



# Gypsies & Travellers

Cllr Richard Bennett

# History

- Pre 1000 AD - India
- 1000 – 1300 – Persia & Eastern Europe
- Ca 1500 – Britain
- 1800 - navvies
- 1800 – farm labourers

# The Numbers

- 6785 (6696) – Public pitches
- 7400 (7351) – Private pitches
- 1315 (1564) – Unauthorised Encampments
- 2365 (2287) – Unauthorised Developments
- 3680 (3751) – Unofficial Pitches
- 26% (27%) - Unofficial Pitches



# Public Perception

- Crime
- Rubbish
- Taxes
- Unauthorised encampments
- Unauthorised developments

# The Reality

- ACPO Research
- Environment Agency Data
- Council Tax / Provision of Services
- Costs of Services
- Appeal Decisions

# The Problem

- One in four Gypsy and Traveller caravans are on unauthorised sites
- Tensions with the settled community - £18m spent annually on enforcement
- Gypsies and Travellers are the most socially excluded group in the country



# Health

- Average life expectancy of Gypsies & Travellers is 20 years less than for the settled population
- 42% of Gypsies & Travellers have long term illnesses – compared to 18% of the settled population
- 18% of Gypsy & Traveller mothers have experienced the death of a child – compared to 1% of the settled community

# Education

- A – C Grades at GCSE (2004)
  - 52% of the settled population
  - 30% of Irish Traveller children
  - 13% of Gypsy children



# The Solution

- 4000 pitches represents 10 per authority
- Adequate provision
- Appropriate provision
- Funding - £97m available

# Concerns

- Timescales – Interim Provision
- Public reaction
- Democracy

# Questions?

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Page 3