

ESSEX COUNTYWIDE TRAVELLER UNIT: Operations Performance Update - 28th November 2016



Current performance against strategy / action plan

Unauthorised encampments

At the start of this reporting period, we were continuing to experience very high volumes of encampments in Essex, partly due to the seasonal impact, and also the effect of the two separate family groups continuing their year round occupation of separate parts of the county.



The Police and Crime Commission called a round table meeting for Chief Execs, Authority Leaders, MP's and senior Police officers to discuss a unified approach to attempt to address what has been a step change in the number and behaviour of encampments in the county and the East of England as a whole.

This meeting was well attended, and heavily weighted with ECTU partners. There was a large degree of positivity in the room reference the unit and service, and Stephen Kavanagh, Chief Constable, was particularly vocal in encouraging full membership/participation in the unit as one the action to take forward.

As a result of the meeting, a Task and Finish Group has been set up, chaired by Jane Gardner, Deputy PCC, with the next meeting scheduled for 25th November. The agenda includes:-

1. **Managing illegal encampments** - Learning from Best Practice - Northamptonshire CC, Developing common protocols, Development of a guidance note for Councillors, ECTU Member Training Programme Roll Out
2. **Legislative Changes** The Harlow Proposition , Opportunities for Civil Action
3. **Transit Site Provision**, Potential locations, requirements & costs for establishing a transit site
4. **Communications** - Agenda for next 'Full' Roundtable Quarterly Liaison Meeting

There have been recent significant developments with the two family groups mentioned above. One group were encouraged to leave the district by a local officer, and have not been reported anywhere in Essex since Oct 3rd. The other appear to have left the county since the 21st October following families they have been feuding with in the Midlands area, finding and bring the feud to them in Basildon.

We currently have no intelligence on the whereabouts of either family at the time of writing this report, nor the potential for them to return.

