

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

Your request for information has now been considered and the Council's response to your questions is shown below.

You asked:

1.What was the official recorded Gypsy Traveller population prior to 1968 (the latest count prior to 1968) and the amount of authorised site provision in your area in the same year?

2.What was the official recorded Gypsy Traveller population in 1974 (or nearest count after) and the amount of authorised site provision in your area in the same year?

3.What was the official recorded Gypsy Traveller population in 2000 (or the nearest count after) and the amount of authorised site provision in your area in the same year?

4.What are the most recent figures for Gypsy Traveller population and amount of authorised site provision in your area? Are there any proposals to either maintain, lower or increase the amount of site provision in your area and if so what is proposed?

For each separate year please could the overall Gypsy Traveller population figures be supplied along with a break down of these figures to include the amount of Gypsy Travellers who reside in bricks in mortar housing (where known) and the amount to be residing on official sites?

Please could the figures for site provision include the overall number of sites and the capacity for each site?

We do not hold data on Gypsy and Traveller population in the way referred to in your request. The data we do hold was collated for the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTAA) carried out in 2006.

The information can be found on the following webpage:

http://www.leics.gov.uk/index/community/gypsies_and_travellers-2/gypsy_traveller_accommodation.htm

It is worth noting that Gypsy and Traveller communities were included in the recent national Census and therefore a better indication of the current national and local population should be available as the Census information is published during the year.

Caravan Count Data, which you may find useful, is held by the Department for Communities and Local Government. The last 5 years worth of data is published on their website:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/caravancountjan2012>

As far as Gypsy and Traveller authorised site provision is concerned, there is only one site in Leicester - Meynells Gorse. This site was originally developed in 1973 and provided 15 plots at the time. It was further developed in 1986 to accommodate an extra 4 plots, bringing the total up to 19. It was developed further during the 1990s and once more in 2003 to its current capacity of 21 family plots. This site is currently full and a waiting list is in operation in the same way as housing for the settled community.

Both the City Council and Framework Housing Association have secured Government funding to pay for significant cost towards the provision of sites. Framework secured £1.3 million for 15 pitches and the City Council secured £270,000 for 6 pitches. In addition, an extra £468,000 has also been set aside from the Council's Capital Bid programme.

Between February and July 2012 the City Council undertook extensive consultation on three potential new Gypsy and Traveller sites. All responses to this consultation are currently being analysed and will be considered by the City Mayor and Executive. If a decision is made to proceed with one or more of these sites, planning application(s) will be prepared and submitted.

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Not all the information that is supplied which is covered by copyright will be the Council's copyright, for example it may be the copyright of a government department or another Council. You should seek either the Council's consent or their consent as appropriate. The Council is willing to advise you of any such potential issues on request. In order to make a request to re-use the information please contact the Information Governance Manager using the details below.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please write to:

Information Governance Manager
Information and Support
Leicester City Council
FREEPOST (LE985/33)
New Walk Centre
LEICESTER LE1 6ZG
e-mail: info.requests@leicester.gov.uk

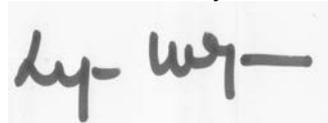
Your request for internal review should be submitted to the above address within 40 (forty) working days of receipt by you of this response. Any such request received after this time will only be considered at the Council's absolute discretion.

You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow SK9 5AF
Telephone: 01625 545 700
www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Please be aware that the Information Commissioner does not normally consider appeals or complaints until the internal appeals and complaints processes of the public authority which is answering the request have been exhausted. You are therefore advised to complain or appeal to the Information Governance Manager before contacting the Commissioner.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynn Wyeth', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

Lynn Wyeth
Information Governance Manager