov.uk/browse/justice>)
3. Courts, sentencing and tribunals (<https://www.gov.uk/browse/justice/courts-sentencing-tribunals>)

Punishments for antisocial behaviour

You can get a civil injunction, Community Protection Notice ([CPN](#)) or Criminal Behaviour Order ([CBO](#)) as punishment for antisocial behaviour.

Civil injunctions, [CPNs](#) and [CBOs](#) replaced Antisocial Behaviour Orders ([ASBOs](#)) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. [ASBOs](#) are still used in Scotland (<https://www.mygov.scot/asbo/>).

Antisocial behaviour includes:

- drunken or threatening behaviour
- vandalism and graffiti
- playing loud music at night

A court may give you a civil injunction or a [CPN](#) if it gets reports of persistent antisocial behaviour from the police, a council or a landlord. You can only get a [CBO](#) if you've been convicted of a crime.

You can get a civil injunction or [CBO](#) if you're 10 or over and a [CPN](#) if you're 16 or over.

What you have to do

You must follow certain rules or you could get a more severe punishment.

For example, you might need to:

- stay away from a particular place, like your local town centre
- stop spending time with certain people
- work on improving your behaviour, for example by going to a support group
- fix damage you caused to someone's property

How long it lasts

A court will tell you how long you have to follow the rules.

There's no maximum amount of time a [CPN](#) can last.

How long civil injunctions and [CBOs](#) can last depends on your age.

If you're under 18:

- a civil injunction can last for up to 12 months
- a [CBO](#) lasts between 12 months and 3 years

There's no maximum amount of time if you're 18 or over. If you have a [CBO](#) it'll be reviewed every year and either stopped or extended.

If you don't follow the rules

The punishment for not following your civil injunction is:

- a 3 month detention order if you're under 18
- up to 2 years' imprisonment or unlimited fine if you're 18 or over

The punishment for not following your [CPN](#) is a fine between £100 and £2,500.

The punishment for not following your [CBO](#) is:

- up to 2 years in a detention centre if you're under 18
- up to 5 years in prison or an unlimited fine (or both) if you're 18 or over

Related content

- Being charged with a crime (<https://www.gov.uk/charged-crime>)
- Being arrested: your rights (<https://www.gov.uk/arrested-your-rights>)
- Resolving neighbour disputes (<https://www.gov.uk/how-to-resolve-neighbour-disputes>)
- Report a crime or antisocial behaviour (<https://www.gov.uk/report-crime-anti-social-behaviour>)

Explore the topic

- Courts, sentencing and tribunals (<https://www.gov.uk/browse/justice/courts-sentencing-tribunals>)
- Your rights and the law (<https://www.gov.uk/browse/justice/rights>)

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From: Info
Sent: 03 February 2020 14:33
Subject: RE: Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town council "Greenhithe Home Security"
Importance: High

Dear

Thank you for contacting the Town Council it is greatly appreciated.

We will ensure that your email forms part of the agenda for our next Community Safety Committee meeting which meets regularly throughout the year. The next meeting is scheduled for 12 February 2020 here in the Council Chamber at 7.00pm and you are most welcome to attend.

In the meantime can I please ask that you report any incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour or criminal activities directly to the Police, either by calling 101 or alternatively, by using the online reporting system as this will not only provide them with much needed intelligence but will also help them to direct their resources to the areas where they are most needed.

<https://www.kent.police.uk/>

Many thanks,

Administration Assistant

Swanscombe & Greenhithe Town Council | Council Offices |
The Grove | Swanscombe | Kent | DA10 0GA.
Tel: 01322 385513 | Fax: 01322 385849

From: WordPress
Sent: 02 February 2020 12:33
To: Info <info@swanscombeandgreenhithetowncouncil.gov.uk>
Subject: Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town council "Greenhithe Home Security"

From:
Subject: Greenhithe Home Security

Message Body:

Good afternoon,

I am writing to inform that I contacted a security firm about an alarm and CCTV at my home. I have not had anything happen to my property personally (except my Xmas tree stolen outside my house) but a number of people have had strange people approaching their property and an empty house on my street was broken into - as a single woman with a child it's worrying.

I contacted a company called in Dartford and they informed me that they had been inundated with enquiries from the Greenhithe area and completed 4 installations in our area in January with many enquiries ongoing.

I just wanted to make the local council aware that people feel the necessity to safeguard their properties with CCTV - most of these were not because their properties were broken into but as a deterrent, as they are worried for their and their families safety.

I've never felt unsafe living in Greenhithe until now as there are large groups hanging around and lots of drugs .

I look forward to hearing your comments.

