



BOROUGH OF HYNDBURN

HOME OF THE ACCRINGTON PALS

PLANS AND ENVIRONMENT

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Direct Line: 01254 380174/380178
Date: 16th July 2020

Dear Mike,

Re: Hyndburn Gypsy and Traveller Transit Site

Further to your query regarding the use of the authorised transit site at Sankey House Farm, Whinney Hill Road, Huncoat I would like to draw your attention to Hyndburn's Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showperson Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) which was undertaken on behalf of the Council by consultants Arc4:

<https://www.hyndburnbc.gov.uk/download-package/gypsy-and-traveller-and-travelling-showperson-accommodation-assessment-2019/>

This was published in July 2019 to provide evidence in support of the emerging Hyndburn Local Plan. For information, Hyndburn Borough Council recently undertook further consultation on Gypsy and Traveller policy and site allocations, using information from the GTAA. Further details of this consultation can be found here:

<https://www.hyndburnbc.gov.uk/localplan/5/>

In relation to transit site provision, the GTAA identifies that Hyndburn has an existing authorised 5 pitch transit site at Sankey House Farm. The transit site is part of a wider group of authorised permanent sites in this area, in both local authority and private ownership. The transit site is in private ownership.

In relation to future transit needs, section 7.66 of the GTAA states that "Given the level of unauthorised encampment, the Council should make use of the existing 5 transit pitches at Sankey House Farm. Evidence from unauthorised encampment activity would suggest a specific need for 2 pitches (to accommodate up to 4 caravans) and this would provide sufficient short-term accommodation to address the needs from 93.3% of encampments". This indicates that the existing site is required to meet Hyndburn's future transit needs.

It is also worth noting that, as well as transit pitch requirements, the GTAA identifies a need of 49 additional permanent pitches to be provided in Hyndburn up to 2036. As you will appreciate, this is a relatively high requirement and the Council will need to identify sufficient land in the Local Plan to accommodate this need - both through the allocation of new sites and by maximising the capacity of existing sites (where suitable). Therefore it is not in a position to be able to take the needs for Gypsy and Traveller provision from any other local authority.

I hope this information is useful but if you have any further questions, please do let me know.

Yours sincerely,

Christine Whittle
Principal Planning Officer (Planning Policy), Hyndburn Borough Council