

# Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

## Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2015



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## **1.0 Policy and Context**

### **1.1 Legislation and Guidance**

The assessment of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs, and the duty to make provision for sites where the assessment identifies need, became statutory requirements under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. The needs identified in this process will be included in the Blaenau Gwent Local Housing Market Assessment. The Blaenau Gwent Local Housing Market Assessment will be updated every two years in accordance with Welsh Government guidance and the Gypsy and Traveller accommodation assessment will be carried out every five years.

If, through this Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment a need is identified, extensions and adaptations to existing sites and the provision of a new site will take into account the Welsh Government Planning Circular 30/2007 for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites and 78/91 for Travelling Showpeople and the Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites guidance.

The Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013 is designed to help improve regulation of the industry, so that conditions on mobile home sites are improved and the rights of residents are better protected. The new law provides the local authority with powers to inspect sites and issue a fixed penalty notice to site owners if conditions on the site are not kept properly and in more serious instances, local authorities will be able to issue the site owners with a compliance notice to make sure that site conditions are upheld.

### **1.2 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 Cwmcraehen 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 helps 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

### 1.3 Definition of key terms

<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</p>

	apply on these sites. Working space may also be provided 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"> <li>• an inability to secure an authorised pitch leading to occupation of unauthorised encampments;</li> <li>• an inability to secure correct planning permission for an unauthorised development;</li> <li>• households living in overcrowded conditions and want a pitch;</li> <li>• households in conventional housing demonstrating</li> </ul>

	<p>cultural aversion;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• new households expected to arrive from elsewhere.</li> </ul>
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.

## **2.0 Background and analysis of existing data**

### **2.1 Previous Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment findings**

A Gypsy and Traveller Housing Needs Assessment was completed in Blaenau Gwent in September 2011. The Assessment was specifically prepared to allow the local authority to build on the information obtained in the 2007 assessment and quantify the likely need for accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers for the period of the Local Development Plan 2011 – 2021.

The research was carried out in accordance with the Welsh Assembly Government Circular 30/2007 - Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites and drew on:

- Secondary Information: records of planning applications, unauthorised encampments and site management; and relevant strategies and policies: ORS report on “Newport, Torfaen, Monmouthshire and Blaenau Gwent Local Housing Market Assessment: Needs of Specific Household Groups”
- Interviews with local Gypsies and Travellers: there were structured interviews in September 2011 with 14 of the 19 Gypsy and Traveller families on the publicly owned Cwmcraehen caravan site and 2 families in housing.

As a result, the Housing Needs Assessment indicated a need for an additional four permanent residential pitches for the period 2011-21. The planning application for an extension of the current residential site to accommodate the additional four pitches has recently been approved.

### **2.2 Population data**

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

Ward	White; Gypsy or Irish Traveller
Abertillery	0
Georgetown	0
Llanhilleth	1
Sirhowy	1

Six Bells	6
Tredegar Central and West	4
Badminton	2
Beaufort	0
Blaina	11
Brynmawr	3
Cwm	0
Cwmtillery	1
Ebbw Vale North	2
Ebbw Vale South	0
Nantyglo	39
Rassau	2
<b>Blaenau Gwent</b>	<b>72</b>

### 2.3 Caravan Count

At the time of July 2015, the total number of caravans recorded in Blaenau Gwent for the Caravan Count was 20 at the Cwmcraehen residential site.

During the last twelve months there have been four unauthorised encampments in Blaenau Gwent in the following areas:

- Barleyfields, Nantyglo
- Nantyglo Comprehensive School site, Nantyglo
- Next to Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg Primary School, Blaina
- Next to Blaenycwm Primary School, Brynmawr

Two of the families were passing through Blaenau Gwent. The two remaining occasions were because a member of the travelling family had to return to Blaenau Gwent at certain times of the year for legal reasons. The unauthorised encampments recorded did not occur in the borough during the time the Accommodation Assessment was being carried out.

All of these encampments are located in the same valley and within a short distance from the Cwmcraehen residential site and the private unauthorised development.

The Council has developed a policy for dealing with unauthorised encampments which includes engaging with the community as soon as possible and providing the Gypsies and Travellers with a Good Neighbour Guide which sets out the expectations of the community whilst camped on Local Authority owned land.