Kind regards,

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Detailed statistics for Dartford - Swanscombe



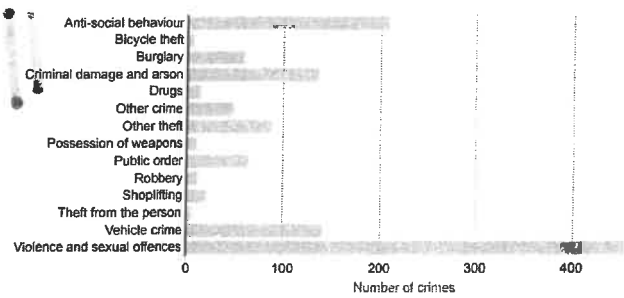
Contents

[Comparison of crime types in this area between January 2019 and December 2019](#)

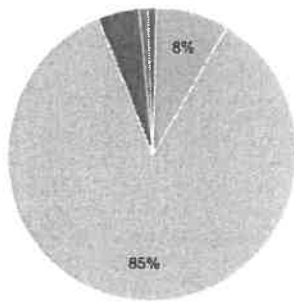
[Comparison of outcomes in this area between January 2019 and December 2019](#)

[Crime levels in this area between January 2019 and December 2019](#)

[Download crime data for this area as a CSV file](#)



Crime type	Total	Percentage
Anti-social behaviour	208	16.37%
Bicycle theft	6	0.47%
Burglary	60	4.72%
Criminal damage and arson	136	10.70%
Drugs	14	1.10%
Other crime	49	3.86%
Other theft	88	6.92%
Possession of weapons	11	0.87%
Public order	66	5.19%
Robbery	12	0.94%
Shoplifting	21	1.65%
Theft from the person	5	0.39%
Vehicle crime	141	11.09%
Violence and sexual offences	454	35.72%



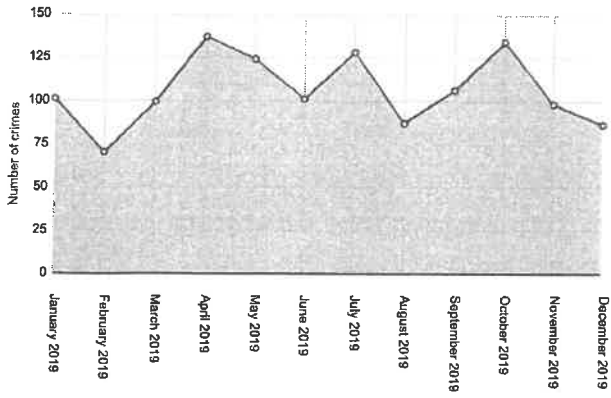
- Under investigation
- No further action
- Offender dealt with by police
- Offender sent to court
- Offender dealt with at court

Outcome type	Total	Percentage
Under investigation	87	8.18%
Under investigation	37	3.48%
Status update unavailable	50	4.70%
No further action	908	85.42%
Formal action is not in the public interest	0	0.00%
Other action is not in the public interest	0	0.00%
Further investigation is not in the public interest	21	1.98%
Investigation complete; no suspect identified	408	38.38%
Unable to prosecute suspect	479	45.06%
Offender dealt with by police	48	4.52%
Action to be taken by another organisation	34	3.20%
Offender given a drugs possession warning	2	0.19%
Offender given penalty notice	0	0.00%
Offender given a caution	9	0.85%
Local resolution	3	0.28%
Offender sent to court	10	0.94%
Suspect charged	10	0.94%
Suspect charged as part of another case	0	0.00%
Offender dealt with at court	10	0.94%
Court case unable to proceed	0	0.00%
Defendant sent to Crown Court	0	0.00%
Defendant found not guilty	0	0.00%
Offender given absolute discharge	0	0.00%
Offender given conditional discharge	1	0.09%
Offender ordered to pay compensation	0	0.00%
Offender fined	0	0.00%
Offender deprived of property	0	0.00%
Offender given community sentence	0	0.00%
Offender given suspended prison sentence	0	0.00%
Offender sent to prison	0	0.00%
Offender otherwise dealt with	0	0.00%
Court result unavailable	9	0.85%

Showing:

All crime

Update




Month	Total
December 2019	86
November 2019	98
October 2019	134
September 2019	106
August 2019	87
July 2019	128
June 2019	101
May 2019	124
April 2019	137
March 2019	99
February 2019	70
January 2019	101

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 Home Office

Detailed statistics for Dartford - Greenhithe



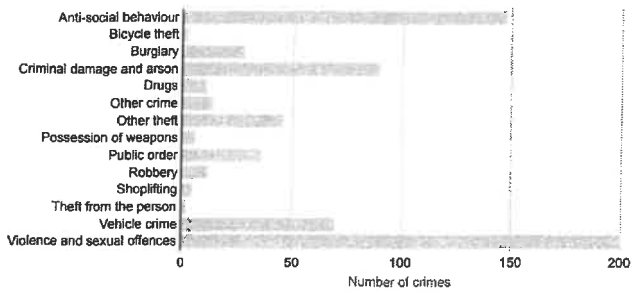
Contents

[Comparison of crime types in this area between January 2019 and December 2019](#)

