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County Borough Council

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (2020 - 2025)



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1.1 Background, Policy and Context

1.2 Background

Opinion Research Services (ORS) were appointed by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (the Council) in November 2019 to complete a robust and up-to-date needs assessment of accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers residing and resorting in Blaenau Gwent County Borough for the period to 2033.

The study provides an evidence base to enable the Council to comply with their requirements towards Gypsies and Travellers under Part 3 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. The Act requires Local Authorities to undertake a GTAA at least every 5 years, although Local Authorities have flexibility to undertake GTAAs more frequently if a material change in the level of need in the area has been identified. The Council published a GTAA in 2015 and has now formally commenced a revision to the Local Development Plan (LDP).

Welsh Government wrote to all Local Planning Authorities in September 2019 to confirm those undertaking an LDP Review must ensure the GTAA establishes an evidence base for Gypsy and Traveller needs across the entire plan period. Welsh Government also confirmed that this may necessitate undertaking of a new GTAA (and providing appropriate site allocations, where relevant) prior to the statutory Deposit consultation to ensure plans can be found sound through the examination process and are able to be adopted.

This GTAA therefore provides an assessment of need for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation in Blaenau Gwent County Borough to fulfil these requirements, updating the previous GTAA published in 2015. It is a robust and credible evidence base which can be used to aid in the understanding of, and the provision of Traveller pitches and plots, and to support the New Development Plan which covers the period 2018-2033.

We would note at the outset that the study covers the needs of Gypsies (including English, Scottish, Welsh and Romany Gypsies), Irish Travellers, New (Age) Travellers, and Travelling Showpeople, but for ease of reference we have referred to the study as a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA).

The baseline date for the study is May 2020.

1.3 Legislation and Guidance

Welsh Government Circular 005/2018

Welsh Government Circular 005/2018 provides updated guidance on the planning aspects of identifying sustainable sites for Gypsies and Travellers. It also outlines how planning authorities and Gypsies and Travellers can work together to achieve this aim. It supersedes advice contained in Circular 30/2007 “Planning for gypsy and traveller caravan sites”, Circular 78/91 “Travelling

Showpeople” and Circular 76/94 “Gypsy Sites Policy and Unauthorised Camping”.

The Circular include guidance on a range of issues relating to Gypsies and Travellers including:

- Definition of Travellers
- Gypsies and Travellers – A Context
- Duty to Provide Sites
- Providing the Evidence Base
- Regional Working
- Development Plans
- Major Development Projects
- Designated Areas
- Planning Applications
- Enforcement
- Appeals
- Human Rights and Equality of Opportunity
- Monitoring Planning Applications

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

In relation to Gypsies and Travellers, Welsh Government Circular 005/2018 sets out that:

7. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 sets a framework for local authorities across Wales to ensure the ‘sustainable development principle’ (meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs) is met. Section 4 of the Act puts in place a number of well-being goals which authorities are to seek to achieve in order to meet this principle. These goals include achieving ‘a Wales of cohesive communities’, containing attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities, and ‘a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language’, containing a society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language.

8. Housing is a fundamental issue that affects the lives of people across Wales, including our Gypsy and Traveller communities. The Welsh Government seeks to ensure a wide choice of accommodation is available to meet the needs of all members of the community. It is reflective of the Government’s commitment to ensure equality of opportunity for all sections of the community and in this instance, Gypsies and Travellers should have equal access to culturally appropriate accommodation as all other members of the community.

Housing (Wales) Act 2014

Part 3 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 (the Act) sets out that a local housing authority must, in each review period, carry out an assessment of the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers residing in or resorting to its area.

Section 102 of the Act requires that local authorities must prepare a report which they must submit to Welsh Ministers for approval that:

- details how the assessment was carried out;
- contains a summary of:
 - the consultation it carried out in connection with the assessment, and
 - the responses (if any) it received to that consultation;
- details the accommodation needs identified by the assessment.

Once approved the local housing authority must publish the assessment.

If need is identified in the GTAA report, Section 103 of the Act requires that a local authority must exercise its powers in Section 56 of the Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013 so far as may be necessary to meet those needs.

Section 106 of the Act sets out that local authorities should have regard to any guidance given by Welsh Ministers. Guidance on Undertaking Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments was published by Welsh Government in May 2015 and this Guidance still remains in place in 2020.

The GTAA Guidance covers the following issues:

- Why a specific GTAA is required?
- What should be produced?
- Who needs to be consulted?
- What data sources need to be reviewed?
- Understanding the culture of Gypsy and Traveller communities.
- How to identify and communicate with Gypsies and Travellers?
- How to design, manage and undertake a GTAA?
- Support with partnership working and working regionally.
- Exploring specialist surveys, techniques and questions to be used.
- How accommodation 'need' is assessed?
- Submitting reports to Welsh Ministers.
- How to make provision for identified need?

Section 108 of the Act sets out that:

- **Accommodation needs** - includes, but is not limited to, needs with respect to the provision of sites on which mobile homes may be stationed;

- **Gypsies and Travellers** – means persons of a nomadic habit of life, whatever their race or origin, including 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 members of an organised group of travelling show people or circus people (whether or not travelling together as such), and all other persons with a cultural tradition of nomadism or of living in a mobile home;
- **Mobile home** - has the meaning given by section 60 of the Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013.

Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013

The GTAA Guidance sets out the requirement that local authorities have to meet a legal duty to exercise their functions to provide mobile home pitches to meet any identified needs. These are set out in Section 60 of the Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013.

In this Act “mobile home” means:

- Any structure designed or adapted for human habitation which is capable of being moved from one place to another (whether by being towed, or by being transported on a motor vehicle or trailer) and any motor vehicle designed or adapted for human habitation, but does not include any railway rolling stock which is for the time being on rails forming part of a railway system, or any tent.
- A structure designed or adapted for human habitation which is composed of not more than 2 sections separately constructed and designed to be assembled on a site by means of bolts, clamps or other devices, and is, when assembled, physically capable of being moved by road from one place to another (whether by being towed, or by being transported on a motor vehicle or trailer).

Welsh Government Designing and Managing Gypsy and Traveller Sites Guidance

As well as publishing guidance on undertaking GTAAs in May 2015 the Welsh Government also published additional guidance on designing and managing Gypsy and Traveller sites in order to assist local authorities in meeting need for Gypsies and Travellers. These two documents are intended as a guide to assist Local Authorities in providing appropriate services at reasonable cost to the public purse for Gypsies and Travellers living on residential sites in Wales. They contain practical guidance to assist local authorities to ensure sites are fit-for-purpose, and how best to manage public Traveller sites. The guidance is not statutory. However, it is anticipated by Welsh Government that the guidance will help local authorities and others in the development, improvement and management of Gypsy and Traveller sites, and will form part of the consideration of the Welsh Government in assessing applications for Sites Capital Grant funding in relation to Gypsy and Traveller sites.

