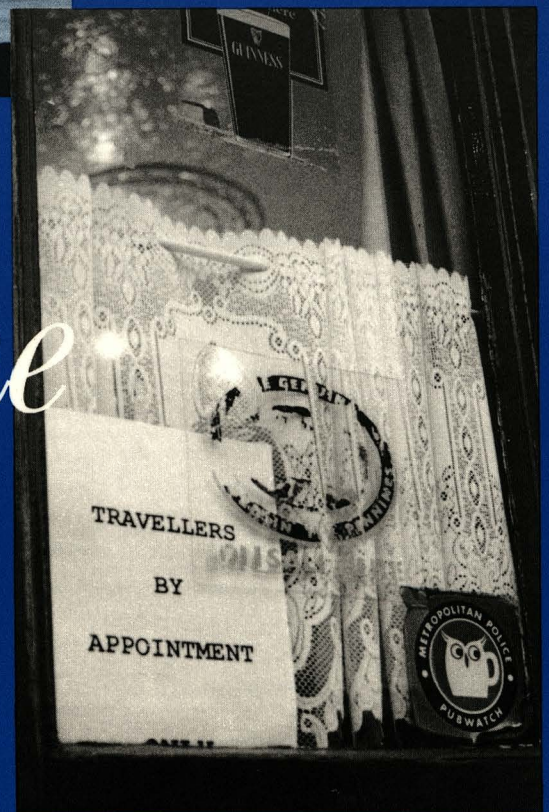


RIGHTS FOR *Travellers*

A London Irish
Women's Centre
Survey of local
authority
provision for
Travellers in
London

CEARTA NA *dTarstealaithe*



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Mary Maloney, Hackney

PHOTO: SASS TUFFIN



Introduction and background to survey

This report is concerned with provision for Travellers in London. It is based upon the results of a London wide survey of local authorities carried out by the London Irish Women's Centre between May and November 1994.

Our research was collated prior to the introduction of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act in November 1994. This legislation repealed the 1968 Caravan Sites Act which had previously made it mandatory for local councils to provide sites for Travellers.

The London Irish Women's Centre

The London Irish Women's Centre (LIWC) was opened in 1986 and exists to cater for the needs of all Irish women in London. The Centre provides a range of services ranging from housing and welfare advice work to counselling and cultural activities. The LIWC provides a voice for Irish women in London and has consistently targeted its resources towards groups who experience multiple discrimination, e.g. single parents, lesbians, disabled women, older women, young women, working class women and Travellers.

The LIWC decided to undertake this research because our work with Irish Traveller women and their families had revealed an extremely high level of social and economic deprivation. Travellers are not only amongst the most disadvantaged users of the LIWC's services, many of our clients encounter extreme hostility and prejudice from statutory institutions and from individuals within the settled community.

We have assisted women who have been denied benefits to which they were legally entitled and whose applications to the Department of Social Security (DSS) have automatically been referred to the Fraud Section. We have been forced to institute legal proceedings against local authorities

who have refused to fulfil their legal obligations to homeless Travellers under Part 3 of the Housing Act 1985. Other Irish and mainstream agencies working with Travellers have reported similar experiences and research reports published in recent years have also drawn attention to an alarming level of discrimination and prejudice. (1)

The Criminal Justice Act and Public Order Act

The Criminal Justice & Public Order Act (CJA) came into effect on 4th November 1994. The legislation introduced a range of draconian measures directed against community activists, people held in police custody, squatters, trade unionists, and young people. The CJA also contained clauses which were blatantly anti-Traveller. The sections in the CJA relating directly to Travellers are outlined below:

Section 80: *repealed the 1968 Caravan Sites Act which had imposed a legal obligation upon local authorities to provide adequate sites for Travellers.*

From November 1994 onwards it was left entirely up to local authorities to decide whether to make provision for Travellers. At the same time the Central Government grant funding for Traveller sites was abolished.

In practice, for almost 30 years a large number of local authorities had ignored this mandatory duty imposed by parliament. Successive secretaries of state had also failed to use the powers provided to them in the 1968 Caravan Sites Act to direct recalcitrant authorities to make provision. Consequently by 1992, over 4,500 Travellers were camped on unauthorised sites, according to the Department of Environment (DoE) (2).

Instead of addressing this conspicuous failure on the part of local authorities to fulfil their statutory duties, the Government chose to remove the legislation altogether.

To make matters worse, the legal obligation to provide sites was removed as police and local

“This Law is the beginning of the end for us .They want to get rid of us once and for all”.

(Nellie Power, Camden)

/ HOME

Eviction and jail are threatened under planned legislation. ... reports

Travelling families fear end of the road is appro

THE INDEPENDENT

authority powers to evict Travellers from unauthorised sites were strengthened.

Section 61: made it a criminal offence for Travellers not to leave land if ordered to do so by a police officer when **damage** had been caused or where there were six vehicles on the land. (The police had previously had this power under the Public Order Act 1986 in instances where there were more than **twelve vehicles**)

A court has recently decided that walking across a field constitutes ‘**damage**’.

Section 77: made it a criminal offence to camp without permission once a local authority has directed a person to leave.

In addition to giving rapid new eviction powers to the police and local authorities, the CJA introduced severe penalties for Travellers who refused to comply with orders to leave land.

These were contained in:

Sections 61(4), 62, 77 & 78: and included sanctions ranging from fines and imprisonment to the confiscation of caravans and family possessions.

Not surprisingly, the CJA has been described by Liberty as ‘the most wide-ranging attack on human rights in the UK in recent years’. Its sections relating to Travellers and to other groups are being challenged in the European Court of Human Rights. Its impact upon Travellers is already being felt with 40% of all evictions reported to the Friends, Families and Travellers Support Group, in the past 12 months involving the use of CJA powers.(3)

“This Law is the beginning of the end for us.They want to get rid of us once and for all”.

(Nellie Power, Camden)

Travellers lobbying Parliament against the Repeal of the Caravan Sites Act, March 10th, 1993



“We move not to be strangers but because it’s our way; it’s the freedom to get up and go”.

Bridget Gaffey

Travellers’ Rights

Travellers have lived in this country for centuries. Travellers are not an homogenous community. There are many different groupings with different histories and work patterns ranging from Irish and Romani to English and East European. Some go back centuries, others such as New Age Travellers have emerged more recently. Some English and Welsh Travellers call themselves Gypsies or Romanichals and originate from India. In ‘Tudor Times’ these Travellers were called Egyptians as some had travelled through Egypt. Hence the origin of the term Gypsy.

Other Traveller groups claim their cultural heritage goes back to the nomadic metal workers who followed the Roman Army into Britain.

Travellers in this country have many characteristics and cultural values similar to Gypsies and Nomads throughout the world.

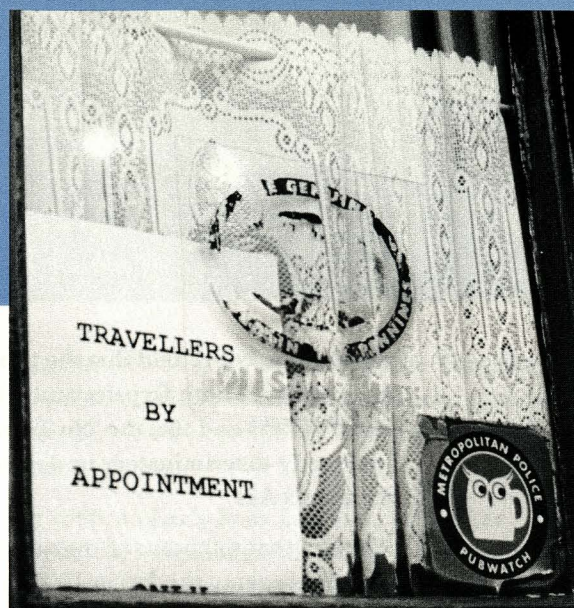
All Travellers share a distinct ideology, one aspect of which is closely associated with a tradition of Travelling nomadism.

“We move not to be strangers but because it’s our way; it’s the freedom to get up and go”. (4)

Clearly it is not difficult to understand how there is an ideological clash here between the Traveller way of life and that of the dominant political ideology based upon individualism and home ownership.

Race Relations Law

The Commission for Racial Equality (CRE), the Swann Report (HMSO 1985) and many local authorities have for some time recognised the ethnic minority status of Travellers and legal



Anti-Traveller sign, Hackney, note the police pubwatch sign alongside it

judgements in the past decade have confirmed this.

The Court of Appeal in 1983 stipulated 7 characteristics confirming ethnicity of Travellers, the first two of which were considered to be essential criteria. These were as follows:

- 1) A long shared history of which the group is conscious as distinguishing it from other groups and the memory of which it keeps alive.
- 2) A cultural tradition of its own including family and social customs and manners, often, but not necessarily, associated with religious observance. (Mandala -v- Dowell 1983 2AC 548)

Most Travellers, whether they are on the road or living in houses or on sites are conscious of having shared a long history of Travelling life. They also share many cultural traditions and values which are passed on from generation to generation.

‘Travelling is more a state of mind than an actual situation. Its existence and importance are frequently more psychological than geographical. The Traveller who loses all hope of ever setting off again or the possibility of doing so, also loses his identity as a Traveller’. (Council of Europe, 1987)

In 1989 another Court of Appeal confirmed the ethnic status of Travellers in a case brought by the Commission for Racial Equality. (CRE)

This involved the licensee of the Cat and Mutton pub, Patrick Dutton who had put up a sign saying ‘NO TRAVELLERS’ in his pub in London

“In the Traveller way of life, people come before property or financial value. We look at the person themselves rather than what they look like or what they have.” (5)

“..intolerance of Gypsies by others has existed throughout the ages. Outbursts of racial or social hatred, however, occur more and more regularly and the strained relations between communities have contributed to the deplorable situation in which the majority of Gypsies live today.”

Fields. The court held that the term Traveller encompassed both Gypsies and other caravan site dwellers and that the ‘No Traveller’ sign was indirectly discriminatory under the 1976 Race Relations Act.

The fact that publicans all over the country are openly breaking this law in 1995 by continuing to display anti-Traveller signs demonstrates the contempt which is shown towards Travellers and the extent to which this minority’s rights are consistently ignored by the authorities.

Not all Travellers are directly protected under the Race Relations Law. Those who have taken to the road in recent years cannot claim to have a long history of Travelling life. Although they might acquire ethnic status in the long term, they are denied protection in the short term. (6)

The 1968 Caravan Sites Act was important in this respect because it applied a non-ethnic definition of Travellers and imposed a duty upon local authorities to provide adequate sites for all ‘persons of a nomadic habit of life whatever their race or origin’. Since the repeal of the 1968 Caravan Sites Act, the non-ethnic definition of Travellers has been retained under the Caravan Sites and Control and Development Act 1960 but a series of court cases in recent years have sought to redefine it in such a way as to exclude New Age Travellers. The mechanism applied in these cases has been to import into the word ‘nomadic’ the concept of purposeful travel; economic independence and a tradition of travelling. These judgements not only have adverse implications for New Age Travellers but potentially apply to many traditional Travellers. (7)

International law

All Travellers can claim the right to lead a nomadic existence as a basic human right which is enshrined in international law.

The British Government has been a signatory of the **European Convention of Human Rights**

(ECHR) for forty years and a signatory of the **United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)** for twenty years. There are several articles in these and other international covenants which are important for Travellers. These include the rights of individuals to have ‘respect’ for their ‘family life’ and ‘home’ (Article 8, ECHR) and to enjoy the basic rights and freedoms outlined in the ECHR ‘without discrimination on any ground’. (Article 14, ECHR)

The United Nations Charter to which the British Government is also a signatory (Article 31) guarantees:

‘Everyone.... the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state’.

In February 1993 the British Government accepted the Council of Europe’s recommendation 1203 on Travellers in Europe which noted that:

‘..intolerance of Gypsies by others has existed throughout the ages. Outbursts of racial or social hatred, however, occur more and more regularly and the strained relations between communities have contributed to the deplorable situation in which the majority of Gypsies live today.’ (8)

The proposals went on to recommend that ‘member states should alter national legislation and regulations that discriminate directly or indirectly against Gypsies’. (9)

The CJA is a straightforward contradiction of this. The British Government has already been taken to the European Court of Human Rights more frequently than any other signatory to the European Convention and has been found to be in breach of its provisions on more occasions than any other signatory. (10) The challenges to the CJA currently underway will no doubt be added to this list in due course.

Travellers' history of discrimination

Travellers have always been denied the right to lead a nomadic existence. Throughout history they have faced hostile legislation and discrimination from the rest of society.

Tudor Times

In 1530: The first **Egyptians Act**; imposed a complete ban on the immigration of Gypsies and gave notice to all those already in England to leave at once.

In 1553: The **death penalty** was introduced for all 'Egyptians' who remained in the country for more than one month. This was re-enacted in 1562 and remained on the Statute books until 1783.

The legislation introducing the death penalty in 16th century England made it clear that banishment or death could be avoided by all those 'willing to abandon the wandering life.' (11)

Over 400 years later Ministers introducing the CJA applied different incentives for the assimilation of Travellers. The DOE Consultation document precluding the **1994 CJA** stressed that:

'It might be feasible to introduce a limited form of financial assistance towards the purchase of permanent housing for Gypsies who vacate pitches'. (12)

Attempts to control the growth of the Traveller population when poverty and economic changes have forced more people onto the road have also been apparent.