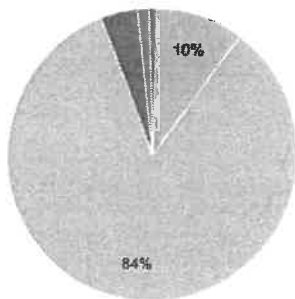
[Comparison of outcomes in this area between January 2019 and December 2019](#)

[Crime levels in this area between January 2019 and December 2019](#)

[Download crime data for this area as a CSV file](#)



Crime type	Total	Percentage
Anti-social behaviour	148	22.09%
Bicycle theft	2	0.30%
Burglary	28	4.18%
Criminal damage and arson	90	13.43%
Drugs	11	1.64%
Other crime	14	2.09%
Other theft	46	6.87%
Possession of weapons	6	0.90%
Public order	36	5.37%
Robbery	12	1.79%
Shoplifting	5	0.75%
Theft from the person	2	0.30%
Vehicle crime	70	10.45%
Violence and sexual offences	200	29.85%



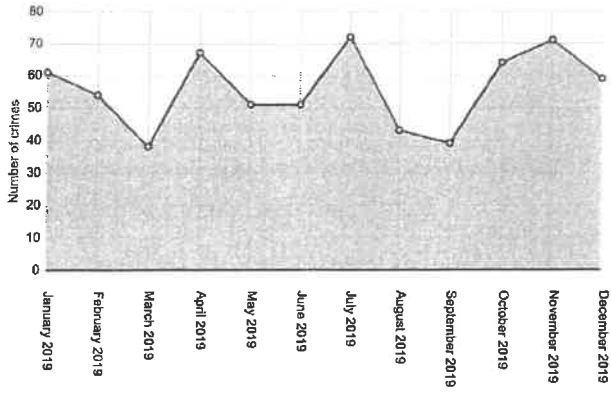
- Under investigation
- No further action
- Offender dealt with by police
- Offender sent to court
- Offender dealt with at court

Outcome type	Total	Percentage
Under investigation	52	9.96%
Under investigation	31	5.94%
Status update unavailable	21	4.02%
No further action	438	83.91%
Formal action is not in the public interest	0	0.00%
Further action is not in the public interest	0	0.00%
Further investigation is not in the public interest	4	0.77%
Investigation complete; no suspect identified	228	43.68%
Unable to prosecute suspect	206	39.46%
Offender dealt with by police	21	4.02%
Action to be taken by another organisation	12	2.30%
Offender given a drugs possession warning	2	0.38%
Offender given penalty notice	0	0.00%
Offender given a caution	6	1.15%
Local resolution	1	0.19%
Offender sent to court	7	1.34%
Suspect charged	7	1.34%
Suspect charged as part of another case	0	0.00%
Offender dealt with at court	4	0.77%
Court case unable to proceed	0	0.00%
Defendant sent to Crown Court	0	0.00%
Defendant found not guilty	0	0.00%
Offender given absolute discharge	0	0.00%
Offender given conditional discharge	0	0.00%
Offender ordered to pay compensation	0	0.00%
Offender fined	0	0.00%
Offender deprived of property	0	0.00%
Offender given community sentence	0	0.00%
Offender given suspended prison sentence	0	0.00%
Offender sent to prison	0	0.00%
Offender otherwise dealt with	0	0.00%
Court result unavailable	4	0.77%

Showing:

All crime

Update



Month	Total
December 2019	59
November 2019	71
October 2019	64
September 2019	39
August 2019	43
July 2019	72
June 2019	51
May 2019	51
April 2019	67
March 2019	38
February 2019	54
January 2019	61

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 Home Office



Home Office

AGENDA ITEM

CSC 12/2/2020 12

Strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments

Government consultation

This consultation begins on 05/11/2019

This consultation ends on 05/03/2020

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About this consultation

To: This consultation is open to the public.

We will be particularly interested to hear from local authorities, police forces, Gypsy, Roma, and Travelling communities and the general public.

Duration: From 05/11/2019 to 05/03/2020

Enquiries to: Strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments consultation
Police Powers Unit
Home Office
6th Floor, Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Email:
UnauthorisedEncampmentsConsultation@homeoffice.gov.uk

How to respond: Please provide your response by 05/03/2020 at:
www.gov.uk/government/consultations/strengthening-police-powers-to-tackle-unauthorised-encampments

If you are unable to use the online system, for example because you use specialist accessibility software that is not compatible with the system, you may download a word document version of the form and email or post it to:

Strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments consultation
Police Powers Unit
Home Office
6th floor, Fry Building
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

Email:
UnauthorisedEncampmentsConsultation@homeoffice.gov.uk

Please also contact the Police Powers Unit (as above) if you require information in any other format, such as Braille, audio or another language. We cannot analyse responses not submitted in these provided formats.