1.4 Local Development Plan Policies

In November 2012, the Council formally adopted the Blaenau Gwent Local Development Plan (LDP) which covers the period up to 2021. The LDP provides the basis by which planning applications will be determined consistently and appropriately. The LDP recognised the need for the Plan to provide land for unmet gypsy and traveller accommodation in strategic policy, SP4. Policy GT1 identified land, adjacent to the existing Cwmcrachen site, to accommodate unmet gypsy and traveller needs.

In addition, the LDP included a policy to assess future applications for new gypsy and traveller sites to meet unidentified future need. The LDP states that new Caravan sites for Gypsies and Travellers will be permitted where:

- The site is well related to community facilities and services
- Adequate landscaping and planting with appropriate trees and shrubs help the site blend into its surroundings
- The site is capable of being provided with foul and surface water drainage, including appropriate infrastructure and facilities to manage wastes
- The site can accommodate residential and home-based business uses without detriment to the amenity and character of the area
- In the case of a transit or touring site, it has good access to the primary highway network

1.5 New Local Development Plan

A new Local Development Plan is currently being prepared covering the period 2018-2033. The Council is required to assess the accommodation needs of Gypsy and Traveller families and include policies for provision of sites in the new LDP. The findings of this GTAA will be a key consideration in the plan making, monitoring and review process for the Council's new LDP; forming a key part of the evidence base that will be subject to public scrutiny through the plan preparation process and public examination.

The new LDP will identify suitable locations for permanent and/or transit sites that this GTAA deems necessary to meet the needs of Gypsies and Travellers. It will also include a criteria-based policy that will provide a clear and fair rationale for the determining of Gypsy and Traveller site planning applications in accordance with Welsh Government Circular 005/2018. The circular is clear that criteria-based policies must be fair, reasonable, realistic and effective in delivering sites and must not rule out or place undue constraints on the development of Gypsy and Traveller sites (paragraph 49).

In addition, the sequential approach to site selection set out within the Circular must be reflected within policies; providing equal weighting to sites that may come forward 'within or adjacent' to settlement boundaries. Criteria will also be included to assess proposals for Gypsy and Traveller sites in the countryside if there is a lack of suitable sustainable locations within or adjacent to existing settlement boundaries.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

The 2015 GTAA Guidance contains common definitions that have been used in the Guidance and that will also be used in the GTAA Report. These are set out in the table below:

<p>Gypsies and Travellers</p>	<p>(a) Persons of a nomadic habit of life, whatever their race or origin, including:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(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 style="padding-left: 40px;">(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> <p>Source: Section 108, Housing (Wales) Act 2014</p>
<p>Residential site</p>	<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>
<p>Temporary residential site</p>	<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>
<p>Transit site</p>	<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</p>

	on, or near, sites for activities carried out by community members.
Temporary Stopping Place	<p>(a) 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 disposal, water supply and sanitation at a minimum.</p>
Residential pitch	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.
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>
Unauthorised encampment	Land occupied without the permission of the owner or without the correct land use planning permission. Encampments may be tolerated by the Local Authority, whilst alternative sites are developed.
Unauthorised development	Land occupied by the owner without the necessary land use planning permission.
Current residential supply	The number of authorised pitches which are available and occupied within the Local Authority or partnership area. This includes pitches on Local Authority or private sites.
Current residential demand	<p>Those with a need for authorised pitches for a range of reasons, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an inability to secure an authorised pitch leading to occupation of unauthorised encampments; • an inability to secure correct planning permission for an unauthorised development; • households living in overcrowded conditions and want a pitch;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> households in conventional housing demonstrating cultural aversion; new households expected to arrive from elsewhere.
Future residential demand	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.
Overall residential pitch need	The ultimate calculation of unmet accommodation need identified through this 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	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.

2.1 Background and Analysis of Existing Data

The purpose of this section of the GTAA is to set out current information relating to the Gypsy and Traveller population in Bridgend County Borough including any previous assessments of need, socio-demographic data, caravan count data and the current provision of accommodation.

2.2 Previous Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment findings

A GTAA was completed in Blaenau Gwent County Borough in 2016 and covered the period 2016-2021.

The GTAA was carried out in accordance with the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 and the associated Welsh Government GTAA Guidance

The GTAA identified a need for 12 pitches for the period 2016-2021.

2.3 Population Data

In the 2011 Census, 72 residents living in Blaenau Gwent County Borough identified themselves as Gypsy or Irish Traveller. The table below gives the breakdown of the Gypsy and Traveller population by ward:

Ward	Number
Abertillery	0
Badminton	2
Beaufort	0
Blaina	11
Brynmawr	3
Cwm	0
Cwmtillery	1
Ebbw Vale North	2
Ebbw Vale South	0
Georgetown	0
Llanhilleth	1
Nantyglo	39
Rassau	2
Sirhowy	1
Six Bells	6
Tredegar Central and West	4
TOTAL	72

2.4 Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count Data

Another source of published information on the Gypsy and Traveller population is the bi-annual Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count which is conducted by each Local Authority in Wales on a specific date in January and July of each

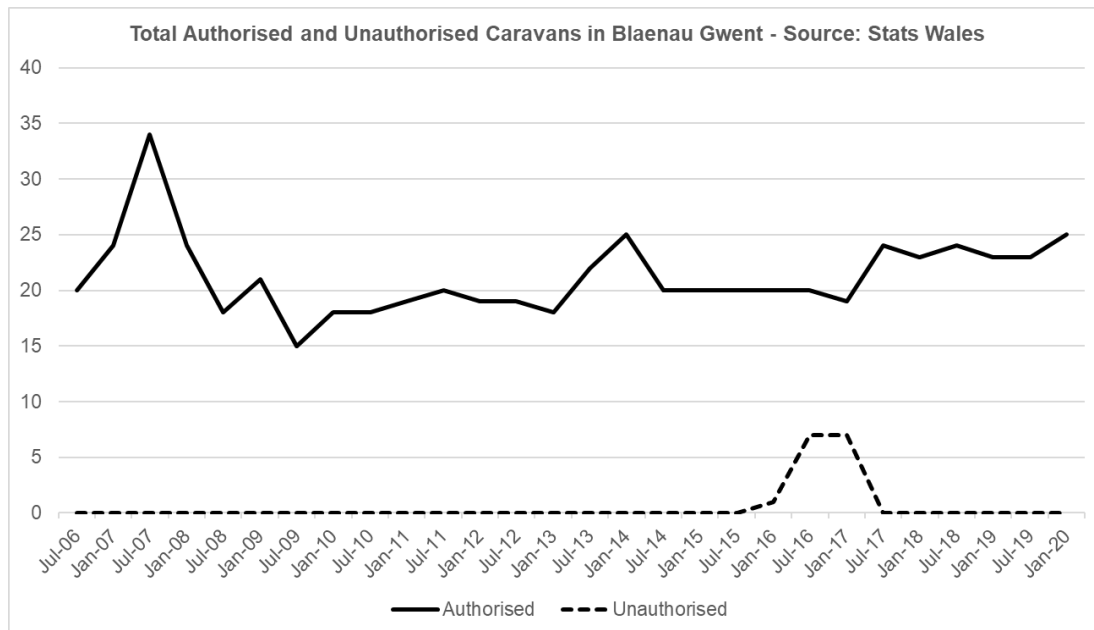
year and reported to Welsh Government. This is a physical count of the number of caravans on both authorised and unauthorised sites across Wales.

