

IDeA training – Gypsies and Travellers

Please note this is not a public meeting but a development session

Date(s) Tuesday 23 March 2010
Time(s): starting at 2.30 pm
Venue(s): Committee Room 6, County Hall, Trowbridge

Brief description

IDeA training – Gypsies and Travellers

To ensure that members have appropriate knowledge and awareness of Gypsy and Traveller service provision and engagement.

Programme

Please see supporting documents.

Please note

1. Different venues, times and days are proposed when possible to enable as many councillors to attend but we do have to use the one(s) with the most possible attendees.
2. Following a development session the information, if possible, will be made available on the Councillor Development Area on the Intranet.
3. If you are not able to attend a session that you were very interested in and the information cannot be made available on line it may be possible to organise a one-to-one with a relevant officer or a personal development session; if you are interested please contact Marie Gondlach (details below).
4. Pre-booking is essential. If you do not book 3 working days in advance, catering (if applicable) cannot be guaranteed, nor parking or seating at the venue.
5. There is a cost to providing any development event. If you are unable to attend a previously booked course, please let Marie Gondlach know so that the place can be

offered to others.

6. Co-opted members, Town and Parish Councillors, Partners and Councillors from neighbouring authorities may be in attendance at some sessions.

If you would like to attend please contact:

Wiltshire Councillors do not need to complete a request form for this session but for administrative purposes please let us know if you wish to attend

Email: CouncillorDevelopment@wiltshire.gov.uk

Fax: 01225 713 099

Tel: 01225 713 597 (Marie Gondlach)

Post: Democratic Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN

IDeA training – Gypsies and Travellers

23 March 2010, 2.30 – 5.30 pm

Aims of the training session

- Raise awareness of the history of Gypsies and Travellers and the prejudice that this group continue to experience
- Appreciate the local authority role in the provision of decent homes for all and the importance of this for the health and well-being
- Set out the local authority role to create strong and prosperous communities where everyone has the opportunity to have a decent home and to live without fear of prejudice or disadvantage
- Set out the local authority statutory obligation under the Housing Act 2004 and the Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites, ODPM Circular 01/2006
- Describe the requirement of the South West Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) to take account of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs and local authority action required in light of their Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments (GTAA's)
- Consider community leadership as applied all parts of the community.

Why is this training important now?

To ensure that members have appropriate knowledge and awareness of Gypsy and Traveller service provision and engagement because;

- Throughout 2010 consultations will be taking place across the county on Gypsy and Traveller site allocation plans
- Work is underway to create a strategy and supporting processes to deliver a coordinated and effective approach to service provision for and interaction with Gypsy & Traveller communities.
The 5 year strategy will be launched in June 2010, when a rolling programme of 6 months of consultation will begin.

This training session will provide members with an understanding of why the changes identified in the strategy are needed.

Who should attend the session

- Members who are on the Environment Select Committee
- Housing and Planning portfolio holders

- Other related portfolio holders e.g. regeneration, community cohesion, equalities and diversity etc.
- Members of planning committees
- Senior Strategic Housing and Planning officers
- Principal partners e.g. police, Primary Care Trust, third sector, local education authority
- Senior officers

Draft outline programme for the session

What are the issues? Capture these from facilitated discussion

‘Sites and Rights’

The history of Gypsies and Travellers – Richard Bennett, (former) Chair of the LGA Gypsy & Traveller TG

- The historical origins
- Language and traditions
- The different groupings within the heading ‘Gypsies and Travellers’
- The consequences of prejudice and intolerance on Gypsies and Travellers

Central Government policy – Richard Bennett and Ric Pallister
Questions and Answers

Issues for Gypsies and Travellers - Sally Woodbury

- Prejudice and ignorance
- Social tensions and the effects on community relations
- The adverse effects on the health and education of Gypsy and Traveller children.

Dealing with opposition - Councillor Ric Pallister, Deputy Leader, South Somerset District Council

- Community leadership
- Communication and consultation
- Planning, the Local Development Framework and DPDs
- Acting without delay
- Making difficult decisions.

Case studies – Working Groups

Next Steps