Response paper: A response to this consultation exercise is due to be published at <https://www.gov.uk/search/policy-papers-and-consultations>

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1. Foreword by the Home Secretary

We are fortunate to live in one of the most tolerant countries in the world, which has a proud tradition of promoting respect for the rule of law, for property, and for one another. This Government is committed to creating a just and fair country, where equality of opportunity flourishes and the life chances of all are enhanced. I am clear that that this must be built on shared rights, responsibilities and opportunities.

In April 2018, the Government published a consultation on the effectiveness of enforcement against unauthorised developments and encampments. It sought views from a number of stakeholders including local authorities, police forces, Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities and the general public on the scale of the problem, whether existing powers could be used more effectively and if any additional powers were required.

In response to the consultation my predecessor, the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, announced the Government would look to amend sections 61 and 62A of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 to lower the criteria that must be met for the police to be able to direct people away from unauthorised sites.

He also confirmed Home Office officials would review how this Government could criminalise the act of trespassing when setting up an unauthorised encampment in England and Wales, learning from the trespass legislation that exists in the Republic of Ireland. This consultation document sets out the information gathered during that consultation, makes proposals for change and seeks views on those proposals.

This document consults on whether criminalising unauthorised encampments would be preferable to the amendments we originally proposed to the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, and if so, how it should work. It sets out a proposed package of measures in some detail, as well as some more general questions.

The Government recognises that the proposals contained in this consultation are of interest to a significant minority of Gypsies, Roma and Travellers who continue to travel. The Government's overarching aim is to ensure fair and equal treatment for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, in a way that facilitates their traditional and nomadic way of life while also respecting the interests of the wider community. In June this year the Government announced that the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government will lead development of a cross-government strategy to improve outcomes for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.



Rt Hon Priti Patel MP

Home Secretary

2. Executive summary

We would like to consult on measures to;

- Criminalise the act of trespassing when setting up an unauthorised encampment in England and Wales.

We would also like to consult on the following alternative approach to this issue:

- Amending section 62A of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 to permit the police to direct trespassers to suitable authorised sites located in neighbouring local authority areas.
- Amending sections 61 and 62A of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 to increase the period of time in which trespassers directed from land would be unable to return from 3 months to 12 months.
- Amending section 61 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 to lower the number of vehicles needing to be involved in an unauthorised encampment before police powers can be exercised from six to two or more vehicles.
- Amending section 61 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 to enable the police to remove trespassers from land that forms part of the highway.

This consultation is open until 05/03/2020; details of how to respond are set out towards the front of this document.

3. Introduction

The vast majority of travelling communities reside in caravans on authorised traveller sites. Indeed, out of the 23,726 caravans in England and Wales in July 2018, only 1049 (4.4%) were on unauthorised sites that were not owned by the occupants. However, there have been long-standing concerns about the disproportionate impact of these unauthorised encampments, where significant distress has been caused to local communities and where local authorities have consequently had to deal with a range of issues.

Recognising these concerns, the Government published a consultation in April 2018 on the effectiveness of enforcement against unauthorised developments and encampments. Through that consultation, we sought views from a number of stakeholders including local authorities, police forces, travelling communities and the general public on whether there is anything we can do to ensure that existing powers can be used more effectively and if additional powers are required. It was led by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government in partnership with the Home Office and Ministry of Justice.

The responses to the consultation were clear¹, suggesting that significant problems are created by many unauthorised encampments. Responses highlighted the sense of unease and intimidation residents feel when an unauthorised encampment occurs, the frustration at not being able to access amenities, public land and business premises, and the waste and cost that is left once the encampment has moved on.

Parliament has already given local authorities and the police significant powers and duties designed to help them manage the impact of unauthorised encampments on local communities, including local authority and police powers in the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994.

However, the Government heard compelling evidence, in response to the consultation, that stronger powers are needed to be able to address the issues and concerns identified.

That is why in February 2019, the previous Home Secretary announced that the Government would publish a further consultation on extending police powers by making a series of amendments to sections 61 and 62A of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994. These amendments would permit the police to direct trespassers to suitable alternative sites located in neighbouring local authority areas (as well as the authority which the encampment was currently situated within); to increase the period of time in which trespassers directed from land would be unable to return from three, to twelve months; to lower the number of vehicles needing to be involved in an unauthorised encampment before police powers can be exercised from six to two vehicles; and to enable the police to remove trespassers from land that forms part of the highway.

The Government also heard arguments that England and Wales should follow the so-called 'Irish model' for dealing with unauthorised encampments. This approach

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/powers-for-dealing-with-unauthorised-development-and-encampments>

criminalises trespass in certain circumstances. The responses to our consultation demonstrated that the majority of respondents believe the Government should consider criminalising unauthorised encampments in England and Wales, by creating an offence of trespassing when setting up an unauthorised encampment.

