



# The Stables and Greenacres Gypsy and Traveller sites



Central Bedfordshire Council is considering making some changes to The Stables and Greenacres Gypsy and Traveller sites in Billington. Working with partners from Bedfordshire and Thames Valley Police Forces, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire and Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service there is an agreement to work together to develop a long-term solution to address the issues at these sites.

At the moment, the council is only considering making changes, no decisions have been made yet. Before any decisions are made we want to know what local residents think about the potential change or any other suggestions for addressing the issues.

Please read the accompanying Consultation Document for further detail.

The preferred option at the moment is for the council to buy The Stables and Greenacres sites, along with some land as close to the existing sites as possible, build a new Gypsy and Traveller site, closing the Greenacres and the Stables sites. The new site would be owned and managed by the council. It would be well run, with all of the appropriate facilities like water, sewerage and electricity and any crime and anti-social behaviour would not be tolerated. This option is estimated to cost approximately £9m.

Q1 To what extent do you agree or disagree with this proposal as our preferred option?

- Strongly agree       Agree       Neither       Disagree       Strongly disagree

Q2 Do you have any comments regarding this proposal?

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Another option that was considered is called “Discontinuance and Injunction”. This option involves the council removing the existing planning permissions and replacing them with new planning permissions and conditions. Injunctions would then be used to remove any occupants on site who are not legally entitled to be there. The council’s existing planning enforcement approach would then be used for any further breaches of conditions.

Although this option is estimated to cost £900,000\* it does not address the problems with the lack of basic amenities, health and safety and safeguarding concerns.

For these reasons, the council and other organisations do not think this is a suitable solution.

Q3 To what extent do you agree or disagree that this is not a suitable solution?

- Strongly agree       Agree       Neither       Disagree       Strongly disagree

Q4 Do you have any comments regarding this proposal?

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\* These costings do not include the cost of officer time across a number of organisations.

## Other options

Whilst the council has proposed a possible solution, we are keen to explore other possibilities that would help to resolve the issues at the sites:

Q5 Do you have any comments or suggestions that could help to resolve the issues?

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## About You

This section of the survey is about you. The following information will help us when considering your opinions and to make sure that we're getting views of all members of the community. The answers will not be used to identify any individual. You can read more about why we ask these questions on our website.

Q6 Are you responding as: (Please tick one)

- Resident of Greenacres       Local Business  
 Resident of The Stables       Voluntary or Community Organisation  
 Local resident       Other  
 Town and Parish Council

If Town or Parish Council, please specify:

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Please specify the name of your organisation:

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If other, please state:

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Q7 Are you:

- Male  
 Female

Q8 What is your age?

- Under 16 yrs  
 16-19 yrs  
 20-29 yrs  
 30-44 yrs  
 45-59 yrs  
 60-64 yrs  
 65-74 yrs  
 75 yrs +

Q9 Do you consider yourself to be disabled?

Under the Equality Act 2010 a person is considered to have a disability if he/she has a physical or mental impairment which has a sustained and long-term adverse effect on his/her ability to carry out normal day to day activities.

- Yes  
 No

Q10 To which of these groups do you consider you belong?

- White British  
 Black or Black British  
 Asian or Asian British  
 Mixed ethnicity  
 Roma/ Roma Gypsy  
 Traveller of Irish Heritage  
 Other ethnic group

If other, please specify:

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Q11 What is your home or organisation's postcode?

This will only be used for analysis purposes and will not be used to identify you in any way.

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Q12 If you would like to receive alerts for any new consultations, please provide your email address below to be added to the list:

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**Thank you.**

**Please return your completed form to:  
FREEPOST RSJS GBBZ SRZT (you do not need a stamp)  
Billington Gypsy & Traveller site Consultation  
Central Bedfordshire Council  
Priory House, Monks Walk  
Chicksands, Shefford  
SG17 5TQ**

**Data Protection Act 1998**

Please note that your personal details supplied on this form will be held and/or computerised by Central Bedfordshire Council for the purpose of this survey. The information collected may be disclosed to officers and members of the Council and its' partners involved in this survey. Summarised information from the forms may be published, but no individual details will be disclosed under these circumstances. Your personal details will be safeguarded and will not be divulged to any other individuals or organisations for any other purposes.