In 1596: an **Early Poor Law Act** declared as **rogues and vagabonds** 'all tinkers wandering abroad'. This minority group were excluded from poor law provision along with '*all such persons, not being felons, wandering and pretending themselves to be Egipcians or wandering in the habite, form or attyre of counterfayte Egipcians*'. The twentieth century equivalent of controlling a growing Traveller population might be found in those sections of the CJA which were aimed specifically at New Age Travellers but which in effect undermine the rights of the entire Traveller population. (13)

Germany and the Nazis

The threat of death for the 'crime' of a life on the road has also followed Travellers into modern times culminating in the policy of genocide in Nazi Germany, (14) It is estimated that between 200,000 and one quarter of a million Travellers from Europe were murdered in Hitler's death camps.

In recent years, Travellers throughout Europe have been increasingly targeted in racist attacks. Since 1992, thousands of Travellers have been driven out of villages in Romania. At least 43,000

Gypsy deaths during the Second World War

AUSTRIA	Population	11,200	Deaths	6,500	ITALY	Population	25,000	Deaths	1,000
BELGIUM	Population	600	Deaths	500	LATVIA	Population	5,000	Deaths	2,500
BOHEMIA	Population	13,000	Deaths	6,500	LITHUANIA	Population	1,000	Deaths	1,000
ESTONIA	Population	1,000	Deaths	1,000	LUXEMBOURG	Population	200	Deaths	200
CROATIA	Population	28,500	Deaths	28,000	POLAND	Population	50,000	Deaths	35,000
FRANCE	Population	40,000	Deaths	15,000	ROMANIA	Population	300,000	Deaths	36,000
GERMANY	Population	20,000	Deaths	15,000	SERBIA	Population	60,000	Deaths	12,000
HOLLAND	Population	500	Deaths	500	SLOVAKIA	Population	80,000	Deaths	1,000
HUNGARY	Population	100,000	Deaths	28,000	USSR	Population	200,000	Deaths	30,000
(Total 219,700 deaths) (15)									

Austrian officials confirm Gypsies are targets of rightwing terror as second bomb goes off

Ian Traynor in Vienna

A SECOND bomb in 36 hours exploded in Austria yesterday after the worst racist attack in years killed four Gypsies, apparently part of a wave of extremist terror directed at foreigners and ethnic minorities.

Following the deaths of the four men late on Saturday in a high-explosive booby trap next to a Gypsy settlement in the

behind both attacks and that ethnic minority groups were the targets.

Saturday's incident was the worst rightwing attack on foreigners and minority rights activists since the attacks began in 1993. A mock gravestone calling for Gypsies to go back to India was laid at an underpass leading to a Gypsy settlement on the outskirts of Oberwart. When the four men tried to

wing strategy to destabilise democracy and sully the country's image abroad.

Three Austrian neo-Nazis are awaiting trial on charges connected with a series of letter bombs in 1993 that targeted pro-immigrant organisations, including the then mayor of Vienna, Helmut Zilk, who lost two fingers in a letter bomb attack. The Burgenland region

sought refuge in Germany and have subsequently been repatriated. In February 1995, 4 Travellers were killed in Burgenland, Austria, after a bomb planted next to their settlement by Right wing extremist groups exploded. It is widely believed that the British Government enacted the CJA in order to pre-empt the possibility of a movement of European Travellers into this country.

Britain – The Twentieth Century

In recent decades modern technology has transformed the Traveller way of life and Travellers have continued to experience institutionalised discrimination and prejudice.

The mechanisation of agriculture in post war Britain rendered much of the traditional work carried out by Travellers within rural communities obsolete. At the same time, the introduction of plastic and enamel reduced the demand for tinware goods produced by Travellers, while increases in car ownership and changes in shopping habits eliminated the demand for household goods and small trinkets, traditionally made and sold door to door by Traveller women and children.

These changes have led to widespread migration to towns and cities, where Travellers faced economic and social marginalisation. Today's urban Traveller men in paid employment are likely to be self employed and to be confined to casual work in construction, scrap dealing, tarmac, etc while Traveller women have primary responsibility for rearing often very large families. A small number of Travellers have managed to establish successful businesses but the majority live on low incomes and many are dependent upon state benefits.

Compounding the economic problems facing Travellers have been a succession of discriminatory laws which have drastically cut the number of stopping places available. These have included the **1947 Town and Country Planning Act**, the **1959 Highways Act** and the **1960 Caravan Sites Act** all of which have restricted the ability of Travellers to lead a nomadic existence.

Even the **1968 Caravan Sites Act** which addressed the need to make public provision for Travellers for the first time was undermined at the outset by its discriminatory 'designation' provisions. The 1968 Act imposed a general duty upon London boroughs to provide a minimum of 15 pitches for Travellers but without attaching any time limits to this obligation. Councils who met their quota of 15 pitches could then apply to the Department of Environment (DOE) for 'designated' powers to evict any 'surplus' Traveller caravans that stopped within their boundaries. To highlight the racism inherent in this practice, Sylvia Van Toen (Travellers Education Project) points out "Imagine a law which restricts the number of Bangladeshi families.. to fifteen a... borough". (16)

Councils could also obtain designation status by satisfying the DOE that they had no land on which to build a site or by persuading the department that it was unnecessary or inexpedient to make provision. By 1994, 26 out of 33 London Boroughs had designated status and while some authorities have provided more than 15 pitches and operated non-harassment policies, other designated boroughs such as Islington and Westminster have made no provision whatsoever whilst denying Travellers the right to stop within their areas.

Thus, while the 1968 Act led to an increase in Traveller site provision, particularly following the



Kathleen Joyce, Southwark

PHOTO: SASS TUFFIN

“I’ve been living in this country for 25 years going from pillar to post..... The police would drag you off in the early morning..... My daughter had her baby on the Sunday and came home from hospital Monday evening. We were all moved on at 5.30am on the Tuesday. There wasn’t even time for the midwife to see her.”

Kathleen Joyce,
Southwark

introduction of central government funding for sites in 1978, it also assisted in the creation of ‘no go’ areas for Travellers. The designated powers of eviction available under sections 10 & 11 of the 1968 Caravan Sites Act were followed by section 39 of the **1986 Public Order Act** which granted the police almost immediate powers of eviction. Additional powers of eviction against Travellers were introduced in the **1990 Environmental Protection Act** and in the **1991 Planning and Compensation Act**. The criminalisation of Travellers has reached its peak in the **1994 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act** which has effectively outlawed the Traveller way of life.

The effect of discriminatory legislation coupled with the failure of many local authorities to fulfil their statutory duties under the 1968 Caravan Sites Act has been to compel large numbers of Travellers to live outside the law. The Traveller population has increased substantially in recent decades and despite the existence of the Caravan Sites Act, 62% of local authorities in England had failed to provide a sufficient number of pitches by 1992 according to the DOE. Even before the repeal of local authorities legal obligations to Travellers, it is estimated that 33 % of this community were forced to live on unauthorised sites. Approximately 3,200 families in London

alone did not have access to an authorised site in 1992. (17) These figures are likely to be underestimates.

The consequences of this failure for Travellers has been enforced nomadism or enforced settlement. While a small percentage of Travellers have been able to obtain local authority pitches, even greater numbers have been forced to move into housing or to camp illegally.

Travellers on unauthorised sites have lived under constant threat of eviction and without ready access to education, health care and welfare services. Traveller women have often had to cook, clean and care for their families without access to electricity, water or sanitation.

The problems created by the lack of properly serviced sites has not only fuelled the prejudices of the settled community who have blamed the Travellers for their living conditions, they have also undermined the health of this minority group. The average life expectancy for Travellers in this country is 48 years according to Pahl and Vaile (1988) and although little research has been carried out into the health of Travellers, the studies that are available indicate that the health status of Travellers is very poor and that problems such as a high infant mortality rate, low life expectancy and high hospitalisation rates are all directly affected to the environmental conditions in which many Travellers are forced to live. (18)

A survey of local authorities carried out by the Association of Metropolitan Authorities in 1988 found that almost one third of local authorities would evict a pregnant woman from an unauthorised site. Thirty percent would evict a woman close to birth and just over a third would evict a woman with a newborn baby. (19)

Irish Travellers

Irish Travellers make up the majority of the Travelling population in London. They have been drawn to the Capital and to other inner cities by the same pressures of economic necessity which have attracted the settled Irish community.

Irish Travellers have a long and varied history in Ireland. Some call themselves Minceirs or Parvees and can trace their history back to pre-Christian times. Their language – the Gammon or Shelta predates the 12th century.

The Irish and Scottish Travellers known as the Nawkins or Cairds are said to be descended from the Ancient Picts – ‘the earliest known inhabitants of Ireland and most of Scotland’. (20)

Irish Travellers also originate from the tradespeople who had for numerous centuries earned a living by travelling from area to area helping with the harvest, trading horses or making pots and pans. Hence the origin of the term Tinker, once quite acceptable to Travellers, but now considered derogatory.

The Traveller population was increased whenever land evictions or famine forced more people onto the road.

Britain’s colonial intervention in Ireland not only resulted in the systematic under-development of the Irish economy and the deliberate suppression of trade and industry, it also led to mass emigration. Irish people, including Travellers, have always provided a cheap source of labour for Britain, filling gaps in the labour market, and playing an important role in the British economy.

In Britain, Irish Travellers have suffered discrimination and racism both as Travellers and as Irish people. Prior to the early 1980’s Irish Travellers were in the main excluded from official sites. With the exception of the Westway site in Hammersmith, there were virtually no Travellers on official sites in London before 1983.



The 'No Irish' signs prevalent in the 1940's and 50's have disappeared but the 'No Traveller' signs have not. Irish Travellers experience institutionalised discrimination in DSS offices, Homeless Persons Sections, police stations etc. Traveller children are subject to arrest and detention overnight in police stations much more readily than settled children. They are also more at risk of being taken into care. A social worker reporting to the Camden Irish Conference in 1990 stated that he had recently visited a juvenile detention centre and found 11% of the boys there were Travellers, three of them without any previous findings of guilt. (21)

In 1989 a small group of Irish Travellers who had stopped adjacent to the Risley estate in Tottenham, were subjected to days of racial abuse and harassment before the police, at the request of the local council moved the Travellers on to prevent a breach of the peace.

The verbal abuse from a large crowd of local residents included shouts of "Tinkers, go back to Ireland", "Irish scum", "Paddy Gypsies out". There were physical threats of violence against the Travellers. A local shopkeeper who was Irish and who served the Travellers was also subjected to verbal and racial abuse, as were local clergy and Irish community workers who tried to support the Travellers. (22)

Aims of survey

The LIWC survey was carried out:

- 1) To ascertain the level of services provided for Travellers by London's 33 local authorities.
- 2) To establish what political priority is given to Travellers' needs in London's local authorities.

While the LIWC survey focused exclusively upon local authority provision for Travellers, it was hoped that this would also assist us in understanding the reality of Travellers' lives in London.

Many stereotypes exist about Travellers which are extremely negative and prejudicial. Travellers are often portrayed in the media and by politicians as 'outsiders' and 'scroungers' who take from the settled community and who give nothing in return. These perceptions have existed for centuries and have been used to justify many of

the punitive policies and laws enacted against the Traveller community.

The publication of racist election material by Tower Hamlets Liberal Party during a by-election in Shadwell during September 1994 caused a public outcry and the Party were forced to apologise. Yet anti-Traveller leaflets published by Haringey Conservatives during local elections in 1986 did not provoke a similar response. Attacks upon Black and Asian people were rightly condemned, but leaflets referring to Gypsies terrorising 'our senior citizens' remained unchallenged. Such views have been expressed by politicians from all political parties and serve only to legitimise public hostility, violence and discrimination against Travellers.

The principles underlying the Criminal Justice Act are also rooted in anti-Traveller prejudice. The DOE Consultation paper precluding this legislation affirmed that 'People who wish to adopt a nomadic existence should be free to do so' but stressed that this should not 'entail a privileged position or

GYPSIES OUT!
TERRORISE OUR SENIOR CITIZENS
IN

LYDE ROAD
LAWRENCE ROAD
HILIP LANE
THE PADDOCKS FERRY LANE

SOUTH TOTTENHAM STATION
WIGHTMAN ROAD
LORDSHIP LANE
LIDO SITE

NEXT TIME YOUR STREET?

CONSERVATIVES PROMISE FIRST DAY AFTER THE ELECTION
TO MOVE THEM OUT

CONSERVATIVES SAY!
MOVE THEM OUT
100,000's of YOUR MONEY WASTED
DESTROY YOUR AMENITIES
CAUSE CRIME AND FILTH

COUNCIL SAY!
THEY WELCOME GYPSIES
WE ARE RACIST FOR OPPOSING GYPSIES
WON'T USE THE LAW TO STOP THEM

BOWEN WELLS

A MESSAGE FROM BOWEN WELLS
— YOUR CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATE

CONSERVATIVES AGAINST GYPSIES

Are you fed up with the filth and abuse brought by the so-called gypsies to a once green and attractive area next to Sele Farm? BOWEN WELLS is.

He says:-

- * Landowners who illegally encourage gypsies should be prosecuted through the courts.
- * I pledge to introduce a bill to abolish the Gypsy Site Act.
- * The Public Enquiry to be held is a direct result of my representations.
- * The Conservative controlled District Council and Hertford Town Council have led the fight against the proposed gypsy site.
- * Come along and support Bowen Wells objections at the Public Enquiry on 28th and 29th April at County Hall, Hertford.

SUPPORT BOWEN WELLS - The only Candidate to make a stand on this important issue.