That is why the previous Home Secretary announced that Home Office officials would undertake a review into how this Government can criminalise the act of trespassing when setting up an unauthorised encampment in England and Wales, learning from the trespass legislation that exists in the Republic of Ireland.

Having considered the findings from that review, we would like to test the appetite to go further and broaden the existing categories of criminal trespass to cover trespassers on land who are there with the purpose of residing in their vehicle for any period, and to give the police the relevant powers to arrest offenders in situ and to seize any vehicles or other property on existing unauthorised encampments (or those in the process of being set up) immediately.

We are therefore consulting on whether and how the setting up of or residing on an unauthorised encampment should be made an offence, as well as seeking views on the previously proposed changes to the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 to lower the criteria that must be met for the police to be able to direct people away from unauthorised sites, which could be introduced as an alternative to criminalisation.

4. The proposals

This chapter sets out options to extend police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments, including the creation of an offence of trespassing while setting up an unauthorised encampment, as well as other measures to extend police powers to direct trespassers, who have the intention to reside there, to leave land.

4.1 Criminalising Unauthorised Encampments

Through the Government's consultation on the effectiveness of enforcement against unauthorised developments and encampments, the majority of respondents said they believe we should consider criminalising unauthorised encampments, as has been done in the Republic of Ireland. A similar offence also exists in Scotland.

The Republic of Ireland: Criminal trespass and site provision

The Irish Government has criminalised trespass in certain circumstances, in conjunction with a statutory requirement for local authorities to provide traveller sites. In response to concerns about trespassers occupying public spaces and private land, the Irish Republic introduced the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2002² (the Act).

The Act made it an offence for any person to enter and occupy land without the owner's permission - or bring any "object" on to the land - if this is likely to "substantially damage" the land or interfere with it.

The offence contained in Section 24 of the Act has the effect of criminalising trespassers who occupy land without consent. The legislation does not amount to a ban on all unauthorised encampments. It criminalises encampments that 'substantially' damage the land or prevent use of the land by the owner or other lawful users.

The Act gives the Irish police discretion to direct trespassers to leave land if it is suspected that this offence is being committed. Failure to comply with a direction is also punishable by a fine and/or a one-month prison sentence. It is for the police to consider which approach to adopt depending on the individual circumstances of the case and the encampment.

Scotland: Criminal trespass

Under the Trespass (Scotland) Act 1865, it is an offence to occupy private land without the permission of the landowner³

² <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2002/act/9/section/24/enacted/en/html#sec24b>

³ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Vict/28-29/56>

It was generally viewed by respondents to the consultation in 2018 that criminalisation of unauthorised encampments would act as a deterrent to future encampments and allow the police to enforce removal of trespassers in a timelier fashion. Advantages were seen in financial terms in both the cost of evicting trespassers and clean-up costs.

We would like to gather views on broadening the existing categories of criminal trespass.

The Government could make it an offence to enter or occupy land subject to certain conditions being met. We would welcome your views on what the conditions and threshold for this offence should be. For example, in the Republic of Ireland it is a criminal offence to enter or occupy land without the landowner's consent or bring any "object" on to the land - if this is likely to cause "substantial damage". Imposing conditions such as a need to require proof that damage or harm has been caused will help limit prosecutions to cases where there is an element of public disorder for which there is an interest to protect against and explicitly reflect the balance between land owners' rights to peaceful enjoyment of their property and travellers' rights to privacy and family life.

Question

Q1: To what extent do you agree or disagree that knowingly entering land without the landowner's permission should only be made a criminal offence if it is for the purpose of residing on it?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree or disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Please explain your answer

Question

Q2: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the act of knowingly entering land without the landowner's permission should only be made a criminal offence if it is for the purpose of residing on it with vehicles?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree or disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Please explain your answer

The Government could stipulate that the landowner or representatives of the landowner must take reasonable steps to ask trespassers to leave. This would help the police to demonstrate where a trespasser is **knowingly** trespassing. However, in some instances, landowners may feel afraid to approach trespassers.

Question

Q3: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the landowner or representatives of the landowner should take reasonable steps to ask persons occupying their land to remove themselves and their possessions before occupation of the land can be considered a criminal offence?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree or disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Please explain your answer

Question

Q4: To what extent do you agree or disagree that a criminal offence can only be committed when the following conditions have been met?

a) the encampment prevents people entitled to use the land from making use of it;

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree or disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

b) the encampment is causing or is likely to cause damage to the land or amenities;

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree or disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

c) those on the encampment have demanded money from the landowner to vacate the land; and/or

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree or disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

d) those on the encampment are involved or are likely to be involved in anti-social behaviour.

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree or disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Please explain your answer

Question

Q5: What other conditions not covered in the above should we consider?