Since 2007 there has been no need to take any further action other than provide WC and waste disposal facilities during these short-term visits. However, the visiting Gypsies and Travellers have not always complied with all the requirements of the Good Neighbour Guide and there have been occasions when waste has had to be cleared up after the travellers have left.

## **2.4 Current accommodation provision**

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council currently has one permanent site at Cwmcraehen, Nantyglo and a Gypsy settlement has been in this area for over 200 years.

Cwmcraehen Caravan Site was upgraded extensively between 2007 and 2009. The site provides 20 residential pitches, 19 of these pitches provide individual amenity units for the residents. The final unit is reserved for occupants who can provide their own amenities – usually in the form of a static caravan or similar. Connections to mains water, electricity and foul water disposal are provided.

The site benefits from a full CCTV system, a children's play area, a warden's office incorporating a small private meeting room used by school outreach and medial workers. A site warden is on site on a daily basis and the site is managed by the Public Protection Section of the Council. There are currently no transit pitches available on site.

The planning application for an extension of the Cwmcraehen residential site to accommodate an additional four pitches has been approved by Blaenau Gwent Planning Committee.

Blaenau Gwent also has a private unauthorised development at Stone Houses, Blaina. The land owner has applied for planning permission to change the use of the land to a Traveller's site for four pitches to accommodate the four families currently living in caravans on the site.

### **3.0 Methodology**

#### **3.1 Project steering group composition**

Mark Congreve, Team Manager Housing Solutions and Compliance, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Christopher Hunt, Community Cohesion Coordinator, Torfaen County Borough Council

Steve Jackson, Environmental Health Technician, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Alyson Hoskins, Provider Services Manager, Social Services, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Michelle Church, Team Manager Supporting People, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Rebecca Bevan, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Lynda Healy, Team Manager Planning Policy, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Rebecca Preston, Gwalia

Helena Hunt, Policy and Research Team Leader, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Huw Lewis, Equalities Officer, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Lisa Jones, Team Leader Housing Strategy, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Blaenau Gwent Council accepts that there was a lack of Gypsy and Traveller membership at the steering group and this was acknowledged at the Project steering group meetings. It was also acknowledged as being an oversight on behalf of the council and every effort will be made, prior to the completion of the next Accommodation Assessment, to engage with the Gypsy and Traveller community and ensure membership from the community is sought.

#### **3.2 Study Methodology**

Supporting People identified a need to understand the housing and housing needs of the Gypsy and Traveller community as current understanding was felt to be limited. Gwalia Care and Support were commissioned by Supporting People to undertake the research to fully identify and evidence the housing support needs of the Gypsy Traveller community in Blaenau Gwent. As a result, Blaenau Gwent Officers have worked with Gwalia to carry out the assessment to ensure families were only being approached once.

The Environmental Health Technician has conducted the surveys with the Gypsy and Traveller community at Cwmcraehen residential site, the unauthorised development at Blaina and any other unauthorised encampments as they have arisen. Due to the relationship the site warden 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

our attention if they were not already known to us during this interview process.

The Gypsy and Traveller Family Liaison Officer in the Education department has conducted the surveys with the Gypsy and Traveller community in bricks and mortar. Both members of staff work in the Gypsy and Traveller communities as part of their roles and were therefore best placed to conduct the surveys as they had already developed relationships with many of the families.

In addition, Blaenau Gwent has contacted a number of organisations including the following:

Organisation	Response
Gypsies and Travellers Wales	No response received
Travelling Ahead (at Save the Children Cymru)	<i>'No additional contacts than those already identified through liaison with Education Department'</i>
Romani Cultural and Arts Company	No response received
The Bridges Project	No response received
The Showman's Guild of Great Britain (South Wales)	No response received
The Traveller's School Charity	No response received
The Traveller Movement	No response received
Friends, Families and Travellers	<i>'Not working with anyone in Blaenau Gwent'</i>
The National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups	No response received
The Gypsy Council	No response received
Roma Support Group	No response received

The following flyer has been displayed on the local authority website, distributed to all e-mail users within the authority, partner organisations and used on social media.