As this count is of caravans and not households, it makes it very difficult to interpret and use for a study such as this because it does not count pitches, resident households or household demographics. The count is a 'snapshot in time' conducted by the Local Authority on a specific day, and therefore any unauthorised sites or encampments which occur on other dates are not recorded. Likewise, any caravans that are away from sites on the day of the count will not be included. The count also does not seek to determine the ethnic status of the occupiers of caravans.

However, the data captured in the Caravan Count does give an indication of the number of sites, and authorised and unauthorised caravans in each local authority, and can be useful in supporting the determination of any transit needs and identifying year on year trends to support an assessment of need.

The latest Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count data for Wales is from January 2020 and was published in April 2020.

The chart shows data for the number of authorised and unauthorised caravans that have been recorded in the Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count in Blaenau Gwent County Borough for the period 2006-2020.



During the last twelve months there have been no unauthorised encampments recorded in Blaenau Gwent County Borough.

2.5 Current Accommodation Provision

One of the main considerations of this study is provide evidence to support the provision of pitches and plots to meet the current and future accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers in Blaenau Gwent County Borough. A pitch is an area which is large enough for one household to occupy and typically contains enough space for one or two caravans but can vary in size. A site is a collection of pitches which form a development exclusively for Gypsies and Travellers. For Travelling Showpeople, the most common descriptions used are a plot for the space occupied by one household and a yard for a collection of plots which are typically exclusively occupied by Travelling Showpeople.

The public and private provision of mainstream housing is also largely mirrored when considering Gypsy and Traveller accommodation. One common form of a Gypsy and Traveller site is a publicly provided residential site, which is provided by a Local Authority or by a Housing Association. Pitches on public sites can usually be obtained through signing up to a waiting list, and the costs of running the sites are met from the rent paid by the tenants (similar to social housing).

The alternatives to public residential sites are private residential sites and yards for Gypsies and Travellers. These result from individuals or families buying areas of land and then obtaining planning permission to live on them. Households can also rent pitches on some private sites that are run on a commercial basis. Therefore, these two forms of accommodation are the equivalent to private ownership and renting for those who live in bricks and mortar housing. Generally, the majority of Travelling Showpeople yards are privately owned and managed.

The Gypsy and Traveller population also has other forms of sites due to its mobile nature. Transit sites tend to contain many of the same facilities as a residential site, except that there is a limited period of residence which can vary from a period of weeks to a period of months. An alternative to a transit site is a temporary stopping place. This type of site also has restrictions on the length of time someone can stay on it but has much more limited facilities. A number of authorities also tolerate short-term stopovers without enforcement action.

Further considerations for the Gypsy and Traveller population are unauthorised developments and encampments. Unauthorised developments occur on land which is owned by the Gypsies and Travellers or with the approval of the landowner, but for which they do not have planning permission to use for residential purposes. Unauthorised encampments occur on land which is not owned by the Gypsies and Travellers – for example layby's or car parks.

2.6 Sites and Yards in Blaenau Gwent County Borough

In Blaenau Gwent County Borough, at the baseline date for this GTAA, there was one public site with 19 pitches; 2 private sites with 6 pitches; no unauthorised sites; no public or private transit provision; and no Travelling Showpeople yards.

Category	Sites/Yards	Pitches/Plots
Private with permanent planning permission	2	6
Private sites with temporary planning permission	0	0
Public sites	1	19
Public transit provision	0	0
Tolerated sites	0	0
Unauthorised sites	0	0
Authorised Travelling Showpeople yards	0	0
Tolerated Travelling Showpeople yards	0	0
Unauthorised Travelling Showpeople yards	0	0

Site Name	Pitches/Plots	Status
Cwmcrahen	19	Public
Stone Houses	4	Private
Mount View	2	Private

Since the last GTAA a full planning application was submitted to develop a new 28 pitch site to replace the existing public site at Cwmcrahen and meet the need identified in the 2016 GTAA. However, this application was refused by the Planning Committee in July 2019 and the Council are currently considering a revised application for a new public site.

3.1 Methodology

This section sets out the methodology that has been followed to deliver the outputs for this study. The Welsh Government GTAA Guidance issued under Section 106 of the Housing (Wales) Act sets out the requirements for the GTAA and the methodology and calculation of need that has been followed has sought to address these and allow for a full and robust GTAA to be completed. The study has been undertaken by Opinion Research Services in partnership with the Council and the approach taken covers the following core areas of work:

- Setting up a Project Steering Group.
- Identifying and analysing existing data sources.
- Publicising the accommodation assessment.
- Conducting the accommodation assessment surveys.
- Calculating the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers.

The stages below provide a summary of the methodology that was used to complete this study.

3.2 Project Steering Group Composition

The Welsh Government GTAA Guidance requires that a Project Steering Group be established to ensure that the study is informed by all available local knowledge and expertise. The Council set up and managed the Steering Group and the individuals who attended meetings of the Steering Group in Blaenau Gwent County Borough were:

Name	Organisation	Role
Mark Congreve	Blaenau Gwent CBC	Team Manager – Housing Solutions and Compliance
Michelle Church	Blaenau Gwent CBC	Team Manager – Supporting People
Gemma Griffiths	Pobl Group	Gypsy and Traveller Support Worker
Julie Mckim	Blaenau Gwent CBC	Residential Development Officer – Housing Strategy
Lee Williams	Blaenau Gwent CBC	Senior Estate Officer
Lynda Healy	Blaenau Gwent CBC	Team Manager - Building Control and Development Plans
Bethan McPherson	Blaenau Gwent CBC	Team Manager – Connected Communities

Various x 10	Gypsies and Travellers	Gypsy and Traveller Residents Group - Cwmcrachen ¹
Steve Jarman	Opinion Research Services	Consultant

Blaenau Gwent County Borough accepted that there was a lack of Gypsy and Traveller membership on the Steering Group for the previous GTAA and this was acknowledged at the Steering Group meetings. In response to this the Council has now established a Resident Group involving a number of residents living on the public site at Cwmcrachen and the GTAA was discussed with members of this group.