4.2 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994

Under Section 61 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, the police have powers that allow them to direct trespassers to leave land. The requirements of these powers are currently:

- I. that the trespassers have an intention to reside on the land for any period;
- II. that the occupier or someone on the occupier's behalf has taken reasonable steps to ask the trespassers to leave;
- III. that: either (a)
 - any of the trespassers have caused damage to land or property; or
 - that any of the trespassers have used threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour towards the occupier, a member of the occupier's family or an employee or agent of the occupier;or (b) that the trespassers have between them six or more vehicles on the land.

Section 62A of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 allows the police to direct trespassers to remove themselves and their vehicles and property from land on which they have the intention to reside where a suitable pitch is available within the same local authority area. The police must consult every local authority within whose area the land is situated to confirm if a suitable pitch is available on a relevant site.

Responses to the consultation from the police and some local authorities highlighted how a lack of availability of transit sites means that they are unable to exercise some of their existing powers such as section 62A of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 which provides a power to remove trespassers to alternative available sites.

We would welcome views on whether to amend section 62A of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 to permit the police to direct trespassers to suitable authorised sites located in neighbouring local authority areas.

Extending this power would make it more likely that the police could act where there is a shortage of site capacity in one particular area. However, we believe that such changes may need to be subject to conditions around:

- Agreements being in place between local authorities. Local authorities have advised us that the use of such a power without agreements in place would deter them from creating more authorised sites. This would be counterproductive.
- A maximum distance that trespassers should be directed across. In some rural areas, a site in a neighbouring local authority area could be several hours drive away. It could be considered unreasonable to relocate someone that far.

Question

Q6: To what extent do you agree or disagree that police should be given the power to direct trespassers to suitable authorised sites in a neighbouring local authority area?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree or disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Please explain your answer

Q7: Should this be subject to conditions around agreements being in place between local authorities?

Q8: Should there be a maximum distance that a trespasser can be directed across?

Yes / No

If yes, what distance should that be?

Q9: Should there be any other conditions that should be considered when directing a trespasser across neighbouring authorities.

Yes / No

If yes, what should these be?

Failure to comply with a police direction under Section 61 or 62A of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 is a criminal offence punishable by a fine and/or a custodial sentence of up to three months' imprisonment, as is re-entry onto the land by persons subject to the direction within three months.

Respondents to the consultation suggested that the current three-month period during which a trespasser is prohibited from returning to a location once directed from the site by the police should be increased.

We would welcome views on whether to amend sections 61 and 62A to increase the period of time in which trespassers directed from land would be unable to return from three months to twelve months. This would provide greater protection to land targeted by the same group of trespassers on a regular basis.

Question

Q10: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the period of time in which trespassers directed from land would be unable to return should be increased from three months to twelve months?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree or disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Please explain your answer

Section 61 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 grants police the power to direct trespassers to leave if there are six or more vehicles present on the land they are trespassing on. However, if there are fewer than six vehicles present, police do not obtain the power to direct trespassers to leave.

We would welcome views on whether to amend section 61 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 to lower the number of vehicles needing to be involved in an unauthorised encampment from six to two, before police powers can be exercised. This will increase the opportunity for police intervention where smaller encampments are present.

Question

Q11: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the number of vehicles needing to be involved in an unauthorised encampment before police powers can be exercised should be lowered from six to two vehicles?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree or disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Please explain your answer

We would welcome views on whether to amend section 61 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 to enable the police to remove trespassers from land that forms part of the highway. The police are currently restricted in dealing with these encampments unless there is a suitable pitch in the same local authority area. This could make it easier for the police to tackle problematic encampments.

Question

Q12: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the police should be granted the power to remove trespassers from land that forms part of the highway?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree or disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Please explain your answer

We believe giving the police powers to seize property, including vehicles, could enable the police to remove unauthorised encampments more quickly and act as deterrent to setting up an unauthorised encampment. We would welcome views on whether to grant police powers to seize property from trespassers and in what circumstances they should have these powers.

Question

Q13: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the police should be granted the power to seize property, including vehicles, from trespassers who are on land with the purpose of residing on it?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree or disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Please explain your answer

Q14: Should the police be able to seize the property of:

- i) Anyone whom they suspect to be trespassing on land with the purpose of residing on it;
- ii) Anyone they arrest for trespassing on land with the purpose of residing on it; or
- iii) Anyone convicted of trespassing on land with the purpose of residing on it?

Please explain your answer

As stated earlier, we would envisage that the above amendments to the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 would be as an alternative to criminalising unauthorised encampments, rather than in addition to.

Question

Q15: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed amendments to sections 61 and 62A of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 contained in this consultation are sufficient measures to tackle the public disorder issues which are associated with unauthorised encampments without the requirement for introducing specific powers that criminalise unauthorised encampments?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree or disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Please explain your answer

4.3 Impacts on the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities

While there are clear challenges presented to settled communities by unauthorised encampments, it is also highly likely that such unlawful encampments can lead to significant hardships for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities themselves.