BOWEN WELLS

OVER 15 YEARS YOU HAVE SUFFERED

- SKY HIGH RATES
- DIRTY AND RUBBISH
- DISGRACEFUL EDUCATION
- GYPSIES
- RISING CRIME
- EMPTY HOUSES

THINGS ARE ALWAYS GETTING WORSE

THIS IS A LOCAL ELECTION FOR HARINGEY COUNCIL ONLY

OUR X CAN CHANGE THINGS

WE PROMISE

- CUT RATES 10%
- IMPROVE ALL EDUCATION
- VALUE FOR MONEY SERVICES
- DEMOLISH BROADWATER FARM
- NO PRIVATISATION
- BAN GYPSIES
- ABOLISH HOMOSEXUAL AND MONEY WASTING UNITS
- IMPROVE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH, SUPPORT LAW AND ORDER
- NO COMPULSORY REDUNDANCIES

BOWEN WELLS

entitlement to a greater degree of support from the tax payer than is made available to those who choose a more settled existence.' (DOE, 1992) The implication here is that Travellers are somehow getting a better deal than members of the settled community. The repeal of the Caravan Sites Act and the additional legal powers to deal with trespass were clearly intended to rectify this situation and to address this so called 'privileged position'.

In examining the contribution made by Travellers to local communities, and the services they receive in return, we seek to challenge the negative stereotypes and to present a more truthful picture.

Equally important, is the level of political priority given to Travellers needs. Very little official data exists on the needs of the Traveller community in London or indeed anywhere in this country. Since 1978 the Department of Environment (DOE) has collated and published counts of Traveller caravans bi-annually from individual local authorities but the data assembled is not complete. It covers the numbers of caravans and pitches on council, private and unauthorised sites. Not all local authorities reply to the DOE and it is not mandatory for them to do so. No information is gathered concerning the numbers, ages or sex distribution of the people living on the sites.

We were interested to find out if local authorities recognised the needs of Travellers and whether or not they had targeted their resources to address the problems experienced by the Traveller community. We wanted to know if councils had incorporated these issues into any existing Equal Opportunities Programmes, and what political priority was accorded to Travellers issues in general.

In carrying out the Travellers survey, the LIWC hoped to establish any gaps in policy or provision and to draw these to the attention of the service providers.

Methodology

The LIWC survey was carried out between March 31st and November 3rd 1994. (The Criminal Justice and Public Order Act was introduced on November 4th) Our questionnaire was distributed to 33 London local authorities (see appendix). 22 local authorities responded, although in the case of Kensington & Chelsea, the questionnaire was returned without being completed. The respondents and non-respondents are listed in Table 1.

TABLE ONE

Local Authority Survey Respondents	Local Authority Non-Respondents
Bexley	Barking and Dagenham
Brent	Barnet
Bromley	Ealing
Camden	Enfield
Croydon	Havering
Greenwich	Islington
Hackney	Redbridge
Hammersmith and Fulham	Richmond-upon-Thames
Haringey	Sutton
Harrow	Wandsworth
Hillingdon	Westminster
Hounslow	
Kensington and Chelsea	
Kingston Upon Thames	
Lambeth	
Lewisham	
Merton	
Newham	
Southwark	
Tower Hamlets	
Waltham Forest	
City of London	

KEY TO TABLES

N/A	INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE
N/K	NOT KNOWN
ED	EDUCATION
HSG	HOUSING
SOC.SER.	SOCIAL SERVICES
ENVH	ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
LIWC	LONDON IRISH WOMENS CENTRE



Margaret, Bernadette and Kathleen Stokes with Angie Birtill, LIWC, Camden, gathering data

PHOTO: SASS
TUFFIN

A limitation of this study is that the task of gathering data about Travellers from local authorities was extremely difficult and this is an issue in itself. Most councils do not have any standardised method of collecting information about Travellers and the quality of the information collated varied considerably between councils. The completed questionnaires were often difficult to decipher and several follow up phone calls were necessary in order to complete gaps and to clarify contradictory evidence. This lack of adequate recording was evident throughout local authorities in London.

Despite these problems, the LIWC survey received 22 responses amounting to two thirds of London's Local Authorities and the helpful co-operation of many committed council staff. The data below is based primarily upon their written

and verbal evidence. The respondents were either officers who had specific responsibility for Travellers such as site managers, or officers whose work included issues which related to Travellers, for example equal opportunity officers, education, housing or environmental health officers. Bromley's questionnaire was referred to the Bromley Gypsy Traveller Community Project who completed it on behalf of the Council.

The LIWC data was supplemented and compared with more recent data from the Department of Environment. The survey results were also discussed with Travellers in contact with the LIWC and circulated amongst Travellers' Support groups in London. Their comments and input were included as part of the analysis.

Main Findings of Survey

Travellers' site provision in London.

The overwhelming majority of local authorities who took part in the survey provided at least one permanent site. Only a handful of councils made any temporary site provision.

Permanent sites

19 of the 22 respondents provided at least one permanent site for Travellers. The 3 respondents who did not provide any permanent sites were Brent Council, City of London and Kensington & Chelsea. City of London said that they had no demand for a site, while Kensington & Chelsea stated that their

Borough shared the permanent site based in Hammersmith with Hammersmith & Fulham Council. Since our survey was carried out, Brent Council have submitted proposals to the DOE to establish a permanent site on the Book Centre land in Neasden.

The fact that the majority of local authorities provided permanent sites does not mean that Travellers' needs are being fully met in those areas. If we examine the DOE records for January 1995 in Table 3, we see that the number of pitches on council run sites varies from borough to borough. The amount of living space also

TABLE 2: TRAVELLERS SITE PROVISION AND SECURITY OF TENURE IN LONDON AS AT 3RD NOVEMBER 1994

Local Authority	Number of Permanent Sites	Type of Tenancy on Permanent Sites	Number of Temporary/Tolerated Sites	Tenancy Agreement for Temporary/Tolerated Sites
BEXLEY	1	L		
BRENT	0			
BROMLEY	2	L	1 (1)	L
CAMDEN	1	L	2 (2)	●
CROYDON	1	L		
GREENWICH	1	L	1 (3)	●
HACKNEY	1	L		
HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM	1	N/A		
HARINGEY	3	L		
HARROW	1	L		
HILLINGDON	1	L		
HOUNSLOW	1	N/A		
KENSINGTON & CHELSEA	(4)	N/A		
KINGSTON UPON THAMES	1	L		
LAMBETH	1	L		
LEWISHAM	1	L		
MERTON	1	L		
NEWHAM	1	L		
SOUTHWARK	2	L	2 (5)	L
TOWER HAMLETS	1	L		
WALTHAM FOREST	1	L		
CITY OF LONDON	0			

LIWC Survey, November 1994

L = License to Stay
● = No security of tenure.

- (1) Since this Survey, Brent Council have applied to the DoE to establish a permanent site on the Brook Centre land where the official temporary site is based.
- (2) Camdens 2 temporary/tolerated sites become permanent sites in 1995.
- (3) Greenwichs temporary/tolerated site is no longer in existence.
- (4) Kensington and Chelsea share a site with Hammersmith and Fulham
- (5) Southwarks 2 temporary sites were fully upgraded in 1995 and the Council have agreed to relocate the Travellers if this becomes necessary through redevelopment.

TABLE 3: TRAVELLERS SITE PROVISION IN LONDON AS AT 1 JAN 1995

County	District Council (Name and/or location of site)	No of Pitches
Greater London	Barking & Dagenham (Eastbrook End, Dagenham)	16
	Bexley (Powerscroft Road, Fooks Cray, Sidcup)	15
	Brent (Book Centre, Neasden)	15(T)
	Bromley, (Star Lane, St. Mary Cray)	22
	Bromley (Old Maidstone Road, Ruxley)	12
	Camden (Carol Street, London NW1) (1)	4(N)
	Croydon (Latham's Way)	15
	Ealing (Bashley Road)	24
	Enfield (Montague Road, Edmonton)	18
	Greenwich (Thistlebrook, Abbey Wood)	39
	Hackney (Waterden Crescent, Waterden Road)	20(N)
	Hammersmith and Fulham (Westway)	*20
	Haringey (Civic Centre, N22)	6T
	Haringey (Clyde Road, N15)	4
	Haringey (Wood Green Common, N22)	12
	Harrow (Watling Farm Close, Stanmore)	15
	Havering (South Park, Upminster)	16
	Hillingdon (Colne Park, West Drayton)	30
	Hounslow (The Hartlands, Church Road, Cranford)	17
	Kensington and Chelsea	•
Kingston-upon-Thames (Swallow Park, Hook Rise, North Tolworth)	15	
Lambeth (Lonesome Depot, Leonard Road)	15	
Lewisham (Thurston Road)	16	
Merton (Brickfield Road, Wimbledon)	15	
Newham (Clays Lane, Stratford)	15	
Redbridge (Northview, Forest Road, Hainault)	17	
Richmond-upon-Thames (Bishopsgrove, Hampton)	15	
Southwark (Ilderton Road) (2)	15	
Sutton (Carshalton Road, Banstead)	15	
Tower Hamlets (Eleanor Street, Poplar)	19 (4N)	
Waltham Forest (Folly Lane, Walthamstow) (3)	16	
Wandsworth (Trewint Street)	12	

source : Department of Environment (DoE) Jan, 95.

- Site Provision shared
- § No return received from Local Authority therefore figures from January 1994 have been used.
- T Temporary
- N New site opened in 1993
- (1) Since January 1995, Camden has opened additional sites in Castlehaven Road and Dalby Street. Camden now has 8 pitches.
- (2) Southwark now have sites at Bridale Close, Leo Street and Staffordshire Street, and a total of 42 pitches.
- (3) Waltham Forest now provide 17 pitches.

“There’s definitely a need for more sites. They forget that as Travellers have kids and grow up and have their families, there’s nowhere for them to go. That’s why lots of Travellers are being forced into houses. All of Johnny’s family and all of mine are now living in houses.”

(Nellie Power, Camden)

depends on the size of individual pitches.

Approximately two thirds of local authorities provide the minimum 15 pitches previously required under section 6 of the Caravan Sites Act 1968, while one fifth provide over 20 pitches. Travellers interviewed by the LIWC generally preferred to live on smaller sites.

“I’d much prefer to be living on a smaller site. There’s people around that you’re close to and we can look after each others children.” (Mary Maloney, Hackney)

“Small sites are best. We are all family here and you know who your neighbours are”.
(Margaret Stokes, Camden)

More recent DOE information on Traveller site provision is shown in Table 4. The DOE figures

are based upon a count of caravans carried out by local authorities on 19th July 1995. The count was carried out on a single day and does not represent the total number of Travellers resident in the borough. Notwithstanding these limitations it is clear that there has been a decline in the number of caravans camped on unofficial sites. In 1989 the DOE estimated 328 caravans on unofficial encampments in Greater London. (23) In 1995 there are 24.

The trend may reflect a much tougher policy on the part of local authorities towards unauthorised encampments. “Even progressive councils are now more vigorous in moving Travellers off unofficial sites and blocking off unused land.” according to Martin Tucker, from the Travellers Training Project, TRADE. The trend is also possibly related to the increasing numbers of Travellers who have moved into housing in recent years. In Hackney there are at least 40 families currently on the waiting list for the councils permanent site at Waterden road. There are 20 pitches on this site and many of the LIWC’s clients are unhappily trapped in council housing waiting for any vacancies that might occur. Similar long waiting lists exist in other boroughs. Travellers are quick to point out that site provision is inadequate.

“There’s definitely a need for more sites. They forget that as Travellers have kids and grow up and have their families, there’s nowhere for them to go. That’s why lots of Travellers are being forced into houses. All of Johnny’s family and all of mine are now living in houses.”
(Nellie Power, Camden)

“There’s Traveller people camped next to our site who are going to be moved on soon. All over London, there’s Travellers with nowhere to go”
(Kathleen Joyce, Southwark)