As set out in the GTAA Guidance the key responsibilities of the Steering Group are to agree on the aims and objectives of the study; promote the benefits of the study to members of the Travelling Community; help identify households living in bricks and mortar and on unauthorised sites and encampments; provide expert stakeholder input into the identification of local need; provide feedback on the emerging outputs from the study; and to share and promote the final outcomes to members of the Travelling Community.

The first Steering Group meeting was held in January 2019. The meeting discussed the background to the GTAA and clarified the purpose and the role of the Group. Means of communicating the GTAA were also discussed, together with opportunities to engage with households living in bricks and mortar. This meeting was not attended by all the members of the Steering Group listed above as many were due to attend the second meeting.

Unfortunately, due to travel restrictions as a result of COVID-19 it was not possible to hold the second planned meeting to discuss the practicalities of completing the GTAA. However, a number of discussions took place between the Council, ORS and individual members of the Steering Group – including the Residents Group - between January and May to discuss progress and agree on next steps.

Unfortunately, due to travel restrictions as a result of COVID-19 it was also not possible to hold a third planned meeting of the Steering Group to discuss the emerging outcomes of the assessment. However, a number of discussions took place between the Council, ORS and members of the Steering Group in July and August to discuss and agree the emerging outcomes of the study.

The final scheduled meeting to discuss sharing the GTAA Report, how the study outcomes could be communicated to members of the Travelling Community and how to address the identified need will be replaced with remote dissemination of the findings once the report has been agreed by the Council.

¹ In Blaenau Gwent there is a well-established Gypsy and Travellers Resident Group comprising members of households living on the public site at Cwmcrachen. Whilst they were not able to attend the formal meetings of the Steering Group, they were consulted on the issues that were discussed by the Steering Group.

In addition to the Steering Group contact was made with a number of stakeholders listed in the GTAA Guidance to identify whether they had any particular issues they would like to raise in relation to Gypsies and Travellers in Blaenau Gwent County Borough. The organisation that were contacted were:

- Gypsies & Travellers Wales
- Travelling Ahead
- The Unity Project
- The Bridges Project
- The Showmen's Guild of Great Britain - South Wales
- The Traveller Movement
- Friends, Families and Travellers
- The National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups
- The Gypsy Council
- Roma Support Group

Contact was made towards the start of the research period so there was a period of several months to provide a response. In addition reminder emails were also sent to those organisations who had not responded. This is common with all of the other GTAAs that ORS were involved in across Wales with the only responses being from Travelling Ahead.

3.3 Household Interviews

The discussions at the Steering Group meeting identified a need to fully understand the housing needs of the Gypsy and Traveller community in Blaenau Gwent County Borough. Blaenau Gwent Officers worked closely with Pobl Group and their Gypsy and Traveller Support Worker to complete the household interviews.

Due to the good relationship the Team Manager has with the residents at the Cwmcraehen site, it was not considered necessary to hold an on-site information event as the importance of participation was explained to each resident during the interview process. Site residents were also encouraged to bring other members of the community to the Council's attention if they were not already known to us during this interview process.

The Gypsy and Traveller Support Worker has also conducted the surveys with the Gypsy and Traveller community in bricks and mortar as she also works with these families on a regular basis, therefore it was considered that she was best placed to conduct the surveys as she had already developed relationships with each of them.

Prior to the interviews being completed a letter was sent to all known Gypsy and Traveller households living in Blaenau Gwent County Borough by the Council. In addition, posters were displayed at the public site at Cwmcraehen and at local schools, and information was put up on the Council's website.

The first rounds of interviews were completed face-to-face and, following the lockdown measures as a result of COVID-19, follow-up interviews were completed over the telephone.

3.4 Compliance with Engagement Checklist

The table below shows that this GTAA has been compliant with all of points set out in the Engagement Checklist in the Welsh Government GTAA Guidance.

	Task	Completed
1	<p>Visit every Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showperson household identified through the data analysis process up to 3 times, if necessary.</p> <p><i>All sites were visited up to 3 times.</i></p>	✓
2	<p>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 the World's Fair publication.</p> <p><i>Publicity was undertaken to promote the GTAA. However, Worlds Fair ceased being published as a weekly newspaper in 2019 and Travellers Times no longer publish details of GTAA's on their Facebook pages.</i></p>	✓
3	<p>Consult relevant community support organisations, such as those in Annex 1.</p> <p><i>Contact was sought with all of the organisations listed in Annex 1 of the GTAA Guidance.</i></p>	✓
4	<p>Develop a Local Authority waiting list for both pitches and housing, which is accessible and communicated to community members.</p> <p><i>There is a waiting list in place for the public site in Blaenau Gwent County Borough. The waiting list for the public site at Cwmcraehen is included with the Common Housing Register, which is administered by the Councils Housing Access Team. Housing Register - Blaenau Gwent (blaenaugwenthomes.org.uk).</i></p>	✓
5	<p>Endeavour to include Gypsies and Travellers on the GTAA Project Steering Group.</p> <p><i>Whilst it was not possible to formally involve members of the Travelling Community in the Steering Group, a Residents Group has been established made up of residents of the public site and the GTAA was discussed with members of this group.</i></p>	✓
6	<p>Ensure contact details provided to the local authority by community members through the survey process are followed up and needs assessed.</p>	✓

	<i>All contacts provided to and by the local authority were followed up with interviews with members of the Travelling Community.</i>	
7	<p>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.</p> <p><i>Due to the very small number of sites in Blaenau Gwent County Borough, and the good relationship between the site warden at the public site and the site residents this was not thought to be appropriate.</i></p>	✓

4.1 Survey Findings

In total 28 households were interviewed for the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment, using the universal questionnaire included at Annex 2 of the Welsh Government Guidance.

Of the 28 households, 17 were completed with households living on the public site at Cwmcrachen; 4 were completed with residents on one of the private sites; and 7 were completed with households living in bricks and mortar - of these 7 households, 2 are owner occupied and 5 are socially rented. As the members of staff conducting the assessments were already known to the families involved, few difficulties were encountered when trying to access these households.