# Gypsy & Traveller Survey: Your Future, Your Say

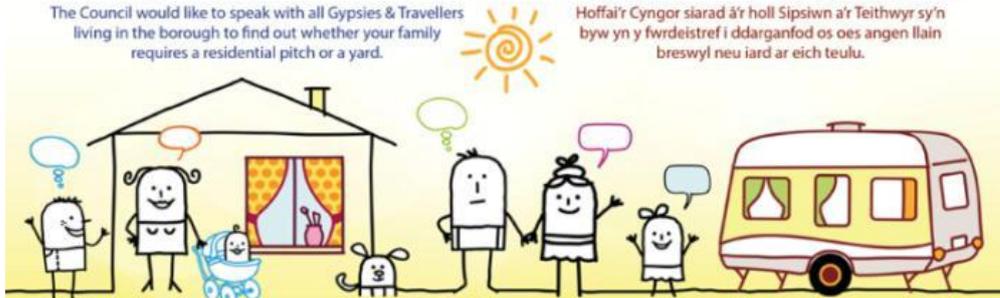
**A new law called the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 means that Councils must assess and make provision for the accommodation needs of Gypsies & Travellers in their area.**

The Council would like to speak with all Gypsies & Travellers living in the borough to find out whether your family requires a residential pitch or a yard.

# Arolwg Sipsiwn a Theithwyr: Eich Dyfodol, Eich Barn

**Mae deddf newydd o'r enw Deddf Tai (Cymru) 2014 yn golygu fod rhaid i'r Cyngor asesu a gwneud darpariaeth ar gyfer anghenion llety Sipsiwn a Theithwyr yn eu hardal.**

Hoffai'r Cyngor siarad â'r holl Sipsiwn a'r Teithwyr sy'n byw yn y fwrdeistref i ddarganfod os oes angen llain breswyl neu iard ar eich teulu.



To speak with the Council, please telephone **01495 354600**,  
email: [environmental.health@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](mailto:environmental.health@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk) or visit one of its main buildings.

## 4.0 Survey Findings

### 4.1 Household Interviews

In total 28 households were interviewed for the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment, utilising the universal questionnaire included at Annex 2 of the Welsh Government guidance. Of the 28 households, 19 are living on the Local Authority residential site, Cwmcraehen, in caravans. Four households are living on a private unauthorised development in caravans. Five of the residents interviewed are living in bricks and mortar. Of these five households, one is owner occupied, three are socially rented and one is privately 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 assessments, 64% were conducted with female members of the household and this may have been due to the majority of assessments being carried out during the day whilst the men in the family may have been off-site working.

### 4.2 Demographic profile of population

The table below shows the age range of the 112 residents. From this it can be seen that 63% of the Gypsy and Traveller population in Blaenau Gwent is 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 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	17	21
11-20	23	10
21-30	3	8
31-40	3	9
41-50	3	2
51-60	2	4
61-70	1	0
71-80	1	1
80+	0	0
Don't know	4	

Of the Gypsy and Traveller population surveyed, 47% are male and 49% are female, this compares to the 2011 Census in which 49% of the Gypsies and Travellers in Blaenau Gwent were male with 51% female.

Of the 28 respondents, 79% declared their ethnic group as Romani, 3% as Irish Traveller, 3% as Roma and 3% did not answer this question. 11% of respondents self-ascribed their ethnic group as Welsh Gypsy and 100% of these respondents were living in bricks and mortar.

### **4.3 Suitability of current accommodation**

Of the 28 respondents surveyed, 82% are living in caravans in Blaenau Gwent and 18% are residing in bricks and mortar. 71% of all respondents stated they did not intend to move. However, 61% of respondents stated they were not satisfied with their current accommodation.