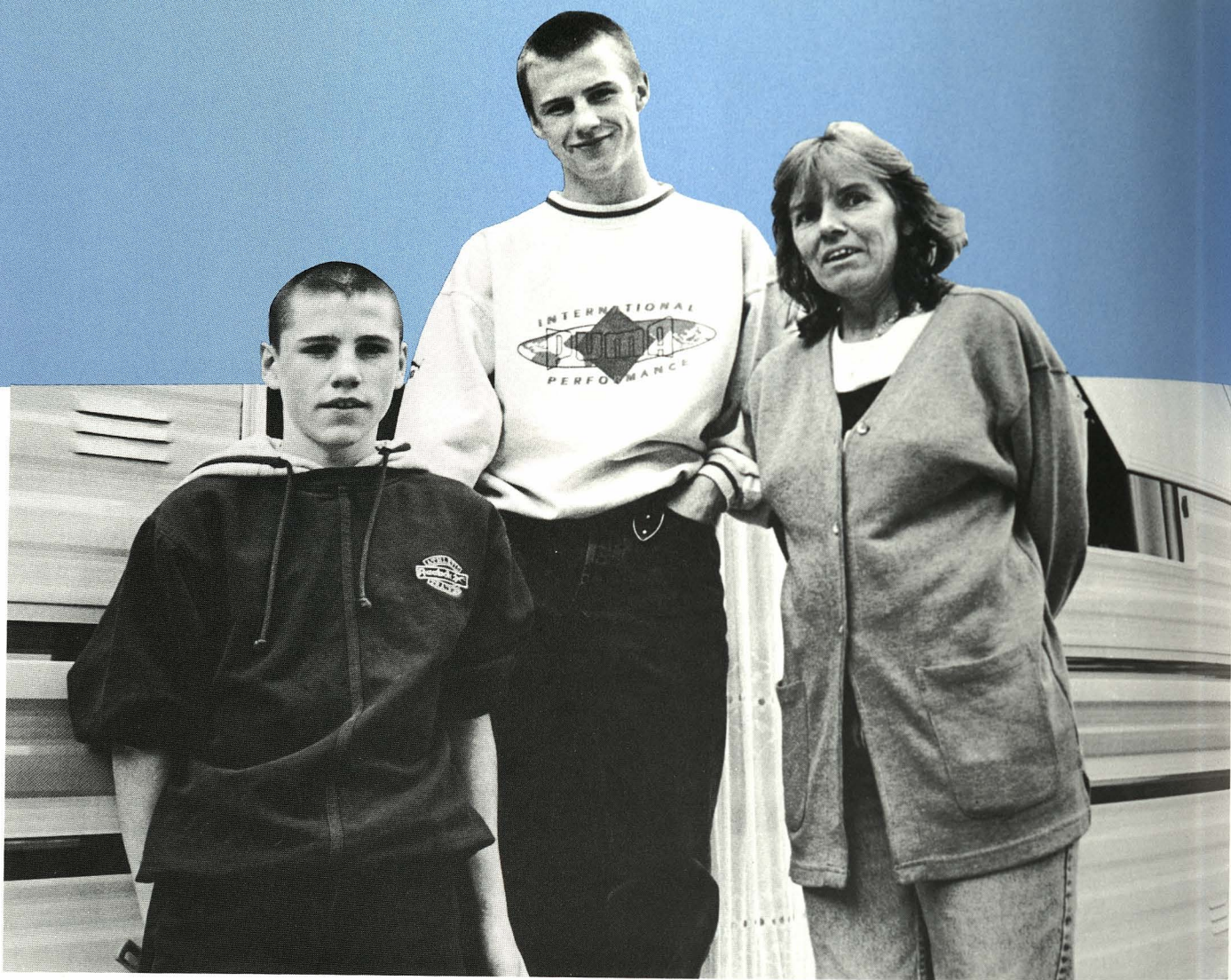
Temporary / Tolerated sites

If Travellers had difficulty obtaining a pitch on a permanent site in London they were even less

TABLE 4: NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL TRAVELLER CARAVANS ON SITES IN LONDON AS AT 19 JULY 1995

Local Authority	Caravans on Unauthorised Encampments	Caravans on Authorised Council Sites	Caravans on Authorised Sites Private	Total
Barking & Dagenham	0	1	0	1
Barnet	0	0	0	0
Bexley	0	14	4	18
Brent	0	50	0	50
Bromley	0	37	2	39
Camden	0	10	0	10
City of London	0	0	0	0
Croydon	0	15	0	15
Ealing	0	47	0	47
Enfield	0	20	0	20
Greenwich	2	51	0	53
Hackney	19	34	0	53
Hammersmith & Fulham	0	32	0	32
Haringey	3	41	0	44
Harrow	0	20	0	20
Havering	0	16	9	25
Hillingdon	NK	30	NK	30
Hounslow	0	17	6	23
Islington	0	0	0	0
Kensington & Chelsea	0	0	0	0
Kingston Upon Thames	0	15	0	15
Lambeth	0	15	0	15
Lewisham	0	23	0	23
Merton	0	19	0	19
Newham	0	15	0	15
Redbridge	0	17	0	17
Richmond Upon Thames	0	21	0	21
Southwark	0	43	0	43
Sutton	0	15	10	25
Tower Hamlets	0	34	0	34
Waltham Forest	0	12	0	12
Wandsworth	0	12	0	12
Westminster	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	24	676	31	731

Source : DoE, July 1995



Nellie Power with sons Sean and Martin, Camden

PHOTO: SASS TUFFIN

likely to find space on a temporary site in the Capital. Only 4 councils in the survey provided temporary sites and that figure has since been halved. Camden's two temporary sites were upgraded and acquired permanent status during the summer of 1995. Greenwich's temporary site is no longer in existence. The reasons local authorities gave for failing to make temporary site provision were as follows;

Reason given	Local Authority
No available land	Haringey, Harrow, Tower Hamlets.
No need / demand	City of London, Kingston, Merton.
No answer or not known	Bexley, Croydon, Hammersmith & Fulham, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Kensington & Chelsea, Newham.
Other	Bromley, Hackney, Lambeth, Lewisham, Waltham Forest.

'Other' specific explanations given by local authorities are quoted directly from the survey returns opposite;

Local Authority	Other reasons given for not providing temporary sites
Bromley	The last temporary site (36 families) had become contaminated with lead and was consequently closed.
Hackney	Have no tolerated site as we have permanent site.
Lambeth	Lambeth has not sought exemption from Travellers' site provision but is not prepared to entertain any unofficial sites.
Lewisham	Permanent site provision made.
Waltham Forest	Used designated powers as provided permanent site.

The reasons cited by these local authorities suggest that temporary site provision for Travellers ranks very low on the political agenda. Travellers frequently complain that there are few permanent site places available but they also stress the need for a greater range of provision

including transit sites and emergency stopping places.

An interesting fact to emerge from these results is the small number of Local Authorities who cited scarcity of land as a reason for not making temporary site provision. In London, scarcity of land and high land prices have frequently been used to justify the lack of provision for Travellers. Yet only 3 councils gave this as an explanation in the survey. More worrying are the explanations offered by those local authorities who used their provision of a permanent site to justify not setting up a temporary site.

The overall picture is not very positive.

Rights of occupancy on Travellers' sites in London

It is clear that where site provision is made, Travellers do not possess the security of tenure that most council tenants can take for granted.

Travellers rights of occupancy are shown in Table 2. Of the total sample, 17 gave Travellers Licences to remain on their permanent sites, while only Brent and Southwark Councils provided Licences for residents living on their temporary sites.

The lack of equality that exists between those living on council sites and those living in council housing is a matter of concern.

Although Licences can vary between 6 months and 10 years and some provide similar conditions to tenancies, others offer far less security. While most council tenants have tenancies which enable them to vacate their homes for 6 months to a year and to sub-let their accommodation whilst visiting relatives abroad, the same rights are denied to many Travellers. Many risk losing their licence if they leave their pitch in order to travel. This is a double denial of rights because travelling is one of the basic traditions associated with a Traveller lifestyle. Travellers pay rent and council tax the same as council tenants, but do not have equal rights.

Small
Travellers' site,
Staffordshire
Street,
Southwark

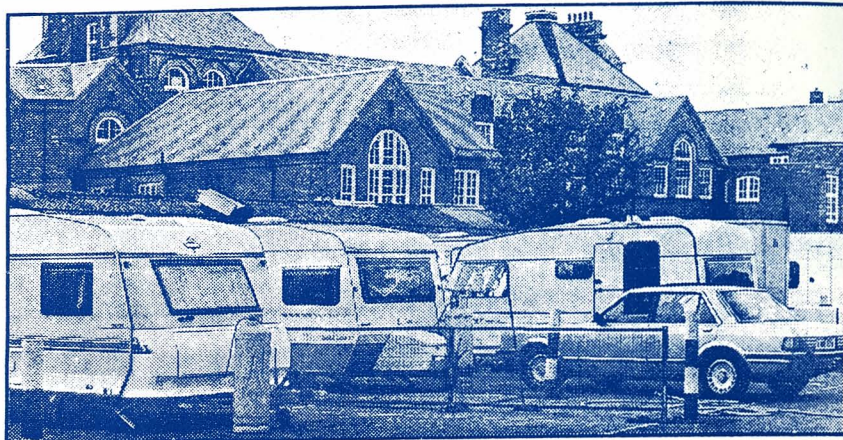


Gypsies are getting a free ride

I MUST congratulate Haringey Council for spending £404,000 on the gypsy site. Could someone from the crazies at the Civic Centre tell us ratepayers exactly how much rates these gypsies have paid over the last 12 years?

We all know that they will pay nothing in the future, because Labour councils don't like being seen as 'nasties' towards minorities, so suffer the ratepayers of Haringey.

N McMinn,
Tottenham.



GYPSES: How much have they paid in rates?

Rent & Council Tax on Permanent Sites

Almost all Travellers living on permanent sites paid rent and the majority of the sample also paid council tax.

Table 5 shows the weekly amounts collected by local authorities and the corresponding number of facilities provided. 18 out of 22 local authorities collected rent from their residents.

The charges varied between councils and according to the sizes of pitches.

The highest rent was in Hackney at £55 per week. This Council provided 5 out of the 6 facilities listed in the questionnaire.

The lowest rent charged was in Lambeth where a single pitch cost £8. This Borough provided 5 out

of the 6 facilities referred to in the questionnaire.

15 local authorities stated that they collected council tax from their residents. At the time of the survey 3 Local Authorities (Camden, Hackney & Southwark) were intending to charge council tax, but the bands had still to be worked out.

Again, there were variations between local authority council taxes and as in the case of rent, the amount charged did not always bear any relationship to the number of facilities provided.

Lambeth charged the highest council tax at £12.11 weekly and provided 5 basic facilities. Bromley charged approximately £6.05 which was the lowest charge, and also provided 5 basic facilities.

TABLE 5A: FACILITIES, RENT AND COUNCIL TAX ON PERMANENT SITES IN LONDON AS AT NOVEMBER 1994

Local Authority	Running Water	Elec	Flush WCs	Play Areas	Am/Ty Huts	Laund	Refuse	Number of Facilities	Weekly Rent	Weekly Council Tax Approx
BEXLEY	**	**	**	**	**		**	6	£13	£7
BROMLEY	**	**	**		**		**	5	Y but no figures	£6 .05
CAMDEN	**	**	**		**	**	**	6	£35	Being banded
CROYDON	**	**	**		**		**	3	£26 .90	£6 .75
GREENWICH	**	**	**		**	**	**	6	£25 .50	£8 .10
HACKNEY	**	**	**		**		**	5	£55	N/A
HAMMERSMITH/FULHAM	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	7	N/A	N/A
HARINGEY	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	7	£49 .39	£8 .81
HARROW	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	7	£38 .40	£7
HILLINGDON	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	7	£32 .85	£7 .01
HOUNSLOW	**	**	**		**		**	5	£25 .26	£7 .52
KENSINGTON & CHELSEA	NO	REPLY						N/A	N/A	N/A
KINGSTON UPON THAMES	**	**	**		**	**	**	6	£45.98 lge, £37.51 mdm £35.70 sml	£6
LAMBETH	**	**	**		**		**	5	£8	£12 .11
LEWISHAM	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	7	£18 to £26	£7 .17
MERTON	**	**	**				**	4	£25 .63	£6 .37
NEWHAM	**	**	**		**	**	**	6	£12 .60	£9 .06
SOUTHWARK	**	**	**		**	**	**	6	£18 .05	N/A
TOWER HAMLETS	**	**	**		**		**	5	£36	£6 .84
• WALTHAM FOREST	**	**	**					3	£13 .67	£7 .52
CITY OF LONDON	NO	REPLY						N/A	N/A	N/A

LIWC Survey, November 1994

- Weekly Council Taxes are approximations because Councils gave yearly Council Tax figures or relevant band. The London Irish Women's Centre calculated a weekly figure based on available information.

• Waltham Forest have provided Play areas during 1995.

“It’s hard if there’s no laundry facilities. Lots of people still do their own washing. Lots go to the laundrette, but then there again, some laundrettes wouldn’t let you in. If they’ve seen 4 or 5 Travelling women, they’d say “sorry the machines are broken!””. (Kathleen Joyce, Southwark)



Westway site,
Hammersmith

Services & Provision on Permanent Sites

Services and facilities on permanent sites tended to quite basic although some local authorities made greater provision than others. The survey results did not extend to the quality of facilities provided. Table 5 provides a breakdown of the services Travellers received in return for their rent and council tax.

19 of the 22 Local Authority respondents provided 3 or more facilities on their permanent sites.

19 councils provided running water & electricity.

18 councils provided flush toilets and undertook refuse collections.

16 Councils provided amenity huts.

10 Councils provided laundry facilities.

6 Councils provided play areas for under fives. Merton Council stated that they were considering making under fives provision in addition to laundry facilities and since the survey, Waltham Forest have provided a playarea on its permanent site.

Less than a half of Local Authorities collecting rent & council tax from the Travellers on their

permanent sites provided any laundry facilities. And less than one third had play areas for under fives or older children.

These findings should be a cause for concern. Travellers' sites are frequently located far away from shops and laundrettes. Many are situated in close proximity to motorways, railways & rivers with the attendant and various dangers to children.

The lack of facilities identified in the survey serves only to compound the problems associated with unsuitable site location. And while the gaps in provision have serious implications for all Travellers, they particularly affect Traveller women who in common with all women have primary responsibility as carers.

“It’s hard if there’s no laundry facilities. Lots of people still do their own washing. Lots go to the laundrette, but then there again, some laundrettes wouldn’t let you in. If they’ve seen 4 or 5 Travelling women, they’d say “sorry the machines are broken!””.

(Kathleen Joyce, Southwark)

“My daddy fought for this site.. There was supposed to have been a playgroup for the kids, but it didn’t happen. When we lived on Gransden avenue, the bus used to pick the kids up and collect them from school. But the Council

Under fives playgroup provided by Hackney Playbus, voluntary organisation, Waterden Road, Hackney

PHOTOS: SASS TUFFIN



Table 5b shows that while all 4 local authorities with temporary sites carried out refuse collections and provided running water and toilets, other essential facilities were lacking.