The majority of the interviews, 82%, were conducted with female members of the household and this may have been due to the interviews being carried out during the day whilst the men in the family may have been working.

Site Name	Pitches	Interviews	Refusals	No Contact
Cwmcrachen	19	17	1	1
Blaina	6	4	0	2
Bricks and Mortar	9	7	2	0
TOTAL	34	28	3	3

A copy of the Interview Log can be found at **Appendix 1**.

4.2 Demographic Profile of Population

The table below shows the age range of the 64 residents in the households that were interviewed. From this it can be seen that over half (53%) of the Gypsy and Traveller population in Blaenau Gwent County Borough are aged 20 and under, this may have an impact on the residential need if the young people wish to move into their own residential pitch as adults.

A very small proportion (5%) of the population interviewed were aged over 60. This could be that older members of the community have moved to bricks and mortar accommodation due to health problems in their households which could be more easily addressed within bricks and mortar accommodation than caravans.

Age Range	Male	Female
0-10	14	12
11-20	3	5
21-30	2	7
31-40	2	6
41-50	0	3
51-60	4	3
61-70	1	0
71-80	0	1
80+	1	0
TOTAL	27	37

Of the Gypsy and Traveller population surveyed, 43% were male and 57% were female, this compares to the 2011 Census in which 49% of the Gypsies and Travellers in Blaenau Gwent County Borough were male and 51% were female. Of the 28 respondents, three quarters (75%) gave their ethnic group as Romany, with the remainder stating they were Gypsies, Travellers, Welsh Gypsies or English Gypsies.

4.3 Suitability of Current Accommodation

Of the 28 respondents surveyed, 75% were living in caravans in Blaenau Gwent County Borough and 25% were living in bricks and mortar. The majority (89%) of respondents stated they did not intend to move, with the only households stating that they are planning to move living in bricks and mortar and seeking to move to another council house.

Over two fifths (42%) of respondents stated they were not satisfied with their current accommodation and the majority of these were living on the Council site at Cwmcraehen. Reasons why households were not satisfied included:

- *Need for larger pitches and a bigger site.*
- *Over-crowding.*
- *Need for repairs on the site.*
- *Need for larger more modern amenity buildings.*
- *Rubbish needing to be cleared up.*
- *Need for more parking spaces.*
- *Need for new fences.*
- *Need for better drainage.*
- *Need to make the site safer.*

Following the completion of the fieldwork for the GTAA the Council confirmed that a number of these improvements have now been implemented on the site. However, there were ongoing issues with providing new damp-proofing in the amenity buildings and that as an interim solution fans had been fitted to help to reduce the damp.

All of the respondents that were interviewed at the private site stated that they were satisfied with their current accommodation.

Of the 7 respondents in bricks and mortar, 2 were not satisfied with their current accommodation. The reasons cited were:

- *Currently homeless and sofa surfing.*
- *Need for a larger property.*

Both of these households expressed a preference to remain living in bricks and mortar accommodation so have not been included as components of need.

Of the 21 respondents living in caravans only 2 households living at the Cwmcraehen site stated there were not enough sleeping areas for their family²; and 12 households stated that there was no room for additional caravans on their pitches. In addition, based on the responses to the questions about improvements that were needed, the majority of residents (82%) on the Council site stated that the site needs to be made bigger.

4.4 Accommodation Aspirations

Over two thirds (68%) of respondents stated they do not intend to move; 29% did not know how long they would stay in their current accommodation; and one household living in bricks and mortar stated they intended to remain over five years. The majority of respondents who stated that they did not intend to move were currently living in caravans.

Three respondents currently living in bricks and mortar stated they were planning to move into other accommodation, and all indicated they would remain in bricks and mortar.

Current information held on the Blaenau Gwent County Borough Common Housing Register indicates that there is only 1 household on the waiting list for a pitch at the Cwmcraehen public site at the time of the fieldwork for the GTAA. However, prior to reporting this household had been allocated a pitch on the site so has not been included as a component of need.

4.5 Household Growth

Two respondents indicated that a member of their family would like to join the Local Authority waiting list for pitches or housing.

Three respondents indicated that members of their household would be likely to want to move to their own pitch in the next five years. All specified this would be for a pitch at a Local Authority site, and all would need a pitch in 2-5 years' time.

² Following the completion of the fieldwork for the GTAA these households have now been split over 2 pitches on the site so this issue has now been resolved.

	Accommodation	No. People	Now	Within a Year	1-2 Years	2-5 Years
Household 1	LA Site	1				x
Household 2	LA Site	1				x
Household 3	LA Site	1				x

5.1 Assessing Accommodation Needs

This section focuses on the additional pitch provision which is needed by Blaenau Gwent County Borough for an initial period of 5 years and for the new Local Plan period up to 2033. This includes both current unmet need and need which is likely to arise in the future. This time period allows for robust forecasts for future provision, based upon the evidence contained within this study and also from secondary data sources.

This section is based upon a combination of information from the on-site surveys, planning records, Steering Group members, and from other stakeholders. In many cases, the survey data is not used in isolation, but instead has been used to validate information from planning records or other sources.

This section concentrates not only upon the total additional provision which is needed in the area, but also whether there is a need for any transit sites and/or emergency stopping place provision.

Welsh Government Guidance requires an assessment of current and future pitch needs and provides a prescribed framework for undertaking this calculation. This framework has been followed for the purpose of this GTAA.

As with any assessment of housing need the underlying calculation can be broken down into a relatively small number of factors. In this case, the key issue for residential pitches is to compare the supply that is available for occupation with the current and future needs of the households. The key factors in each of these elements are set out in the sections below.

5.2 Current Residential Supply

- Occupied local authority pitches.
- Occupied authorised private pitches.
- Vacant local authority pitches and available private pitches.
- Pitches expected to be vacated in the near future.
- New local authority pitches private pitches with planning permission.

5.3 Current Residential Demand

- Households on unauthorised encampments.
- Households on unauthorised developments.
- Concealed /over-crowded/doubled-up households.

- Conventional housing – movement from bricks and mortar.
- New households to arrive from waiting lists/in-migration.

5.4 Future Demand

Total future demand is a result of the formation of new households during the GTAA study period. Information from the site interviews provides details of the gross number of new households expected to form within the first 5 years of the study (although it is important to net this off against any supply during the first 5 years of the study). New household formation for years 6-13 of the study has been based on demographic evidence from the site interviews.