The Government's overarching aim is to ensure fair and equal treatment for travellers, in a way that facilitates the traditional and nomadic way of life of travellers while respecting the interests of the settled community. Therefore, we would welcome views on any adverse impacts that these proposals could have on the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.

Question

Q16: Do you expect that the proposed amendments to sections 61 and 62A of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 contained in this consultation would have a positive or negative impact on the health or educational outcomes of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities?

Highly positive impact / Positive impact / Neither positive nor negative impact / Negative impact / Highly negative impact

If so, do you have any evidence to support this view, and/or suggestions for what could be done to mitigate or prevent any negative impacts?

Question

Q17: Do you expect that criminalising unauthorised encampments would have a positive or negative impact on the health or educational outcomes of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities?

Highly positive impact / Positive impact / Neither positive nor negative impact / Negative impact / Highly negative impact

If so, do you have any evidence to support this view, and/or suggestions for what could be done to mitigate or prevent any negative impacts?

4.4 Other Comments

Question

Q18: Do you have any other comments to make on the issue of unauthorised encampments not specifically addressed by any of the questions above?

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5. About you

Please use this section to tell us about yourself

Q19: Full name	
Q20: Job title or capacity in which you are responding to this consultation exercise (for example, member of the public)	
Q21: Date	
Q22: Company name/organisation (if applicable)	
Q23: Address	
Q24: Postcode	
Q25: If you would like us to acknowledge receipt of your response, please tick this box	(please tick box)
Address to which the acknowledgement should be sent, if different from above	

Q26: If you are a representative of a group, please tell us the name of the group and give a summary of the people or organisations that you represent.

6. Contact details and how to respond

Please respond using the online system available at:

www.gov.uk/government/consultations/strengthening-police-powers-to-tackle-unauthorised-encampments

Please submit your response by 05/03/2020

You are unable to use the online system, for example because you use specialist accessibility software that is not compatible with the system, you may download a word document version of the form and email it or post it to:

Strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments consultation
Police Powers Unit
Home Office
6th Floor NW, Fry Building
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
LONDON
SW1P 4DF

Email: UnauthorisedEncampmentsConsultation@homeoffice.gov.uk

Complaints or comments

If you have any complaints or comments about the consultation process you should contact the Home Office at the above address.

Extra copies

Further paper copies of this consultation can be obtained from this address and it is also available online at www.gov.uk/government/consultations/strengthening-police-powers-to-tackle-unauthorised-encampments

Alternative format versions of this publication can be requested from:
UnauthorisedEncampmentsConsultation@homeoffice.gov.uk

Publication of response

A paper summarising the responses to this consultation will be published in [insert publication date, which as far as possible should be within three months of the closing date of the consultation] months' time. The response paper will be available online at www.gov.uk/government/consultations/strengthening-police-powers-to-tackle-unauthorised-encampments

Representative groups

Representative groups are asked to give a summary of the people and organisations they represent when they respond.

Confidentiality

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the FOIA, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence. In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Home Office.

The Home Office will process your personal data in accordance with the DPA and in the majority of circumstances, this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

7. Impact of Proposals

Impact Assessment

In accordance with the Better Regulation Framework Manual issued by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)⁴, an initial assessment of the impact of these proposals has been carried out and no material financial impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies is envisaged. Impact on the public sector, such as the police and the Crown Prosecution Service, is expected to be relatively minor.

Equalities Statement

Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 places a duty on Ministers and Departments, when exercising their functions, to have 'due regard' to the need to eliminate conduct which is unlawful under the 2010 Act, advance equality of opportunity between different groups and foster good relationships between different groups.

In accordance with these duties, we have considered the impact of the proposed changes on those sharing protected characteristics in order to give due regard to the matters mentioned above.

Eliminating unlawful discrimination

The Traveller community includes Romany Gypsies and English, Scottish, Welsh and Irish Travellers are legally recognised as ethnic groups under the Equality Act 2010.

We recognise that the proposals outlined in this document could have an adverse impact on some members of this minority group. Indeed, in response to the original consultation, some traveller groups, human rights groups and legal organisations told us that criminalising trespass would be a disproportionate response that would impact on their way of life. However, we also recognise the distress that local communities and businesses face as a result of unauthorised encampments. While we recognise that not all unauthorised encampments cause disruption and impact communities, there is evidence that shows where this is the case, the financial costs falling to landowners to evict and to clear sites along with the impact to the community can be significant.

The Home Office will seek views on all proposals and any mitigating actions to limit any disproportionate impact on the Travelling community, as well as any indirect impacts on other protected characteristics, such as disability. The Public Sector Equality Duty is an ongoing duty that will be kept under review as we develop the policy.