No play areas, amenity huts or laundry facilities existed on ANY of the temporary sites and only Brent Council provided electricity.

The quality of provision was very poor. Southwark Council reported that its running water supply amounted only to a standpipe and we have learnt since the survey that Brent's electricity supply provides 'insufficient power for what is an overcrowded site' (Minutes of Travellers Liaison meeting 1/5/95)

Brent Council was the only local authority in the survey to charge rent and council tax on its temporary site. Its weekly rent was £68 for a double pitch and £55 for a single pitch. This was higher than any of the rents charged on the permanent sites with the exception of Hackney. Travellers have been living on this site since 1987 and although its facilities were better in comparison with those on the other temporary sites, they were still inadequate. According to the minutes of the Travellers Liaison meeting, 1/5/95:-

stopped this. They say there's only so much money they get from the Government for the Travellers and it ran out. We offered to pay out of our own pockets for a bus but they said no..... (Mary Maloney, Hackney)

Rent, council tax and site provision on Temporary Sites

If provision was inadequate on permanent sites, the position on temporary / tolerated sites was much worse.

TABLE 5B: FACILITIES ON TEMPORARY/TOLERATED SITES IN LONDON AS AT NOVEMBER 1994

Local	Running Water	Elec.	Flush	Play WCs	Am/Ty Areas	Laund	Refuse	No of Facilities	Week's Rent	Weekly Council Tax
BRENT (1)	**	**	**				**	4	£68dbl £55 sgl	N/A
CAMDEN (2)	**		**				**	3	0	N/A
GREENWICH (4)	**		**				**	3	0	0
SOUTHWARK (3)	**		**				**	3	0	0

LWLC Survey, November 1994

- (1) Brent – Travellers have lived on this official temporary site since 1987
 (2) and (3) Camden and Southwark – have facilities on these sites since the survey. Camden sites are now permanent.
 (4) Greenwich's temporary / tolerated site is now no longer in existence.

“There is only one toilet per pitch – that means that several families have to share one toilet. The toilets designed to last 2 years have been in use for more than 10 years... The power often goes off for minutes at a time ...leaving families without heat, lighting or hot water.”

“There is only one toilet per pitch – that means that several families have to share one toilet. The toilets designed to last 2 years have been in use for more than 10 years...The power often goes off for minutes at a time...leaving families without heat, lighting or hot water”. Since the LIWC survey, Brent Council have submitted proposals to establish a permanent site. Camden and Southwark have upgraded facilities on their temporary sites. The sites in Camden are now permanent and Travellers living on Southwark’s Temporary site have been guaranteed alternative relocation if the site is needed for redevelopment. Greenwich’s temporary / tolerated sites are no longer in existence.

The consequences of under-provision on temporary sites are bleak and once again, it is women and children who are particularly put at risk.

Ethnic Monitoring

Most of the sample carried out some form of ethnic monitoring, although not all of these included the Irish in their ethnic monitoring programmes and hardly any Local Authorities specifically monitored Travellers.

Table 6 shows that 16 of the 22 respondents carried out ethnic monitoring.

50% of these included the Irish as a separate ethnic category. This figure rises from 8 to 13 if updated information from an Irish in Britain Representation Group (IBRG) survey carried out in October 1995 is also taken into account.

ONLY 2 local authorities who responded to the LIWC survey carried out ethnic monitoring of Travellers.

TABLE 6: ETHNIC MONITORING IN LONDON BOROUGH, AS AT NOVEMBER 1994

Local Authority	Ethnic	Irish	Travellers	Ethnic Monitoring
BEXLEY	NO	N/A (1)	NO	NO
BRENT	YES	YES	NO	EDUCATION
BROMLEY	NO	NO	YES	EDUCATION, HOUSING, SOCIAL SERVICES
CAMDEN	YES	YES	NO	EDUCATION
CROYDON	YES	N/A (2)	NO	NO
GREENWICH	YES	YES	NO	NO
HACKNEY	YES	YES	NO	EDUCATION
HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM	YES	N/A (3)	NO	NO
HARINGEY	YES	YES	NO	N/A
HARROW	YES	NO (4)	NO	EDUCATION
HILLINGDON	N/A	N/A (5)	NO	EDUCATION
HOUNSLOW	YES	YES	NO	NO
KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA	NO	NO	N/A	N/A
KINGSTON UPON THAMES	YES	NO (6)	(6)	NO
LAMBETH	YES	YES	NO	NO
LEWISHAM	YES	NO (7)	YES	EDUCATION, HOUSING, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES.
MERTON	YES	N/A (8)	NO	EDUCATION
NEWHAM	YES	YES	NO	N/A
SOUTHWARK	YES	YES	NO	NO
TOWER HAMLETS	NO	N/A (9)	NO	NO
WALTHAM FOREST	YES	YES	NO	N/A
CITY OF LONDON	NO	N/A (10)	N/A	N/A

LIWC Survey, November 1994

IBRG survey, 1995 shows that :

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bexley are considering monitoring Irish as a separate ethnic minority. 2. Croydon are considering monitoring Irish as a separate ethnic minority. 3. Hammersmith monitor Irish as separate ethnic minority 4. Harrow do not monitor Irish. Use 'other' category (LIWC survey) 5. Hillingdon do not monitor Irish as a separate category (IBRG survey). 6. Kingston do not monitor Irish. Use 'other' category to include Irish and Travellers (LIWC survey). | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Lewisham have agreed to monitor Irish separately from 02/11/95 (IBRG survey). 8. Merton monitor Irish as separate ethnic minority (IBRG) 9. Tower Hamlets monitor Irish as separate ethnic minority (IBRG) 10. City of London monitor Irish as separate ethnic minority (IBRG) |
|--|--|

These were Bromley & Lewisham. Lewisham Council applied a very comprehensive definition of Travellers in its ethnic monitoring. It monitored all the groups listed in our questionnaire; Irish Travellers, Scottish Travellers, Welsh Travellers, English Travellers, Immigrant Romani Communities, New Age Travellers or Peace Convoy, Circus People and Fairground People.

Bromley Council monitored some of the categories listed. In this Borough the groups targeted were, English Travellers, Welsh Travellers, Irish Travellers and New Age Travellers or Peace Convoy.

Although the overwhelming majority of local authorities excluded Travellers as a specific ethnic group in their Equality Targeting programmes, individual officers in most boroughs, including Brent, Camden, Hackney, Hammersmith & Fulham, Haringey Harrow and Southwark informed us that Irish Travellers formed the majority of Travellers in their areas. Bromley had a very high proportion of English and some New Age Travellers. Greenwich and Newham identified mostly English Travellers. Scottish, Welsh and immigrant Romani communities were also identified in a number of boroughs. The ethnicity of Travellers was based upon officer's individual perceptions of the Travellers with whom they had contact.

Departmental monitoring

Ethnic monitoring of Travellers did take place in some council departments. As Table 6 shows, 8 local authorities carried out ethnic monitoring of Travellers in at least one council department.

Lewisham Council stated that it monitored Travellers in all the departments referred to in the questionnaire; education, environmental health, housing & social services while Bromley monitored Travellers in education, housing and social services.

Education departments in Brent, Camden, Hackney, Harrow, Hillingdon, Merton, Southwark and Tower Hamlets monitored Travellers. Local authorities who receive Section 210 funding under the 1956 Education Act for Travellers education are required to carry out ethnic monitoring.

Recording of Travellers

Local Authorities appeared to have very little information on the numbers of Travellers resident in their boroughs. No uniform method of collating figures existed. Figures were either non-existent or collected in a haphazard way.

In Table 7, 16 local authority respondents claimed to keep records on Travellers resident in their areas but only 12 Councils were either willing or able to supply figures. The figures provided by councils were taken to refer to the total number of individual Travellers resident in the borough. Two councils stated that their figures referred to the total number of Traveller families.

Considerable and frankly unbelievable variations existed between Councils, with Bromley recording some 5,000 Travellers in their Borough while neighbouring Bexley claimed 45. Records were most likely to be kept of Travellers living on permanent sites. This was presumably in response to the requests for information made by the DOE for their bi-annual counts.

In Table 8, 19 of the sample claimed to keep records of Travellers living on their permanent sites while 13 supplied figures. Figures of the numbers of Travellers living in houses on the other hand were virtually non-existent.

Only 4 out of 22 councils who responded to the survey claimed to record Travellers living in houses and only Bromley and Harrow were able to supply figures.

Only 4 Councils could estimate the proportion of Travellers in relation to the total Borough population.

TABLE 7: RECORDS OF TRAVELLERS AS AT NOVEMBER 1995

Local Authority	Do you have records of Travellers in area - How many?	Does this include those in Housing	What proportion are Travellers of Total Population
BEXLEY	45 People (1)	NO	N/A
BRENT	2,000 people	YES	0.8%
BROMLEY	5000 people	YES 4,900	2%
CAMDEN	42 people (2)	NO	N/A
CROYDON	N/A	N/A	N/A
GREENWICH	Yes but no figures supplied	NO	N/A
HACKNEY	104 people	NO	N/A
HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM	NO	N/A	N/A
HARINGEY	128 people	NO	N/A
HARROW **	209 people (3)	YES 124 (3)	N/A
HILLINGDON	88 people (4)	NO	N/A
HOUNSLOW	Yes but no figures supplied	N/A	N/A
KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA	N/A	N/A	N/A
KINGSTON UPON THAMES	NO	N/A	N/A
LAMBETH	NO	NO	0.015%
LEWISHAM	176 people	NO	TOO SMALL TO ESTIMATE
MERTON	15 Families	NO	NEGLIGIBLE
NEWHAM	Yes but no figures supplied	YES	N/A
SOUTHWARK	42 Families	NO	N/A
TOWER HAMLETS	41 people	NO	LESS THAN 1%
WALTHAM FOREST	Yes but no figures supplied	N/A	N/A
CITY OF LONDON	N/A	N/A	N/A

LIWC Survey, November 1994

(1) BEXLEY 27 ADULTS & 18 CHILDREN - TOTAL 45.
 (2) CAMDEN 16 ADULTS and 26 CHILDREN - TOTAL 42
 (3) HARROW SEE TABLE 9
 (4) HILLINGDON 47 ADULTS & 41 CHILDREN - TOTAL 88.

TABLE 8: RECORDING OF TRAVELLERS ON SITES AND IN HOUSING, AS AT NOVEMBER 1994

Local Authority	Do you keep Records Travellers on Permanent sites	Records of Travellers on Tolerated/Temporary Sites	Records of Travellers in Permanent Housing	Records of Travellers in Temporary Housing
BEXLEY	45 people	N/A	NO	NO
BRENT	No permanent sites	250 people	yes but no figures	NO
BROMLEY	115 people	NO	YES	YES
CAMDEN	25 people	17 people	NO	N/A
CROYDON	30 people	N/A	N/A	N/A
GREENWICH	Yes but no figures	Y but no figs	NO	NO
HACKNEY	104 people	N/A	NO	NO
HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM	Yes but no figures	N/A	NO	NO
HARINGEY	128 people	NO	NO	NO
HARROW	85 people	N/A	124 (1)	(2)
HILLINGDON	88 people	NO	NO	NO
HOUNSLOW	Yes but no figures	N/A	NO	NO
KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
KINGSTON UPON THAMES	49 people	NO	NO	NO
LAMBETH	Yes but no figures	NO	NO	NO
LEWISHAM	64 people	NO	NO	NO
MERTON	15 Families	N/A	NO	N/A
NEWHAM	Yes but no figures	N/A	NO (3)	NO
SOUTHWARK	31 Families	11	NO	NO
TOWER HAMLETS	41 people	0 people	NO	NO
WALTHAM FOREST	Yes but no figures	NO	NO	NO
CITY OF LONDON	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

LIWC Survey, November 1994

(1) and (2) (Harrow - See Table 9. (Records kept on children in schools for purpose of applying for section 210 funding for Travellers education).
 (3) Newham. In Table 7, this council claimed its borough records included Travellers in housing.

"I have 10 kids and a special needs child... They don't like it here... They've been called names "Gypsy" and "smelly". The youngest have been beaten up ...and the oldest ones keep getting stopped and searched by the police on the street" Bernadette Stokes

TABLE 9: HARROW COUNCIL SURVEY, 16/6/94 1994

	MALE ADULT	FEMALE ADULT	UNDER 5	PRIMARY	SECONDARY
HOUSED	16	43	16	30	19
WATLING FARM SITE	14	15	14	34	8
TOTAL	30	58	30	64	27

Travellers in housing

Despite the very limited recording of Travellers in housing, the data that was provided in the LIWC survey showed an extremely high percentage of Travellers living in houses. Individual officers in most of the local authorities that took part in the survey could not provide figures but believed that large numbers of Travellers were living in housing. This was confirmed by Travellers themselves and by agencies and projects working closely with them.

Harrow Council responded to the LIWC questionnaire by carrying out a snapshot survey of Travellers living on site and in houses on a given day. The figures shown in table 9 were based upon housing department records as at 16/6/94 and included a breakdown between male and female adults, under fives, primary and secondary school children.

Although Harrow did not claim its results to be 'comprehensive', their data was the most detailed record to have emerged from any Council. They also revealed a total of 124 Travellers living in houses compared with a figure of 85 Travellers living on the Council's site.

Harrow Council believed that their figures were a 'considerable underestimate' and did not 'reflect the cumulative numbers of Travellers who had passed through the Borough over a year'.

Neither did they include those Travellers who had stayed on unauthorised sites for approximately 3 weeks. The latter were

estimated to have been between 25 adults and 50 children of combined ages.