5.5 Current Authorised Residential Supply

To assess the current Gypsy and Traveller provision it is important to understand the total number of authorised pitches and their planning status. There are 1 public site in Blaenau Gwent County Borough and 2 small private sites with a total of 6 pitches. There is no public or private transit provision and there are no Travelling Showmen’s yards.

Category	Sites	Pitches	Occupied
Private sites with permanent permission	2	6	6
Private sites with temporary permission	0	0	0
Public sites	1	19	18
Public transit provision	0	0	0
Private transit provision	0	0	0

The next stage of the process is to assess how much space is, or will become, available on existing sites in order to determine the supply of available pitches. The main ways of finding this is through:

- Current vacant pitches – Whilst there was one vacant pitch on the public site in Blaenau Gwent at the time of the fieldwork the 1 household on the waiting was allocated this pitch before the time of reporting following a legal process that involved the eviction of an illegal occupier and subsequent repairs were completed. Therefore, the vacant pitch has not be included as a component of supply.
- Pitches expected to become vacant – There are no pitches expected to become vacant on the public site in Blaenau Gwent County Borough.
- Pitches currently with planning permission – There are no unimplemented pitches with planning permission in Blaenau Gwent County Borough.

This gives a figure for overall supply of no pitches.

5.6 Current Residential Demand

The next stage of the process is to assess current need and determine how many households are currently seeking pitches in the area.

Current Unauthorised and Tolerated Sites

A problem with many Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments is that they often count all caravans on unauthorised developments and encampments as requiring a pitch in the area, when in practice many are simply visiting or passing through, and some may be on sites that are tolerated for planning purposes. In order to remedy this, ORS' approach is to treat need as only those households on unauthorised and tolerated sites already in the planning system (i.e. sites/pitches for which a planning application has been made or are likely to be made); those otherwise known to the Council as being resident in the area; or those identified through the household survey as requiring pitches.

The study has identified no unauthorised sites or encampments in Blaenau Gwent County Borough, and there are no sites with temporary planning permission.

Over-Crowded Pitches

The site interviews sought to identify concealed or doubled-up households on authorised sites that require a pitch immediately. A concealed household is one living in a multi-family household in addition to the primary family, such as a young couple living with parents, who need their own separate family accommodation, but are unable to do obtain it because of a lack of space on public or private sites, or a single family member or individual living within an existing family unit in need of separate accommodation. A doubled-up household is a family or single adult living in a separate accommodation unit on a site where there are more than the permitted number of caravans on a pitch or plot.

The information collected during the site interviews identified no concealed or doubled-up households on sites in Blaenau Gwent County Borough.

Conventional Housing

Identifying households in bricks and mortar has been frequently highlighted as an issue with Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments. The 2011 UK Census of Population identified a total of just 15 Gypsy or Irish Traveller households in Blaenau Gwent County Borough living in bricks and mortar.

As noted earlier, the Council went to all possible lengths to identify Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar to interview. Contact was made with a total of 9 households and resulted in 7 interviews with 2 households refusing to complete an interview. None of these households are seeking to move to a site, although 3 are seeking to move to alternative accommodation.

New Households to Arrive

There is a public site in Blaenau Gwent County Borough so there is a waiting list. There are currently 1 household on the waiting list for the site.

Assessments also need to consider in-migration (households requiring accommodation who move into the study area from outside) and out-migration (households moving away from the study area). Site surveys typically identify only small numbers of in-migrant and out-migrant households and the data is not normally robust enough to extrapolate long-term trends. At the national level, there is zero net migration of Gypsies and Travellers across the UK, but this assessment has taken into account local migration effects on the basis of the best local evidence available.

Evidence drawn from household interviews in Blaenau Gwent County Borough has been carefully considered and has identified one household living on a public site in another local authority in South Wales that is seeking to join the waiting list and move to Blaenau Gwent County Borough – however this is seen as a preference as opposed to a need.

There was no other evidence of movement due to in-migration or out-migration. Beyond this, rather than assess in-migrant households seeking to develop new sites in the area, it is recommended that each case is assessed as a desire to live in the area and that site criteria rules are followed for each new site. It is therefore important for the Council to continue to follow its existing criteria-based planning policies for any new potential sites which do arise. In addition, no formal contact has been made by any other local authorities to advise of any Gypsy and Traveller households that may seek to reside or resort to Blaenau Gwent County Borough.

5.7 Additional Pitch Provision: Future Need

The next stage of the process is to assess future need and determine how many households are likely to be seeking pitches in the area in the future during the first 5 years of the assessment and for the longer 13-year new Local Plan period. There are two key components of future need.

- Population and household growth.
- Movement to and from sites and migration.

Population and Household Growth

Nationally, a household formation and growth rate of 3.00% net per annum has been commonly assumed and widely used in local Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments, even though there is no statistical evidence of households growing so quickly. The result has been to inflate both national and local requirements for additional pitches unrealistically. In this context, ORS has prepared a Technical Note on Household Formation and Growth Rates. The main conclusions are set out here.

Those seeking to provide evidence of high annual net household growth rates for Gypsies and Travellers have sometimes sought to rely on increases in the

number of caravans, as reflected in the Caravan Counts. However, Caravan Count data is unreliable and erratic – so the only proper way to project future population and household growth is through detailed demographic analysis.

The research undertaken by ORS has identified that in fact, the growth in the national Gypsy and Traveller population may be as low as 1.50% per annum – much less than the 3.00% per annum often assumed, but still greater than in the settled community. Even using extreme and unrealistic assumptions, it is hard to find evidence that net Gypsy and Traveller population and household growth rates are above 2.00% per annum nationally.

There are 2 measures of household growth that are used for the assessment of need in this study. Evidence of gross household formation (family growth) from Section D of the Household Survey, netted off against any evidence of 1-year pitch turnover and pitches expected to become vacant, has been used for the first 5-year period. New household formation for years 6-13 has been based on demographic evidence from the site interviews.

The site interviews identified 3 new households as a result of family growth over the first 5 years of the assessment – all living on the public site at Cwmcrachen, and no pitch turnover.

The estimate of new household formation for years 6-13 of the study has been completed by applying a net compound formation rate based on demographic evidence from the site interviews that were completed. This has been done by adjusting the ORS national growth rate of 1.50% based on the demographics of the households that were interviewed. The ORS national rate of 1.50% is based on 36% of the population being under the age of 18. The proportion of the population aged under 18 in the site interviews that were completed for the GTAA was 53%. This results in a net compound growth rate of 2.20%. The household base for this calculation is 28 - the figure arrived at for the first 5 years of the study which includes all current authorised households, all households identified as current demand, and new household formation for years 0-5 of the study identified from the site interviews.