Of those residents living in the Cwmcraehen residential site the following comments were made as to why residents were not satisfied:

- *Not enough space, poor facilities*
- *Too many dogs running around, not enough room on pitches, facilities cold and small*
- *Need to improve outbuildings, more space on plots, improve heaters – fan heaters cost too much to run*
- *Kitchen and toilet facilities are damp and cramped*
- *Would like more room on slab, better parking area for cars*
- *Toilet and shower facilities are damp, water pressure is too low, not enough room to cook and wash clothes*
- *Need an outside building block with toilet and shower facilities and a boundary fence*

The majority of residents at Cwmcraehen residential site stated repairs were needed, the site needed to be made bigger and the accommodation made safer. Blaenau Gwent has submitted a business proposal to Welsh Government to fund the following improvements to the site through the Gypsy and Traveller Sites Capital Grant:

- Refurbishment of amenity blocks to replace internal furnishings and provide damp proofing
- Install individual post boxes
- Install speed ramps on the internal site road
- Provide fencing and gates to improve the physical appearance of the site.

These improvements were established in consultation with the tenants of Cwmcraehen residential site and the results of the recent accommodation assessment would appear to support the priorities identified.

All of the respondents at the private unauthorised development in Blaina stated they were satisfied with their current accommodation.

Of the five respondents in bricks and mortar, three of those were not satisfied with their current accommodation. The reasons cited were:

- *Cost is expensive as I pay rent and council tax twice (it was unclear why this was the case)*
- *Repairs are needed to windows, heating, electric and damp proofing (privately rented property)*
- *I want to move back to a house but bedroom tax is expensive which forced me to move out*

Of the 23 respondents living in caravans only one resident at the Cwmcraehen residential site stated there were not enough sleeping areas for the family. Therefore, it must be presumed that the caravans of the remaining residents surveyed can suitably accommodate the family. A detailed risk assessment would need to be undertaken at the residential and private site in order to determine whether or not there is an issue with overcrowding. So, for the purposes of this assessment based on the responses received, it is presumed that there is not an issue with overcrowding at either site.

Of the 19 residents living at Cwmcraehen residential site, 14 stated there was enough room on their pitch to accommodate additional trailers (this does not take into account Fire Safety guidance included in the Welsh Government's 'Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites' guidance). However, 89% of the residents declared that the site needed to be made bigger (comments included '*not enough room on pitches*' and '*more room needed on slab*').

#### **4.4 Accommodation aspirations**

71% of the respondents stated they do not intend to move, 25% did not know how long they would stay in their current accommodation and 4% stated they intended to remain over five years. The majority of respondents who did not know how long they would stay in their current accommodation were in bricks and mortar and the majority of respondents who did not intend to move were currently in caravans.

Two respondents currently living in bricks and mortar stated they were planning to move into other accommodation and both respondents indicated they would remain within bricks and mortar.

Current information held on the Blaenau Gwent Common Housing Register indicates that there are six applicants on the waiting list for a pitch at the Cwmcraehen residential site.

The planning application for an extension of the Cwmcraehen residential site to accommodate an additional four permanent residential pitches has been approved by the Planning Committee of Blaenau Gwent Council. The Common Housing Register will be utilised to allocate the additional pitches

and given the information held on the waiting list, it is likely that the pitches will be allocated to members of families currently residing at the site.

#### 4.5 Household growth

Three respondents indicated that a member of the family would like to join the Local Authority waiting list for pitches or housing, however, no details of the family member were provided.

Five respondents indicated that a member of the household would be likely to want to move to their own home in the next five years. Two of the respondents specified this would be for a pitch at the Local Authority site where as the remaining three respondents did not specify the type of accommodation needed.

	Type of accommodation	No of people	Now	Within a year	1-2 years	2-5 years
Household 1	Local Authority Site	2	✓			
Household 2	Local Authority Site	2	✓			
Household 3	Don't know	1				✓
Household 4	One household	3		✓		
Household 5	One household	2			✓	

## 5.0 Assessing accommodation needs

### 5.1 Residential unmet need

The table below summarises the estimated need for permanent residential pitches between 2016-2021. The assessment has been based on an average growth rate of 2.25% per annum ('Household formation rates for Gypsies and Travellers: Technical note' 2013 Opinion Research Services).

