

Code of Practice Notes for Travellers in Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland

1. The Code of Practice is an agreement between the Local Authorities in Leicestershire and Rutland and Leicestershire Constabulary aimed at managing unauthorised encampments by Travellers.
2. The intention of the Code is that any stay on land is limited in time and ensures that Travellers comply with the Code.
3. If any of the factors in the Code are not met by the Travellers then action to move on the Travellers is likely to be taken either by the Local Authority concerned or the Police.
4. The Code applies to all land in Local Authority ownership or control, including highway land.

WHAT THE CODE MEANS

5. The Code applies to all encampments by Travellers (which term includes Gypsies or any other Traveller or other persons who have a nomadic lifestyle for all or part of the year).
6. Any stay on the land will depend on the co-operation of the Travellers.

The Travellers:

- a) will keep groups small. Up to six caravans may be acceptable, dependent on the location of the encampment.
- b) will not create a hazard to road safety or otherwise create a health and safety hazard.
- c) will look after the land on which they park and not cause problems for neighbours.

- d) will not dump or inappropriately dispose of household, human or trade waste.
 - e) will not burn rubbish which gives off acrid fumes or otherwise causes nuisance to neighbours or damage to trees and hedges.
 - f) will request that the Local Authority provide either black plastic bags for rubbish which will then be collected on a regular basis or an alternative method of refuse collection.
 - g) will park vehicles safely and keep all animals under control.
 - h) will not threaten or use intimidatory behaviour towards Local Authority officers, other agencies or members of the public.
 - i) will not re-occupy the same area of land within a period of three months.
 - j) once the period of occupation has elapsed then the distance moved should be at least two miles radius from the centre of the site occupied.
7. The Local Authorities will also take into account the following considerations before seeking an order from the Courts:-
- a) physical or psychiatric health needs of any family member, including pregnancy.
 - b) the welfare and education of children including issues relating to the Child Protection register, statements of special education needs or other factors affecting child development.
 - c) the mobility of vehicles.
 - d) requests for housing services.
8. When balancing the above factors the Local Authorities shall have in mind:-
- a) obligations under legislation regarding highways, public open spaces, the countryside and town and country planning, environmental protection and public health.
 - b) the availability and suitability of sites and accommodation for Travellers provided by the Local Authorities.
 - c) any other relevant information.
9. The foregoing relates to unauthorised encampments where criminal activity is not involved. Where there is evidence of such activity, the Police will act swiftly using their general powers.