

From: Peter Duppa-Miller

To: Council

Reference: G3226.

Date: 18 June 2012.

GYPSIES, TRAVELLERS and TRAVELLING SHOW PEOPLE.

I am Peter Duppa-Miller – I am speaking as the Secretary of the Bath & North East Somerset Local Councils Association.

The identification of a sufficient number of suitable, authorised, sites for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show People, in order not only to comply with legislation but also to combat the problems arising from the use of unsuitable, unauthorised, sites, is fully supported.

Rather than relying on the 2007 Assessment of the number of required pitches - and on the January and July caravan counts - a rigorous review of the Assessment of Need is very strongly recommended - otherwise there is no sound base from which to move forward.

It is recognised that such a review would require funding – it is also noted that North Somerset Council have commenced such a review, albeit only in their area.

The need for such an up-to-date review is supported by Bevan Brittan's report – in particular in paragraphs 2.1.2, 3.4 and 4.3.

It is also strongly recommended that the identification of suitable sites to the far south of the District (and thus not in the Bristol/Bath Green Belt) should be most actively pursued – thus not only doing away with the need to attempt to demonstrate “very special circumstances” but also removing any non-compliance with paragraph 14 of DCLG's “Planning Policy for Traveller Sites” (March 2012).