⁴ See: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/better-regulation-framework-manual>

Advancing equality of opportunity between different groups

We recognise the rights of Romany Gypsies and English, Scottish, Welsh and Irish Travellers to follow a nomadic way of life in line with their cultural heritage.

The vast majority of the Traveller community, estimated to be over 80%, live in caravans staying on permanent public and private sites which have planning permission, or in residences of bricks and mortar. A small minority of Gypsies and Traveller caravans that are classed as unauthorised are those staying in one area and are likely to be on local authority housing waiting lists, those who travel seasonally for work and a very small number who travel across the country.

The Government's overarching aim is to ensure fair and equal treatment for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, in a way that facilitates their traditional and nomadic way of life while also respecting the interests of the wider community. In June this year the Government announced that the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government will lead development of a cross-government strategy to improve outcomes in areas including health, education and employment for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.

The Home Office will seek views on all proposals and any mitigating actions to limit any disproportionate impact of the Travelling community.

Fostering good relationships between different groups

It is possible that these new measures could lead to a reduction in unauthorised encampments, which in turn could improve relations. On the other hand, it is also possible that coverage of these measures could reinforce prejudices against Travellers, even those who are compliant with the law.

The Home Office will seek views on all proposals and any mitigating actions to limit any disproportionate impact of the Travelling community.

8. Consultation Questions

Q1. To what extent do you agree or disagree that knowingly entering without the landowner's permission should only be made a criminal offence if it is for the purpose of residing on it?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree or disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Q2. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the act of knowingly entering land without the landowner's permission should only be made a criminal offence if it is for the purpose of residing on it with vehicles?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree or disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Q3. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the landowner or representatives of the landowner should take reasonable steps to ask persons occupying their land to remove themselves and their possessions before occupation of the land can be considered a criminal offence?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree or disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Q4. To what extent do you agree or disagree that a criminal offence can only be committed when the following conditions have been met?

a) the encampment prevents people entitled to use the land from making use of it;

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree or disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

b) the encampment is causing or is likely to cause damage to the land or amenities;

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree or disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

c) those on the encampment have demanded money from the landowner to vacate the land; and/or

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree or disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

d) those on the encampment are involved or are likely to be involved in anti-social behaviour.

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree or disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Q5. What other conditions not covered in the above should we consider?

Q6. To what extent do you agree or disagree that police should be given the power to direct trespassers to suitable authorised sites in a neighbouring local authority area?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree or disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Q7: Should this be subject to conditions around agreements being in place between local authorities?

Yes / No

Q8: Should there be a maximum distance that a trespasser can be directed across?

Yes / No

If yes, what distance should that be?

Q9: Should there be any other conditions that should be considered when directing a trespasser across neighbouring authorities. If so, what should these be?

Yes / No

If yes, what should these be?

Q10. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the period of time in which trespassers directed from land would be unable to return should be increased from 3 months to 12 months?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree or disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Q11. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the number of vehicles needing to be involved in an unauthorised encampment before police powers can be exercised should be lowered from six to two vehicles?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree or disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Q12. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the police should be granted the power to remove trespassers from land that forms part of the highway?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree or disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Q13: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the police should be granted the power to seize property, including vehicles, from trespassers who are on land with the purpose of residing on it?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree or disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Q14: Should the police be able to seize the property of:

- i) Anyone whom they suspect to be trespassing on land with the purpose of residing on it;
- ii) Anyone they arrest for trespassing on land with the purpose of residing on it; or
- iii) Anyone convicted of trespassing on land with the purpose of residing on it?

Q15. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed amendments to sections 61 and 62A of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 contained in this consultation are sufficient measures to tackle the public disorder issues which are associated with unauthorised encampments without the requirement for introducing specific powers that criminalise unauthorised encampments?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree or disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Q16. Do you expect that the proposed amendments to sections 61 and 62A of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 contained in this consultation would have a positive or negative impact on the health or educational outcomes of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities? If so, do you have any evidence to support this view, and/or suggestions for what could be done to mitigate or prevent any negative impacts?

Highly positive impact / Positive impact / Neither positive nor negative impact / Negative impact / Highly negative impact

Q17. Do you expect that criminalising unauthorised encampments would have a positive or negative impact on the health or educational outcomes of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities? If so, do you have any evidence to support this view, and/or suggestions for what could be done to mitigate or prevent any negative impacts?

Highly positive impact / Positive impact / Neither positive nor negative impact / Negative impact / Highly negative impact

Q18. Do you have any other comments to make on the issue of unauthorised encampments not specifically addressed by any of the questions above?

9. Consultation principles

The principles that government departments and other public bodies should adopt for engaging stakeholders when developing policy and legislation are set out in the consultation principles.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principles-guidance>



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This publication is available at www.gov.uk/government/consultations/strengthening-police-powers-to-tackle-unauthorised-encampments

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