The Local Authority stressed that an 'increasing number of Travellers nowadays rent houses or flats privately. These had not been known to the Housing Department and were therefore excluded from the survey results.' (24)

The Harrow experience of large numbers of Travellers living in houses has been confirmed elsewhere both during and since the survey.

Bromley Gypsy Traveller Community Project estimated that approximately 4,900 of the boroughs 5,000 Travellers were living in houses.

The Camden Traveller Education Project estimated that it had supported 80 Traveller children in 20 schools during 1993/94, 85% of whom were living in housing.

The Southwark Traveller Education Project has recorded a 300% increase in the number of housed Travellers using the projects resources during 1995.

Evidence also suggests that Travellers living in houses in London are more nomadic than those living on official sites. Camden's Traveller Education Project revealed that children living on official sites were enrolled on school records for longer and had a more settled school experience than those living in houses. During 1993/94, 68 children living in houses spent an average of 69 weeks in school while 12 children living on official sites during the same period spent an average of 111 weeks in school.

Isobel Connors
with sons Gerry
and Edward,
Hackney

PHOTO: SASS TUFFIN



This movement of Travellers within housing may be related to the fact that Travellers are frequently based in temporary accommodation, and in common with other homeless families have little control over where councils place them or how often they are expected to move. This lack of power is compounded for many Travellers by the extreme shortage of permanent housing suitable for large families. Bernadette Stokes told the LIWC that she **“wouldn’t mind living in a house if it was permanent”** but her family had been very

unhappy since Camden Homeless Persons Section had placed them in temporary accommodation in outer London. And there are other more pressing reasons why Travellers may want to move around within housing.

“I have 10 kids and a special needs child... They don’t like it here... They’ve been called names “Gypsy” and “smelly”. The youngest have been beaten up...and the oldest ones keep getting stopped and searched by the police on the street” Bernadette Stokes



**Kathleen Joyce
with
granddaughter
Mary**

PHOTO SASS TUFFIN

Clearly, while some Travellers may choose to live in housing, many move into this form of accommodation because they have no alternative.

"Lots are going into houses against their will... I know lots who have gone into houses and then come out again. They want to come back on a site. Its better for the children. When they are in a house, they can never go anywhere without the children. On a site the families look after each others kids. I have all my grandchildren here. I think this is the part of the site that's best".

(Kathleen Joyce, Southwark)

Travellers who are separated from the extended family network available on sites can suffer from isolation and depression. They can also experience prejudice and violence from local residents as they attempt to maintain their way of life within a hostile and incompatible environment.

The physical health problems created as a consequence of inadequate site provision have been documented in a small number of health studies but even less research has been carried out into the effects of enforced housing upon the mental and emotional health of Travellers. The picture painted by some Travellers is very bleak indeed.

"Paddy Ryan, Paddy Gavan and Michael MacDonagh have all taken overdoses and Paddy Kerrigan hung himself. These are mostly young men and one of them used to live on the site here. Suicide is new among the Traveller people and I'm sure its big now.... There's also more women on nerve tablets than ever before because they're stuck in houses and blocked in, in these places".

(Kathleen Stokes, Camden)

If the numbers of Travellers living on unauthorised encampments has declined in recent years, this has been matched by a large

scale movement of Travellers into housing which has barely been recorded. This trend has been taking place before the introduction of the Criminal Justice Act. The effect of this upon Travellers should be a matter of great concern to all those who profess a commitment to Equal Opportunities.

Specialist Policies or Service provision for Travellers

Only half of the local authorities who took part in the survey had specific policies for Travellers. While some work was taking place in individual

council departments, policies and services for Travellers were most likely to exist in education.

Table 10 shows that 11 councils, (50% of the sample) claimed to have specialist policies. These tended to be education policies but there were also non-harassment policies and Brent Council had a Travellers Charter which had received positive publicity in the local press. Southwark Council stated that its council policy towards Travellers had been circulated amongst Travellers in the borough. 8 of the 22 respondents provided details of service provision and this was mainly in

TABLE 10: TRAVELLER POLICY AND SERVICE PROVISION IN LONDON AS AT NOVEMBER 1994

Local Authority	Policy	Service/Provision
BEXLEY	NONE	N/A
BRENT	EDUCATION	TRAVELLERS EDUCATION SERVICE & TRAVELLERS CHARTER
BROMLEY	EDUCATION	BROMLEY GYPSY/TRAVELLER COMMUNITY PROJECT & SPECIAL TUITION SERVICE/TRAVELLER SUPPORT
CAMDEN	NON-HARASSMENT POLICY AND EDUCATION	STAFF TRAINING ON TRAVELLERS ISSUES
CROYDON	N/A	N/A
GREENWICH	EDUCATION	N/A
HACKNEY	NON-HARASSMENT POLICY AND EDUCATION	EDUCATION OFFICER, SOCIAL SERVICES SUPPORT TEAM, AND MEDICAL OFFICER.
HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM	NONE	N/A (1)
HARINGEY	NON-HARASSMENT POLICY	SPECIALIST OFFICER IN EDUCATION, HOUSING, SOCIAL SERVICES & HEALTH
HARROW	EDUCATION	UNDER FIVES PLAYGROUP TRAILER WITH PLAY LEADERS & SUPPORT GROUP
HILLINGDON	NONE	N/A
HOUNSLOW	NONE	N/A
KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA	N/A	N/A (2)
KINGSTON UPON THAMES	NONE	N/A
LAMBETH	NONE	NO
LEWISHAM	NON-HARASSMENT POLICY	N/A
MERTON	YES (3)	N/A
NEWHAM	RACIAL HARASSMENT POLICY	QUOTA OF 2 APPLICATIONS PER YEAR FOR TRAVELLERS WHO WANT TO MOVE INTO COUNCIL HOUSING (4)
SOUTHWARK	RACIAL HARASSMENT POLICY POLICY OFFICER AND HOUSING OFFICERS	EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICE AND INPUT FROM IRISH
TOWER HAMLETS	NONE	N/A (5)
WALTHAM FOREST	NONE	N/A (6)
CITY OF LONDON	N/A	N/A

LIWC SURVEY NOVEMBER 1994

- (1) and (2) Since the survey, Hammersmith/Fulham and Kensington/Chelsea Travellers Education Project inform us that between them they employ 2 teachers, 1 part-time Educational Social Worker, and 1 part-time Romanesque translator (for Polish Gypsies), specifically to work with Travellers in both Boroughs.
- (3) Yes - Council state that they have a policy but no information supplied
- (4) Newham employ 2 teachers specifically to work with Travellers (CLASS)
- (5) Tower Hamlet employ 1 teacher specifically to work with Travellers and 1 Education Welfare Officer (CLASS)
- (6) Camden, Hackney, Southwark and Tower Hamlets are also part of a Cross Boroughs Traveller Education Project co-ordinated by CLASS.

(6) Waltham Forest now have a weekly housing surgery on site.

NEW TRAVELLERS CHARTER FOR BRENT

BRENT COUNCIL last week adopted a charter for travellers which will greatly improve the situation faced by the many travelling families in the borough.

A motion, proposed by Cllr Helga Gladbamb, was passed at a council meeting last Wednesday adopting a charter produced by

Charter to protect rights of travellers

TRAVELLERS who feel they have been unfairly treated by Brent Council have won a minor victory.

The council agreed last week to adopt a Travellers' Charter based on the one drawn up by Sheffield Gypsy and Traveller Support Group.

It will spell out the rights of travelling groups, including:

- social, legal and economic protection
- equality of educational opportunity
- accommodation which suits their social and cultural needs
- freedom of movement and opinion
- protection from discrimination

education. The figure increases to 9 if we include Waltham Forest who have begun operating a weekly advice surgery on their Travellers site since the LIWC survey was carried out.

Specialist Staff in Council Departments.

Table 11 gives a breakdown of the numbers of specialist staff employed in council departments and includes details of their work experience with Travellers.

John Stokes,
Camden

PHOTO SASS TUFFIN

Again, education departments appeared to give the highest priority to Travellers' needs. 13 of the 22 respondents said that they had officers employed specifically to work with Travellers. If additional figures provided by Brian Foster, Cross-boroughs co-ordinator for the Travellers Education Project are taken into account, this number rises to 15 which is almost two thirds of the total sample.

The high level of work undertaken by education departments in comparison with other council departments could be related to the availability of section 210 funding available for Travellers education under the 1956 Education Act. Surprisingly, not all councils in London have applied for this funding (according to Brian Foster.)

There were some specialist staff working with Travellers in housing, environmental health and social services but it was unclear from the survey returns how much time these officers devoted to Travellers. Some local authorities stressed that their specialist staff carried out Traveller's work as part of their duties only, while several respondents stressed that all council staff were expected to work with Travellers. In Southwark, the Irish Policy Officer had undertaken some work with Travellers as part of his overall workload and had actively campaigned against anti-Traveller signs in local pubs. It was unclear from some of the responses what specific experience individual officers had with Travellers before being appointed to their posts.

Overall, the level of provision was not particularly high, and although the survey did not extend to the voluntary sector in London, existing evidence from the LIWC's own contacts suggests that there are only a small number of voluntary funded organisations who provide services for Travellers.



TABLE 11: SPECIALIST STAFF FOR TRAVELLERS IN LONDON, NOVEMBER 1994

Local Authority	Education	Environ. Health	Housing	Social Services	Work Experience with Travellers
BEXLEY	N/A	2	N/A	N/A	MANAGEMENT OF SITE
BRENT	4	NO	1	NO	EDUCATION HEAD OF SERVICE 7 YRS. EXPERIENCE
BROMLEY	8	1	NO	NO	INSET TRAINING FOR STAFF
CAMDEN	1. 25	3	2	Yes but no figures supplied	SPECIALIST EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH TRAVELLERS
CROYDON	N/A	NO	NO	NO	N/A
GREENWICH	1	NO	1	NO	SPECIALIST KNOWLEDGE AND MANAGEMENT SKILLS.
HACKNEY	3	1	2	4	EXPERIENCE OF TRAVELLERS ISSUES
HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM	N/A (1)	N/A	NO	N/A	N/A
HARINGEY	3	NO	1	2	MANY YEARS EXPERIENCE
HARROW	2	NO	1	NO	SITE MANAGER, HAS IOU CERTIFICATE IN SITE MANAGEMENT
HILLINGDON	2	N/A	1	NO	PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE OF TEACHING ETHNIC MINORITIES AND WORKING WITH FAMILIES
HOUNSLOW	3. 5	1	Yes but no figures	NO	N/A
KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA	N/A (2)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
KINGSTON UPON THAMES	NO	NO	NO	NO	N/A
LAMBETH	1	NO	NO	NO	TEACHER HAS WORK EXPERIENCE WITH TRAVELLERS
LEWISHAM	3	1	Yes but no figures	NO	Head of Est. Mgt. has over 20 years experience in Traveller Related matters. Teaching staff also trained and experienced.
MERTON	N/A	NO	NO	NO	N/A
NEWHAM	1 (3)	NO	1	1	TEACHING & SOCIAL SERVICES EXPERIENCE OF TRAVELLERS
SOUTHWARK	1. 5	NO	NO	NO	IRISH POLICY OFFICER EXPERIENCE OF TRAVELLER ISSUES.
TOWER HAMLETS	NO (4)	NO	NO	NO	N/A
WALTHAM FOREST	N/A	NO	NO	N/A	N/A
CITY OF LONDON	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

LIWC Survey, November 1994

Some Councils stated that in addition to their specialist staff, staff in all departments were expected to work with Travellers.

Southwarks Policy Officer also undertook some Travellers work.

(1) - (4) - see notes 1-4 beneath Table 10

Travellers interviewed by the LIWC valued some of the services they received but felt that many were inadequate. The provision of education was felt to be particularly important by those whose lives had been constantly disrupted by evictions.

"I didn't get much education. Lots of Travelling people have never had the chance. In all the years I've been travelling on the road I've only been to school for about one week. Some of the schools wouldn't have much time for you, maybe because you're a Traveller, but education is important for big people and for children. You haven't got a chance without education.. If you go anywhere you can't read the names on the streets and you can't fill in a form. You see other people reading newspapers and you don't know what they're reading. Where can you get without education? I'm sorry now that I didn't learn. It's too late now... When you get a letter you know nothing".

(Kathleen Boyle, Hackney)

Council Committees and Travellers

Travellers' issues did not appear to rank very highly on the political agenda of most councils. Only half of the sample were able to name a committee responsible for addressing Travellers issues and of these, only one third could recall

having received a report relating to Travellers within the past year. This was during a period when major legislation was going through parliament which would clearly affect Travellers lives.

Table 12 shows that while no specialist committees existed for Travellers, specialist liaison groups or working parties operated in Brent, Hackney Lewisham and Southwark. These consisted mainly of officers and representatives from voluntary agencies working with Travellers. The decisions taken were not legally binding or accountable to Travellers and the wider community. Brent's Travellers Liaison group met bi-monthly and was attended by council officers from a number of departments, in addition to health and voluntary agencies. **'Although limited in its capacity to change things'** the group **'provided a useful forum for raising health and other issues'**. **"This was positive in itself"** according to Mona Carr, a worker with Brent Equal Access, one of voluntary agencies involved.

