

# travellers

DLP Planning has acquired wide experience in resolving the often difficult planning problems that arise in relation to accommodating the needs of the Gypsy/ Traveller community.

DLP is now well practised in the exercise of site search and evaluation, encompassing the full range of technical, economic and social assessments within a framework of sustainability. In all cases we can draw upon extensive experience in engagement with members of the gypsy/traveller community, the settled community and other stakeholders - which is a key to delivering sustainable solutions. The methodology which has been developed and successfully applied in a number of instances is proven to reflect a robust and sound approach to addressing this specialist area.

## The Legislative Framework

Government guidance in England and Wales (Circular 01/06 and WAG Circular 30/2007) identifies the need to create and sustain strong gypsy/traveller communities, and provides advice on allocating sites within Local Development Framework (LDF) and Local Development Plan (LDP) in Wales. Advice is also given on the location, assessment and management of sites, aimed at supporting long term and appropriate development solutions and assisting social integration. This is augmented by advice on the design of sites, as contained in the draft guidance, the Design of Sites for Gypsies and Travellers (2007).

## Site Finding

Finding suitable sites for gypsies/travellers can be an extremely difficult and sensitive exercise. However, a

comprehensive, and structured approach, tied to early and open community involvement, means that satisfactory solutions can be found, and with good planning and management the gypsy/traveller community can be accommodated in good conditions with reasonable access to facilities such as education and healthcare.

Particularly important are long term management arrangements, essential to the process of integration within the wider community.

## DLP Planning Ltd

DLP Planning has a sound track record of providing services for clients in both the public and private sector, working alongside local authorities in the preparation of gypsy/traveller studies and representing communities in responding to proposals.

In the context of the requirements of the Circulars, we have prepared studies as part of the evidence base for emerging LDF and LDP documents. At all times we work closely with the commissioning authorities to try and identify realistic and sustainable strategies. We have also assisted in the initial preparation of Gypsy and Traveller DPDs where they will be a part of an LDF.

DLP Planning can provide objective and impartial advice, working within a framework of close and continuous dialogue with public sector officers, Members and key stakeholders. The provision of a solution which reflects full consideration of potentially conflicting economic environmental and social considerations affecting the decision making process is essential. DLP Planning is able to achieve the necessary trust and cooperation between all parties because we can demonstrate a high level of technical expertise in planning for the gypsy/traveller community.