Current residential supply	Number of pitches	Data source
A. Occupied Local Authority pitches	19	19 permanent pitches at Cwmcrachen
B. Occupied authorised private pitches	0	Planning data
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	

Planned residential supply	Number of pitches	Data source
C. Vacant Local Authority pitches and available vacant private pitches	0	All 19 pitches at Cwmcrachen are occupied
D. Pitches expected to become vacant in near future	0	Based on turnover of pitches
E. New Local Authority and private pitches with planning permission	4	Planning data
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	

Current residential demand	Pitch demand	Data source
F. Unauthorised encampments	0	Enforcement data
G. Unauthorised development	4	Planning data
H. Overcrowded pitches	2	Makeshift pitch and interview
I. Conventional housing	0	Accommodation assessment
J. New households to arrive	6	Waiting list
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	

Current households	Future households (at year five, 2.25% per annum)	Future households (LDP period, 2.25% per annum)
K. 31	35	35
L. Additional household pitch need	4	4

Unmet need	Need arising	Need accommodated
M. Current residential demand	12	
N. Future residential demand (5 year)	4	
O. Future residential demand (plan period)	4	
P. Planned residential supply		4
Q. Unmet need (5 year)	12 pitches (M+N-P)	
R. Unmet need (LDP period)	12 pitches (M+O-P)	

## 5.2 Transit unmet need

96% of the respondents stated there was a need for more transit sites in Wales. The majority of responses were that the transit sites were needed all over Wales, in most local authorities and in areas that did not have transit sites. Specific areas mentioned in Wales were Brynmawr, Ebbw Vale, Newport and Cardiff. A number of respondents in bricks and mortar commented on Blaenau Gwent needing space for visiting family. Comments included:

- *We have family in most authorities and transit sites are needed in them all*
- *Transit sites are needed in most local authorities, it affects my health to have to be moved on when travelling*
- *All local authorities - we are victimised wherever we go, please provide more sites*
- *Blaenau Gwent needs a bigger site and space for visiting family because they don't stay long as they are moved from the road side and there is no room on site*
- *Transit sites are needed all over the UK, in Blaenau Gwent room for visitors is needed*

14% of respondents stated that they had camped by the roadside, on an authorised encampment or on a transit site while travelling in the past year. Of those who were prepared to say where they had camped the areas identified were all in England.

During the last twelve months there have been four unauthorised encampments in Blaenau Gwent. All of the encampments were located in the same valley and within a short distance from the Cwmcrachen residential site and the private unauthorised development.

When engaged with, two of the families indicated they were passing through Blaenau Gwent and the remaining two encampments were as a result of a member of the family needing to return to the area at certain times of the year for legal reasons. Therefore, none of the encampments were for longer than a few days.

Given these circumstances, the unauthorised encampments do not indicate a need for residential or transit pitches within the area. However, if when considering the evidence in neighbouring authorities there is a need identified for a regional transit site in the area, Blaenau Gwent will undertake a feasibility study to identify potential sites / sites in the LDP.

## **6.0 Conclusions and Recommendations**

### **6.1 Next steps**

As a result of this Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment, based on a 2.25% household growth rate, the estimated unmet need for the remainder of the LDP is 12 pitches.

The next steps for Blaenau Gwent will be to:

- Commence the provision of the four additional pitches at Cwmcraehen residential site – the additional pitches may help to alleviate the concealed or ‘doubled up’ households currently residing on the site.- Bid to be submitted April 2016, if successful the work is anticipated to be completed by March 2017.
- Allocate the additional pitches to residents identified on the Common Housing Register – all applicants on the waiting list are currently residing at the site so the additional pitches may help to alleviate concealed or ‘doubled up’ households on the site. – March - April 2017.
- Commence with the improvements to the Cwmcraehen residential site – the improvements to the site will address many of the residents’ concerns regarding the suitability of their current accommodation as highlighted in the survey.- anticipate the work to be completed by March 2016.
- Update the LDP policies for Gypsy and Travellers in 2017 to consider the estimated residential unmet need identified as a result of this accommodation assessment.
- Conduct a feasibility study to identify potential site/sites in the LDP to accommodate the estimated residential unmet need identified as a result of this accommodation assessment. – January 2017.
- Ensure Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments are carried out in Blaenau Gwent every five years, as per Welsh Government recommendations. The next accommodation assessment will be due to be carried out by 24 February 2021.
- Ensure Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation needs are considered within the Local Housing Market Assessments for Blaenau Gwent every two years, as per Welsh Government recommendations.
- Ensure Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation needs are considered within the Local Housing Strategy for Blaenau Gwent.