Newham Council sent its officers to the Travellers' Association. This was attended by mostly women Travellers from Clays Lane site, as

TABLE 12: COUNCIL COMMITTEES – TRAVELLERS IN LONDON, NOVEMBER 1994

Local Authorities	Specialist Committee for Travellers	Council Committee responsible for Travellers' issues	Number of Reports concerning Travellers dealt with at Committee in the previous 12 months
BEXLEY	NONE	HOUSING & PERSONAL SERVICES CTTEE	
BRENT	TRAVELLERS LIAISON GROUP OFFICERS (1)	HOUSING CTTEE	5
BROMLEY	NONE	NONE	N/A
CAMDEN	NONE	PUBLIC HEALTH SUB- CTTEE	5
CROYDON	NONE	N/A	N/A
GREENWICH	NONE	HOUSING CTTEE	N/A
HACKNEY	NONE (TRAVELLERS LIAISON GROUP)	HOUSING SERVICES CTTEE	1
HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM	NONE	NONE	N/A
HARINGEY	NONE (PREV. DID)	HOUSING CTTEE	2
HARROW	NONE	HOUSING CTTEE	0
HILLINGDON	NONE	HOUSING CTTEE	N/A
HOUNSLOW	NONE	NONE	0
KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA	N/A	N/A	N/A
KINGSTON UPON THAMES	NONE	NONE	0
LAMBETH	NONE	NONE	1
LEWISHAM	TRAVELLERS LIAISON GROUP (2)	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	0
MERTON	NONE	NONE	0
NEWHAM	RESIDENTS ASSOC (3)	N/A	2
SOUTHWARK	TRAVELLERS WORKING PARTY (4)	HOUSING EQUALITIES SUBCOMMITTEE	3
TOWER HAMLETS	NONE	COMMUNITY SERVICES	0
WALTHAM FOREST	NONE	NONE	N/A
CITY OF LONDON	N/A	N/A	N/A

LIWC Survey, November 1994

- (1) Some Councils provided details of other Specialist bodies in response to this question. Travellers Liaison Groups are not council committees with Councillors. They are usually staffed by officers and are occasionally attended by Travellers or Travellers reps.
- (2) Lewisham – Officers dealing with Travellers also report to Deputy Leader of Council, who has overall responsibility for Traveller matters and regularly visits sites.
- (3) Newham sends Officers to the Travellers Residents Association. This is attended by Travellers from Clays Lane Site, mostly women, and other local representatives.
- (4) Southwark's Travellers Working Party has no official status, but is attended by Councillors and Officers. Southwark Irish Forum also deals with Travellers issues.

well as representatives from the neighbouring housing co-op and college according to Josie Lee, one of the sites residents.

In Lewisham, the Deputy Leader of the Council dealt directly with the Traveller's Liaison Group and had overall responsibility for Travellers.

11 local authorities (50% of the respondents) were aware of the appropriate council committee dealing with Travellers.

In most cases the 'appropriate committee' tended to be the Housing Committee but as table 12 shows, Public Health or Environmental Services committees also had responsibility for Travellers' issues while in Tower Hamlets the Community Services was the key Committee with responsibility for Travellers.

Interestingly, only Southwark Council mentioned its Equality Committee as one of its council committees with responsibility for addressing Travellers' issues. Other councils with Equality Committees did not mention this. This omission could imply that the survey respondent had limited knowledge about the council's political commitment to Travellers, but it could also

indicate that the local authorities Equality Committees were themselves ignoring Travellers' needs. Whatever the case, the issue is of importance in highlighting the degree to which Travellers' concerns are marginalised even within the framework of equal opportunities.

Meanwhile, only seven or one third of the local authorities who identified council committees with responsibility for Travellers had received a report at Council Committee concerning Traveller's needs in the past 12 months.

This state of affairs reflects and compounds the political isolation of Travellers. If councils are not addressing the issues and listening to Travellers, they are much more likely to make ill informed and inappropriate decisions. Hackney's permanent site opened in January 1993, is situated on the busy Waterden road, in close proximity to the River Lee, and far away from schools and shops. Its location '**was not the preferred one of the Travellers themselves**' according to a Save the Children Fund report, published in August 1994 (25), but they still went ahead and built it there. Travellers have had to live with the consequences of this decision.

Please reply to:

Mickeen McCarthy
Gransden Avenue
Caravan Site
London E8

Hackney Councillors
The Town Hall, Mare Street,
London E8

13th January 1992

Dear Hackney Councillor,

If we had been consulted by Hackney Council about where to build a site that would meet our needs, these are the things we would have asked for;

-small sites on a safe road, in walking distance of schools, shops, doctors and other services

Some of us are putting our names down for the site on Waterden Road because we have no choice. We are sending this letter because if there are problems on Waterden Road, should it be built, we don't want Travellers to get the blame. We are very worried about how our children will get to school and how they will be treated when so many start going to the school.

We should like a consultation meeting of all Hackney travellers providing the Council take what we say seriously.

Yours sincerely,

EBOYLE

MICHAEL and MARY Joyce

Mrs Elizabeth McDonagh Martina Mareghans
DAVID RYAN AND KATHLEEN
DAVID DENAPETTE JOYCE

BOYCE + CO Thomas MALONEY

TIMOTHY JOYCE BOYLE

K JOYCE Eileen mareghans

Pat Joyce Winifred

John James Boyle

Joyce

JCONMORS

Hackney Travellers,
(residing & resorting to the Borough).

"It took us over 7 years to get this site ,..... We went to meetings every month – sometimes twice a month." Kathleen Joyce, Southwark

But while Travellers have neither ready access nor status within the decision making structures of local government, in common with many council and private tenants, they have frequently fought for provision, and had successes. In September 1995, 8 Traveller women from an unauthorised site in Hackney, supported by the London Gypsy and Traveller Unit, attended a deputation to the Council's Policy and Resources Committee, to argue against their impending eviction and for basic site facilities. The next day, skips and toilets were provided on site, and the Travellers managed to delay their threatened evictions. Other Travellers have fought and won site provision in London.

"I was 6 years waiting for a site. I went to an awful lot of meetings. I was moving around the country for years before then.....Now I have a bath and hot and cold water. I have my caravan and that's the main thing". (Kathleen Stokes, Camden)

TABLE 13: COUNCILS' RESPONSES TO CHANGES IN LEGISLATION AFFECTING TRAVELLERS AS AT NOVEMBER 1994

Local Authority	Did L.A. Respond to DOE Consultation on Reform of Caravan Sites Act?	Did the L.A want the Caravan Sites Act to be Repealed?	Did the L.A Support the Government's Proposed New Legislation?	Had the L.A Discussed the Implications of the Criminal Justice Bill for Travellers?
BEXLEY	NO	N/A	N/A	NO
BRENT	NO	N/A	N/A	NO
BROMLEY	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
CAMDEN	YES	NO	NO	YES
CROYDON	YES	NO	NO	YES
GREENWICH	YES	NO	NO	YES
HACKNEY	YES	NO	NO	YES
HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
HARINGEY	YES	NO	NO	YES
HARROW	NO	NO	N/A	NO
HILLINGDON	N/A	N/A	N/A	NO
HOUNSLOW	YES	NO	NO	NO
KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
KINGSTON UPON THAMES	YES	CRITICAL	RESPONSE	NO
LAMBETH	NO	N/A	N/A	NO
MERTON	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
NEWHAM	YES	NO	NO	YES
SOUTHWARK	YES	NO	NO	NO
TOWER HAMLETS	YES	NO	NO	NO
WALTHAM FOREST	YES	NO	NO	NO (1)
CITY OF LONDON	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

LWIC Survey, November 1994

(1) Waltham Forest Housing Committee will be receiving a report on the CJA and Travellers in March 1996



Kathleen Stokes and Angie Birtill, LIWC, Camden

PHOTO: SASS TUFFIN

"It took us over 7 years to get this site,..... We went to meetings every month – sometimes twice a month."
(Kathleen Joyce, Southwark)

Responses to legislation affecting Travellers lives

Finally, as table 13 shows **11 local authorities, 50% of the sample had responded to the Governments Consultation Paper on the Reform of the Caravan Sites Act. All these had either criticised or expressed opposition to the Repeal of the 1968 Caravan Sites Act and the DOE's proposed new legislation.**

Although a full analysis of the responses received by the DOE to its consultation paper has never been published, independent research undertaken by ACERT shows that the vast

majority of London boroughs and local authorities throughout the country believed that the new proposals were unworkable.

While local authority opposition to the changes in legislation was made clear to the Government through individual submissions, there does not appear to have been much discussion around the impact of the legislation upon Travellers' lives.

Only 6 Local Authorities had discussed the implications of the proposed legislation at committee level.

This highlights the extent to which local authorities have become de-politicised in recent years, but it also shows that the concerns of Travellers do not figure high on the political agenda.

Summary of Findings

Traveller site provision in London falls short of demand

- The majority of Travellers in London are currently living in temporary and permanent housing, many against their will.
- From the sample of 22 local authorities who responded to the survey, 19 provided at least one permanent site for Travellers.
- Approximately two thirds of these sites provided 15 pitches or less, while just over one fifth provided more than 20 pitches.
- Only 4 local authority respondents provided temporary sites.
- Long waiting lists for access to council sites existed in many areas.

Travellers pay rent and council tax but receive very little in return

- 18 of 22 respondents collected rent and 15 collected council tax from Travellers living on permanent sites. One quarter of the councils providing temporary sites collected rent and council tax.
- The highest rent being charged by a local authority was in Brent where Travellers on its temporary site were paying £68 for renting a double pitch.
- Travellers on permanent and temporary sites did not have the same security of tenure as council tenants.
- The majority of local authorities with permanent sites undertook refuse collections and provided water, electricity and toilets, but less than half provided laundry facilities, and fewer than a third had made provision for children.

- No laundry and under-fives facilities existed on any of the temporary sites.

Local Authorities are failing to address the needs of Travellers

- Only 2 local authorities carried out ethnic monitoring of Travellers.
- Only 12 councils were able to supply any records on the numbers of Travellers in their boroughs and almost all of these related only to Travellers living on official sites.
- Only 11 councils (half of the respondents) had specific policies for Travellers and 8 provided details of specialist service provision. Few local authorities provided specialist staff to deal with Travellers.
- Only 4 of the 22 councils who responded to the survey recorded Travellers living in houses and only Bromley and Harrow were able to supply figures.
- Approximately two thirds of the sample carried out ethnic monitoring, and half of these councils monitored the Irish as a separate ethnic category.
- Education Departments were most likely to be carrying out some ethnic monitoring of Travellers, and to have developed specialist policies and provision.
- Only one half of the sample were able to name a committee responsible for Travellers and of these, only one third could recall having received a report relating to Travellers within the past year: this was during a period when major legislation was going through Parliament which would have a major impact upon Travellers.

Conclusion

There is neither adequate nor appropriate provision for Travellers in London. There are huge gaps in both awareness and information about Travellers in London. Travellers, their needs and environment, have been virtually excluded from the current debates about equality and justice.

Discriminatory legislation, combined with the failure of local authorities to provide properly serviced sites, has created a climate in which it is acceptable for Travellers to be barred from pubs, laundrettes and other facilities. It is acceptable for politicians to openly abuse Travellers, and it is not considered an issue worth mentioning that Travellers are being denied their basic human rights.

There is an overwhelming obligation for statutory and voluntary bodies to support Travellers in their struggle for basic rights, and this support must be based upon an acknowledgement of the cultural identity of Travellers, otherwise discrimination and enforced assimilation will continue.

The following recommendations are targeted primarily at those who have the power to make laws and provide resources. They call for drastic action and culturally sensitive policies. But they also target voluntary groups and those who are committed to equal opportunities work. Organisations ranging from citizens advice bureaux to law centres and women's refuges need to ask what are they doing for

Travellers, and to target their resources accordingly.

The LIWC survey is a specific piece of research and it is important. The removal of legislation which safeguarded the Travellers' way of life coincides with the ascendancy of far-Right ideology in this country, and the increasing victimisation of Gypsies and Travellers throughout Europe. In this climate it is important that we are all made aware of current provision for Travellers, and that we align ourselves with Travellers and the campaigns to defend the rights of Travellers.

The following recommendations are based upon the premise that Travellers should be accorded basic human rights. There is an urgent need for statutory bodies and policy makers to recognise and respect the rights of Travellers and to ensure that this minority are allowed to continue their long shared history and distinct cultural identity without persecution.

Recommendations

Central Government

● **Legislation** The Criminal Justice and Public Order Act is anti-Traveller and should be repealed immediately. Urgent Legislation should be introduced making it mandatory for local authorities to provide permanent & temporary sites for Travellers.

● **Resources** Financial support from Central Government has been *crucial* in ensuring the provision of local

authority sites in the past. Grant aid must be restored so that councils can make suitable provision for Travellers.

Changes in Housing corporation finance should be made in order to enable housing associations to build and manage Travellers' sites.

● **Planning** Accommodation policies for Travellers should be based upon an overall plan which takes into account the different needs of Travellers. This should include the setting up of a specialist agency charged solely with the co-ordination and development of Travellers' sites and with special powers to facilitate land acquisition, development and management.

A London wide body should also be established, with responsibility for co-ordinating Travellers' provision in the capital.

● **Consultation** There should be full consultation with Travellers at national and local level in determining the extent and quality of site provision. Care should be taken to ensure that Traveller women are involved in every stage of the decision making process.

● **Monitoring** Travellers should be monitored as a separate and distinct ethnic group by specific government and statutory agencies and this data should be collated, co-ordinated and disseminated by the Department of Environment (DOE).

● **Health** The Department of Health and health organisations should recognise the particular problems

faced by Travellers, and liaise with local authorities, Travellers, and Travellers representatives in providing an expanded and culturally sensitive service.