Using this approach, the GTAA has identified new household formation of 3 households between 2025 and 2029 and formation of a further 2 households between 2030 and 2033.

5.8 Overall Need for Blaenau Gwent County Borough

Each element of the calculation for the need has been carefully examined and the next stage of the process is to balance current and future need against supply to provide an overall need for Blaenau Gwent County Borough following the approach that is set out in the Welsh Government GTAA Guidance.

The Welsh Government Guidance requires 2 assessments of need – for the first 5 years of the plan period and for the full Local Plan period. Following this approach, the estimated provision that is needed in Blaenau Gwent County Borough for the first 5 years is for 3 pitches. The estimated provision that is

needed for the remainder of the GTAA plan period (years 6-13) is for 5 pitches. This equates to a total of 8 pitches for the 13-year new Local Plan period.

The table overleaf sets out the components of supply and demand in the assessment of need for Blaenau Gwent County Borough.

Current Residential Supply	Number of Pitches	Notes
A. Occupied Local Authority Pitches	19	19 pitches on 1 public site
B. Occupied authorised private pitches/tolerated pitches	6	6 pitches on 2 private sites
Total	25	
Planned Residential Supply	Number of Pitches	
C. Vacant Local Authority pitches and available vacant pitches	0	No vacant pitches on the public site
D. Pitches expected to become vacant in near future	0	No pitches expected to become vacant
E. New Local Authority and private pitches with planning permission	0	No unimplemented pitches
Total	0	
Current Residential Demand	Pitch Demand	
F. Unauthorised encampments	0	No unauthorised encampments
G. Unauthorised developments	0	No unauthorised sites
H. Overcrowded pitches/Unsuitable accommodation	0	No over-crowded households
I. Conventional housing	0	No movement from bricks and mortar
J. New households to arrive	0	No new households to arrive
Total	0	
Current Households	Future Households (at year 5)	Future Households (years 6 to 13)
K. 25	28	33
L. Additional household pitch need	3	5
Unmet Need	Need Arising	Need Accommodated
M. Current residential demand	0	
N. Future residential demand (year 5)	3	
O. Future residential demand (years 6 to 15)	5	
P. Planned residential supply		0
Q. Unmet need (5 year)	3	
R. Unmet need (New Local Plan period)	8	

5.9 Need for Travelling Showpeople Plots

There were no formal Travelling Showpeople yards identified in Blaenau Gwent County Borough. As such there is no identified current or future need for Travelling Showpeople plots over the Local Plan period to 2033.

Current Residential Supply		Number of Plots
A. Occupied Local Authority Plots		0
B. Occupied authorised private plots/tolerated plots		0
Total		0
Planned Residential Supply		Number of Plots
C. Vacant Local Authority plots and available vacant plots		0
D. Plots expected to become vacant in near future		0
E. New Local Authority and private plots with planning permission		0
Total		0
Current Residential Demand		Plots Demand
F. Unauthorised encampments		0
G. Unauthorised developments		0
H. Overcrowded plots/Unsuitable accommodation		0
I. Conventional housing		0
J. New households to arrive		0
Total		0
Current Households	Future Households (at year 5)	Future Households (years 6 to 13)
K. 0	0	0
L. Additional household pitch need	0	0
Unmet Need	Need Arising	Need Accommodated
M. Current residential demand	0	
N. Future residential demand (year 5)	0	
O. Future residential demand (years 6 to 15)	0	
P. Planned residential supply		0
Q. Unmet need (5 year)	0	
R. Unmet need (New Local Plan period)	0	

5.10 Transit/Emergency Stopping Site Provision

Transit sites serve a specific function of meeting the needs of Gypsy and Traveller households who are visiting an area or who are passing through. A formal transit site typically has a restriction on the length of stay of around 13 weeks and can have a range of facilities such as water supply, electricity and in some cases amenity blocks. An alternative to a transit site is a temporary stopping place. This type of site also has restrictions on the length of time a Traveller can stay on it but has much more limited facilities with typically only a source of water and chemical toilets provided.

The Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 (as amended by the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003) is particularly important with regard to the issue of Gypsy and Traveller transit site provision. Section 62A of the Act allows the Police to direct trespassers to remove themselves, their vehicles and their property from any land where a suitable pitch on a relevant caravan site is available within the same Local Authority area. A suitable pitch on a relevant caravan site is a public pitch with planning permission which is situated in the same Local Authority area as the land on which the trespass has occurred. Advice provided by the authors of the Gypsy and Traveller Law book sets out that a suitable pitch must be somewhere where the household can occupy their caravan and not bricks and mortar housing.

Therefore, a transit site both provides a place for households in transit to an area and also a mechanism for enforcement action against unauthorised encampments.

In order to identify whether there is a need for the Council to provide transit accommodation analysis has been undertaken of the Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count data, reported unauthorised encampments between 2016 and 2019, and the outcomes from the household interviews.

Analysis of the Traveller Caravan Count data shows that there were a small number of unauthorised caravans recorded between January 2016 and January 2017. These are on a site that now has full planning permission.

Analysis of the number of authorised and unauthorised caravans that have been recorded in Blaenau Gwent County Borough for the period between January 2019 and August 2020 show no recorded instances of unauthorised encampments.

The interviews with Travellers living on sites and in bricks and mortar indicated that 21% have camped by the roadside, on an encampment, or on a transit site in the past 12 months. Locations included North Wales, York, Manchester, Bury and Shrewsbury. The duration of these visits ranged from 1-2 weeks through to 1-3 months. When asked whether there was a need for more transit provision in Wales two fifths (43%) said yes, two fifths (43%) said no and 4 households chose not to answer. When asked where it is needed most responded all over Wales, and specific locations in Wales included Blaenau Gwent, Newport and North Wales.

In summary, the lack of need identified from primary interviews coupled with no recorded unauthorised encampments since January 2019 does not evidence a need for any transit provision. As such, it is recommended that there is not a need for the Council to provide a permanent transit site in Blaenau Gwent County Borough at this time. However, the Council should continue to monitor the number of unauthorised encampments and continue to follow the current approach and the use of short-term toleration to deal with transient stops. If it becomes apparent that a growing number of unlawful encampments are settling within the County Borough for periods exceeding several days at a time, then this position will need to be re-visited.

6.1 Conclusions and Recommendations

Gypsy and Traveller Future Pitch Provision

Based upon the evidence presented in this study the estimated additional pitch provision needed for Gypsies and Travellers in Blaenau Gwent County Borough for the first 5 years of the GTAA plan period is for 3 pitches, and for the remainder of the new Local Plan period to 2033 is for a further 5 pitches. This gives a total need for the whole GTAA period of 8 pitches.