● **Racism** The Home Office should address institutionalised and other forms of racism against Travellers. Local police should be required to record and publish the use of CJA and Public Order Acts as they are applied to Travellers.

The policing of Travellers and the detention of Traveller children should be subject to a separate, open and fully independent review

Concerted action should be taken in tandem with the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) and local authorities against anti-Traveller signs in pubs and other public places.

The CRE should also work in partnership with Travellers and community groups in tackling the unequal treatment of Travellers when accessing welfare benefits. The Benefits Agency should address the adverse impact its current policies and practices are having against Travellers.

● **Research** There should be central government funding for further research into the needs of Travellers. This should focus upon living conditions, discrimination, health etc and be conducted in order to meet gaps in provision and to develop services which are culturally sensitive and user friendly.

Local Authorities

● **Policies** Councils should prepare and publish policy statements which affirm the right of Travellers to lead a nomadic lifestyle. Existing Equal Opportunity policies and practices should be reviewed to ensure that Travellers are not being discriminated against in any area of service delivery. The same criteria should also be applied to groups funded by the council.

Councils should adopt self denying ordinances refusing to implement the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act in relation to Travellers. The local police should be made aware of this policy.

Local Authority District Plans should commit councils to making adequate site provision for Travellers.

Councils should adopt 'non-harassment' policies and not pursue the automatic eviction of Travellers from its own unused land where there are no immediate plans for redevelopment. Where evictions of Travellers are being considered, local authorities should follow the guidelines issued in DOE Circulars 18/94 & 1/94 and in recent court decisions which urge a policy of tolerance towards Travellers. (Crown against Lincoln County Council and Wealdon District Council 31/8/95)

Councils should actively contest licences from publicans who display anti-Traveller signs and publicise action taken on this issue.

● **Accommodation** Councils should apply the discretionary powers

available under section 24 of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 and provide permanent and temporary sites for Travellers. All accommodation should be planned in consultation with local Travellers with careful consideration given to sizes of sites and site provision. Sites should be located in safe areas with access to shops, transport, schools and other social contacts. Site facilities should include play areas and laundry facilities.

● **Security of tenure** Site Licences should be replaced by Tenancies with clear written guidance on Travellers' rights.

● **Housing** Travellers who wish to live in houses should be accorded the same rights as settled people. Local Authorities should ensure that they meet their statutory responsibilities towards homeless Travellers without prejudice or discrimination.

● **Increased communication with Travellers** Local Authorities should make strenuous efforts to bridge the major divide that currently exists between statutory providers and the Traveller community.

Council policies and services, including details of advice surgeries should be publicised on Travellers' sites and amongst groups working directly with Travellers.

Councils should ensure that Travellers are kept informed of and consulted about policy changes and developments which may impact upon their lives.

Travellers should be given access and



Staffordshire street site, Southwark

positive encouragement to become involved in the decision making process.

● **Services:** Service provision will not be accessible to Travellers if it is viewed in isolation from Travellers' identity and cultural values. Councils need to be flexible and innovative in addressing Travellers' needs.

There should be clear lines of responsibility established within local authorities for implementing council policy towards Travellers. These should include council committees and specific departments with responsibility for addressing the needs of Travellers in the Borough. There should be clear co-ordination of all council departments to ensure that Travellers' needs are included in Borough Plans and Strategies.

Councils should make use of sections 5(2)d, 37 and 38 of the Race Relations Act in;

a) recruiting specialist staff to work

with Travellers in key Council departments, including Housing, Social Services, Education and Environmental Health departments.

b) providing specialist training for all staff working with Travellers. This training should incorporate an Irish dimension in boroughs where there are large numbers of Irish Travellers.

Councils should ensure that they take up Section 210 funding available under the 1956 Education Act for Travellers education in addition to addressing Travellers educational needs with council resources.

● **Monitoring** Councils should record Irish applicants and Travellers as distinct ethnic minorities. Data should include a breakdown by age and gender and be used to address any inequalities in service delivery.

Voluntary Agencies

All frontline agencies, including Irish organisations, women's refuges, law centres and citizens advice bureaux should review the operation of their

Equal Opportunity policies in relation to Travellers.

Agencies should organise specialist Travellers' awareness training for staff and monitor the take-up of their services by Travellers.

Voluntary agencies should publicise their services amongst local Travellers and undertake outreach work within this community if necessary.

Agencies, particularly law centres should acknowledge the effect of the CJA upon Travellers and prioritise the defence of this community through the use of appropriate legislation, eg judicial review procedure, sec 17, Children Act, 89; Part 3 of Housing Act 85.

Voluntary agencies should work alongside Travellers and be willing to initiate and support campaigns in defence of Travellers' rights. These could include campaigns against anti-Traveller signs and in opposition to the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act.

Appendix

LONDON IRISH WOMEN'S CENTRE
TRAVELLERS' QUESTIONNAIRE TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES
March 1994

1. Does your Council have a policy of any policies regarding the provision of services to Travellers (eg non-harassment, education)? YES/NO
It would be helpful if you would supply a copy(s) of any relevant documents.

2. Do you provide any permanent Travellers' sites under Section 15, Caravan Sites Act 1968? YES/NO
a) If YES, how many?
b) if NO, why not?
.....
.....
.....
.....

c) Do you have any designated powers? YES/NO
d) Do you have designated powers with nil provision? YES/NO

3. If your Council does provide a permanent site(s)
a) What security of tenure, if any, do Travellers have?
.....
.....
.....
.....

b) Does the Council provide a Travellers' Charter? YES/NO
c) Do residents pay rent? YES/NO
d) If YES to (c), how much rent per week? £.....
e) Do residents pay Council Tax? YES/NO
f) If YES to (e), how much per week? £.....

4. Do you provide any temporary or tolerated sites within your council area? YES/NO
a) if YES, how many?
b) if NO, why not?.....
.....
.....
.....

c) what security of tenure do Travellers have, if any?
.....
.....
.....
.....

d) do residents pay rent? YES/NO
e) if YES to (d), how much per week? £.....
f) do residents pay Council Tax? YES/NO
g) if YES to (f) how much per week? £.....

5. What provision exists on the Council's permanent sites?
Please tick
a) running water

b) electricity
c) flush WCs
d) play areas for under 5s and older children
e) amenity huts, e.g. bathrooms, showers
f) laundry and washing facilities
g) regular refuse collections

6. What provision, if any, exists on the Council's temporary sites?
Please tick.
a) running water
b) electricity
c) flush WCs
d) play areas for under 5s and older children
e) amenity huts, e.g. bathrooms, showers
f) laundry and washing facilities
g) regular refuse collections

7. Do you carry out ethnic monitoring? YES/NO
a) if YES, which categories are uses?
(Please send details of ethnic monitoring procedures)

8. Do you carry out ethnic monitoring of Travellers? YES/NO
a) if YES, do you include any of all of the following groups?
Please tick
*Irish Travellers (Minceirs or Parvees)
*Scottish Travellers (Nawkins or Cairds)
*Welsh Travellers (Kale)
*English and Welsh Travellers (Gypsies or Romanichals)
*Immigrant Romani Communities (Kalderash, Romungri or Rudari)
*New Age Travellers or Peace Convoy
*Circus People
*Fairground People
b) Do you carry out ethnic monitoring of Travellers in any of the following departments?
Education YES/NO
Housing YES/NO
Environmental Health YES/NO
Social Services YES/NO
Other (Please specify)

9. Do you have records on the number of Travellers who were resident in the Council area at the last count? YES/NO
a) if YES, please indicate how many

b) does this include those in housing YES/NO
c) what proportion do Travellers made up of the Council's total population?

10. a) If you said YES to any part of 8b, what numbers have used the departments in the last 12 months?
Education
Housing
Environmental Health
Social Services
Other

b) What proportion do the figures in 10a make up of the Council's total population?
Education
Housing
Environmental Health
Social Services
Other

11. Do you keep records on
- a) the numbers of Travellers on permanent sites? YES/NO
 - b) the numbers of Travellers on temporary sites? YES/NO
 - c) the numbers of Travellers in permanent housing? YES/NO
 - d) the numbers of Travellers in temporary housing? YES/NO

If YES to 11a or 11b, how many Travellers have been resident in the last 12 months on the following?

- e) permanent sites
- f) temporary sites

12. Do you have any other specialist policy or service provision for Travellers? YES/NO

If YES, please give details

13. Do you have any specialist Staff who work with Travellers in any of the following departments?

- a) Education
- Housing
- Environmental Health
- Social Services
- Other

b) What work experience do these staff have in relation to Travellers?

14. Do you have any specialist council committees which deal exclusively with the needs of Travellers? YES/NO

If YES, please give details

If NO, does any council committee have overall responsibility for Travellers' needs in addition to other responsibilities YES/NO

If YES, Please give details

15. How many reports have come to council committees regarding Travellers' needs in the last 12 months? Please give details, including the committees involved

16. Did your Council respond to the Department of Environment's Consultation Paper on the reform of the Caravan Sites Act? YES/NO

- If YES
- a) Was the council in favour of repealing the Caravan Sites Act? YES/NO
 - b) Was the council in favour of the DOE's proposed new legislation? YES/NO

17. Has your Council discussed the implications of the Criminal Justice Bill for Travellers? YES/NO

Thank you for completing this questionnaire.
 Please return to LIWC by 15 May 1994.

List of Useful Contacts

CAMPAIGN/LEGAL SUPPORT

Coalition against the Criminal Justice Act 0171 793 8316

Colin Roach Centre 56 Clarence Road, London E5 8SW,
0181 533 7111 (Hackney)

Commission for Racial Equality 0171 828 7022

Freedom Network P.O. Box 9384, London SW9 7XB.
0171 582 3474
Campaign against Criminal Justice Act.

Friends and Families of Travellers
Support, advice, legal, planning issues.
0145 883 2371 (Somerset)

Labour Campaign for Travellers' Rights
0113 248 6746 (Leeds)

Law Centres' Federation 0171 387 8570
Will provide details of local Law Centres

Liberty 0171 403 3888

EDUCATION

Advisory Council for the Education of Romany and other Travellers (ACERT) 01279 418666

Gypsy Council for Education, Culture, Welfare and Civil Rights 01708 868 986 (Essex Wed p.m. and Friday)

Cross-boroughs co-ordinator for Traveller Education (CLASS) Brian Foster 0171 387 2699

Traveller Education Project (Brent), 0171 372 1487

Traveller Education Project (Bromley), 0181 300 7587

Traveller Education Service (Camden), 0171 387 2699

Traveller Education Co-ordinator (Ealing),
0181 840 4050 ext. 32

Traveller Education Service (Greenwich), 0181 310 1912

Traveller Education Project (Hackney), 0171 254 3591

Traveller Education Service (Hammersmith, Fulham,
Kensington, Chelsea) 0181 960 9895

Traveller Education Co-ordinator (Haringey),
0181 808 7604

Traveller Education Service (Harrow), 0181 424 3849

Travellers Teachers (Havering), 01708 343 693.

Travellers' Support Services to Schools (Hillingdon),
01895 430070

Travellers' Support Team (Hounslow), 0181 570 3725

Traveller Education Project (Southwark), 0171 701 1962

TRADE, Education and Training for Travellers
0181 741 5567

HEALTH

Easy Access Team 0181 961 9005 (Brent)

Health Visitor for Travellers Mia Cusick, 0181 310 8536
(Greenwich)

Health Worker for Traveller Families Linda Dodge
0181 986 7111 (Hackney)

Health Visitor for Travellers Liz Fletcher, 0181 275 4031
(Haringey)

Healthcare for Travellers 0181 692 1757 (Lewisham)

Maternity Alliance
Minority Ethnic Community Working Group
15 Britannia Street, London WC1X 9JP.

Safe Childbirth for Travellers c/o LGTU 0181 533 2002

IRISH

London Irish Centre
Can provide details of local Irish Centres
0171 916 2222

SUPPORT/TRAVELLERS' UNITS

London Gypsy and Traveller Unit 0181 533 2002
(Camden, Haringey, Hackney)

Society of Travelling People 0113 263 8035 (Yorkshire)

WOMEN

London Irish Women's Centre 0171 249 7318

Rights of Women
Legal advice 0171 251 6577

Solas Anois (Irish Women's Domestic Violence Refuge)
c/o London Women's Aid 0171 251 6537

YOUTH

Travellers' Youth Project 0171 252 6244 (Southwark)



**Nicole and Jacqueline Maughan,
Hackney**

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- 8 B. Cox; *ibid*
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- 13 Hawes & Perez; p12
- 14 Teachers for Travellers; *ibid* p5
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| London Borough of Harrow, Traveller Education Service | 1990 | Information for Schools; An Equal Opportunity Perspective |
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| Liberty | 1995 | Defend diversity, defend dissent. What's wrong with the Criminal Justice & Public Order Act 1994 |
| London Irish Women's Centre | 1993 | Roots and Realities; A profile of Irish Women in London 1993 |
| Maternity Alliance | 1990 | Traveller Mothers and Babies; Who cares for their health? |
| Maternity Alliance | 1990 | Safe Childbirth for Travellers; Information Pack |
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| National Campaign for the Homeless | 1990 | Guide lines for Accommodation Policies in relation to Travellers |
| National Traveller Women's Forum | 1994 | Annual Report |
| Teachers for Travellers | 1989 | Travellers and Education in Inner London |
| Traveller Education Team | 1992 | Moving Stories; Traveller Women Write; Collective Writings |

London Irish women's centre

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London N16 0AR**

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