These figures should be seen as the projected amount of provision which is necessary to meet the statutory obligations towards identifiable needs of the population arising in the area. These figures are made up of a combination of doubled-up households; movement from bricks and mortar; and new household formation.

Plot Needs - Travelling Showpeople

There are no Travelling Showpeople yards in Blaenau Gwent County Borough so there is no current or future need for plots.

Transit Sites

There is not a need for the Council to provide a permanent transit site in Blaenau Gwent County Borough at this time. However, the Council should continue to monitor the number of unauthorised encampments and use short-term toleration to deal with transient stops. If it becomes apparent that a growing number of unlawful encampments are settling within the County Borough for periods exceeding several days at a time, then this position will need to be re-visited.

Addressing Identified Need

In general terms need identified in a GTAA should be seen as need for additional pitches. Welsh Government Guidance on Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites (2015) recommends that as a minimum a pitch should be capable of accommodating an amenity block, a mobile home, a touring caravan and parking for two vehicles. This guidance relates only to public sites provided by Local Authorities.

All of the current need identified for the first 5 years of the GTAA period arises from the public site at Cwmcrachen and whilst the household interviews indicated that this will need to be addressed in 2-5 years, further analysis of the demographics suggest that this need will not arise until years 4-5 of the GTAA period.

In addition, there were a large number of issues raised by residents on the public site at Cwmcrachen including a need for larger pitches; a need for more modern utility blocks; and a need more car parking.

As such it is recommended that the Council explore options for expanding the existing site or building a new public site.

Finally, it is recognised that the Council are in the process of reviewing their Local Plan that sets out how overall housing need will be addressed. The findings of this report should be considered as part of future housing mix and type within the context of the assessment of overall housing need in relation to Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.

6.2 Next Steps

The next steps for Blaenau Gwent County Borough will be to:

- Progress the design and planning application for a new public site, including taking into consideration the levels of future need identified in this GTAA.
- Complete relevant site surveys to support the development of a new public site, including ecology surveys, noise surveys and site investigations.
- Use the outcomes of this GTAA to prepare a new Gypsy and Traveller Policy in the new Local Development Plan 2018-2033.
- Ensure that further Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments are carried out in Blaenau Gwent County Borough as per the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.
- Ensure Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation needs are considered within the Local Housing Market Assessments for Blaenau Gwent as per Welsh Government recommendations.
- Ensure Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation needs are considered within the Local Housing Strategy for Blaenau Gwent.
- Continue to monitor levels of unauthorised encampments and review the need to provide any transit pitches or further management-based approaches.

Appendix 1 – Interview Log

Address	Type of tenure	Engagement attempts			Engagement techniques	Completed or refusal?	Reason for refusal?
Plot 1	Local Authority site	09/01/2020	-	-	Pre-arranged - Face to Face Interview	Completed	
Plot 2	Local Authority site	21/01/2020	-	-	Pre-arranged - Face to Face Interview	Completed	
Plot 3	Local Authority site	09/01/2020	-	-	Pre-arranged - Face to Face Interview	Completed	
Plot 4	Local Authority site	09/01/2020	-	-	Pre-arranged - Face to Face Interview	Completed	
Plot 5	Local Authority site	09/01/2020	-	-	Pre-arranged - Face to Face Interview	Refusal	Didn't wish to take part
Plot 6	Local Authority site	03/04/2020	-	-	Pre arranged - Telephone Call	Completed	
Plot 7	Local Authority site	16/01/2020	-	-	Pre-arranged - Face to Face Interview	Completed	
Plot 8	Local Authority site	06/04/2020	-	-	Pre-arranged - Face to Face Interview	Completed	
Plot 9	Local Authority site	27/02/2020	-	-	Pre-arranged - Face to Face Interview	Completed	
Plot 10	Local Authority site	15/01/2020	-	-	Pre-arranged - Face to Face Interview	Completed	
Plot 11	Local Authority site	21/01/2020	-	-	Pre-arranged - Face to Face Interview	Completed	
Plot 12	Local Authority site	22/01/2020	-	-	Pre arranged - Telephone Call	Completed	
Plot 13	Local Authority site	21/01/2020	-	-	Pre-arranged - Face to Face Interview	Completed	
Plot 14	Local Authority site	22/01/2020	-	-	Pre-arranged - Face to Face Interview	Completed	
Plot 15	Local Authority site	29/01/2020	-	-	Pre-arranged - Face to Face Interview	Completed	
Plot 16	Local Authority site	16/01/2020	-	-	Pre-arranged - Face to Face Interview	Completed	
Plot 17	Local Authority site	29/01/2020	-	-	Pre-arranged - Face to Face Interview	Completed	
Plot 18	Local Authority site	Pitch no longer exists	-	-	-	-	
Plot 19	Local Authority site	Vacant at time of fieldwork	-	-	-	No contact	
Plot 20	Local Authority site	15/01/2020	-	-	Pre-arranged - Face to Face Interview	Completed	
Stone Houses	Private authorised site	06/02/2020	-	-	Pre-arranged - Face to Face Interview	4 Interviews Completed	
Mount View	Private authorised site	21/02/2020	06/04/2020	08/04/2020	Unannounced visit / Letter / Telephone calls x voicemails (with contact details) left on answerphone x 2	2 x No contact	No response to attempted engagement
Bricks and Mortar 1	Bricks and mortar	27/02/2020	-	-	Pre-arranged - Face to Face Interview	Completed	
Bricks and Mortar 2	Bricks and mortar	10/02/2020	-	-	Pre-arranged - Face to Face Interview	Completed	
Bricks and Mortar 3	Bricks and mortar	21/02/2020	-	-	Pre-arranged - Face to Face Interview	Completed	
Bricks and Mortar 4	Bricks and mortar	15/01/2020	-	-	Pre-arranged - Face to Face Interview	Completed	
Bricks and Mortar 5	Bricks and mortar	21/01/2020	-	-	Pre-arranged - Face to Face Interview	Completed	
Bricks and Mortar 6	Bricks and mortar	29/01/2020	-	-	Pre-arranged - Face to Face Interview	Completed	
Bricks and Mortar 7	Bricks and mortar	30/04/2020	-	-	Pre-arranged - Telephone Call	Completed	
Bricks and Mortar 8	Bricks and mortar	30/04/2020	-	-	Pre-arranged - Telephone Call	Refusal	Didn't wish to take part
Bricks and Mortar 9	Bricks and mortar	30/04/2020	-	-	Pre-arranged - Telephone Call	Refusal	Didn't wish to take part