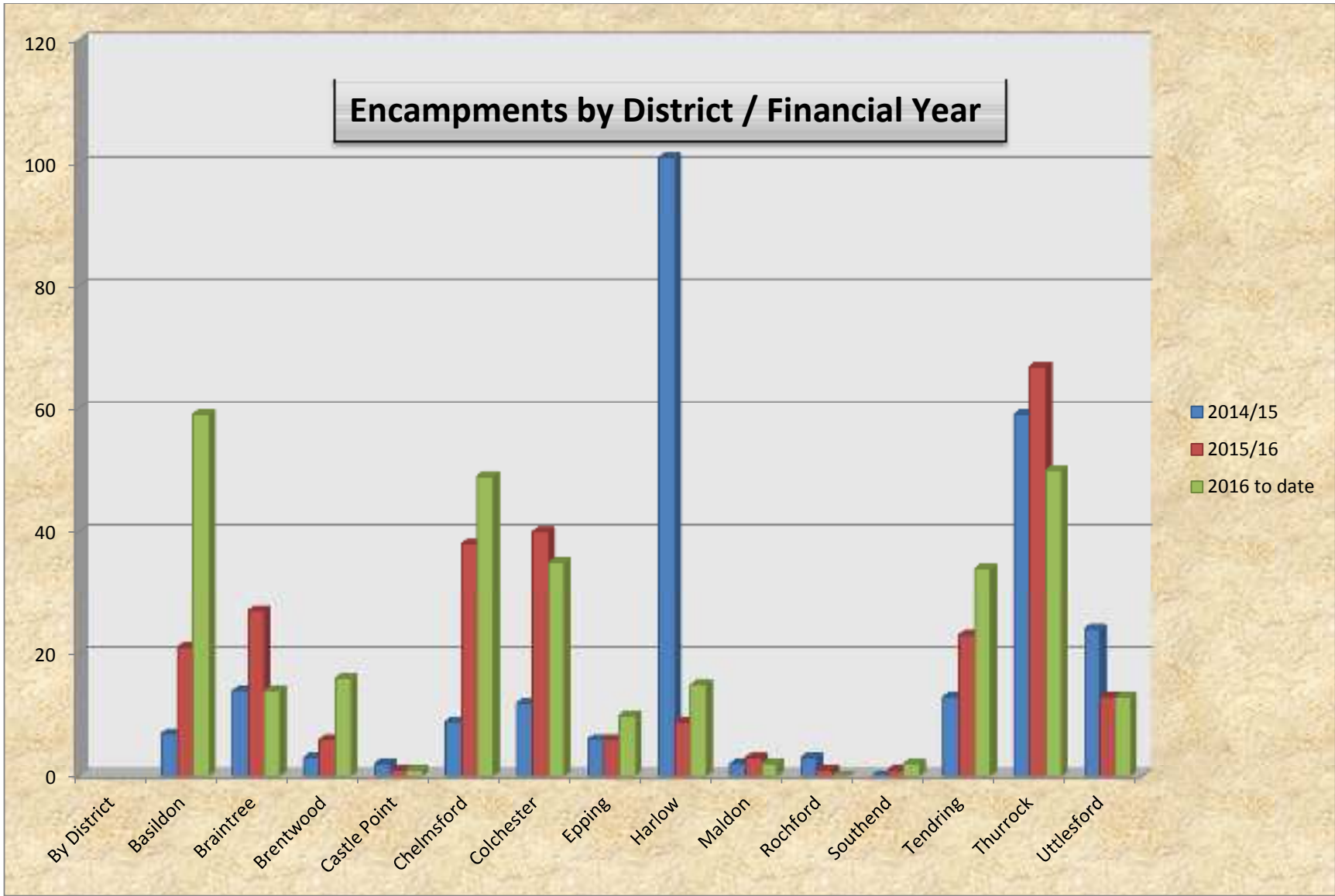
Unauthorised Encampments - Performance

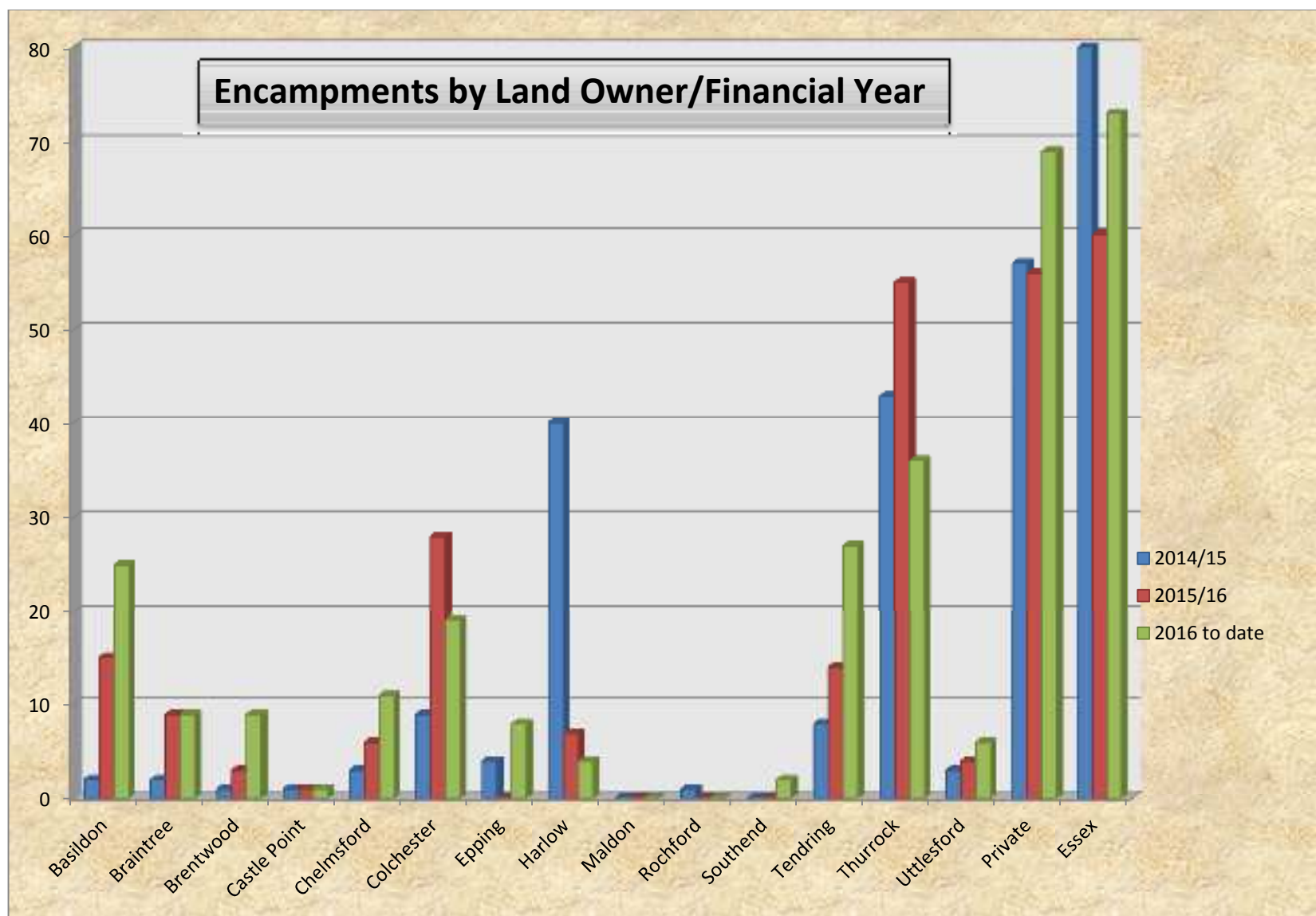
Objective	Sub Division	Target measure	Target	Timescale / Report period	Performance for Report period	Performance Accumulative	Comments
UE visited within 1 working day		%	97%	Jun 16 to Nov 16	98%	99%	Based on current volumes this is an exceptional performance
Number of encampments resolved through	negotiated departure	%	40%	Jun 16 to Nov 16	24%	20%	Low performance as majority of court cases are with the persistent groups
	Court enforcement	%	60%	Jun 16 to Nov 16	69%	69%	As above
Total	Section 77/8 Part 55 Section 61 Negotiated	No. No. No. No.	95 3 4 29	Jun 16 to Nov 16	Data only		
s77's complete within 10 working days		%	98%	Jun 16 to Nov 16	98%	98%	On target
s77's complete within 7 working days		%	95%	Jun 16 to Nov 16	92%	86%	Impacted by persistent group

Unauthorised Encampments - data

Sub Division		Timescale / Report period	Data for Report period	Comments
% of encampments where ECTU are involved		Jun 16 to Nov 16	64%	
Number of encampments	Partner	Nov 15 to Jun 16	138	
	Non-partner	Nov 15 to Jun 16	40	Non-partners may not share all of their encampment details.
	Private	Nov 15 to Jun 16	54	

Encampments by District / Financial Year





Tracking specific groups movements through partner areas... A further request was made reference tracking information – ie tracking the movement/stopping places of any group moving through partner areas. This was carried out in the early stages of the partnership, but due to the changes in the behaviour of Traveller groups following the Harlow encampments, with different groups splitting and reforming, or intermingling with other groups, this is no longer a practicable option, as the resulting outcomes will be too complex. We are continuing to look at alternative solutions.

When is an encampment, not an encampment.

1. Single vehicles legally parked on the roadside, with the possibility of habitation – not Gypsy/Travellers
2. Caravans in residential parking spaces or outside bricks and mortar properties, and hooked up to the latter – not Gypsy/Travellers
3. Tents / unauthorised campers in the true sense – not Gypsy/Traveller

For option 1 – there are no powers available to us as local authorities to take action, unless there are appropriate by laws in place. Action would then be taken by the relevant authority as this falls outside of the ECTU remit

Option 2 – as per option 1 – there may be some actions available to the local authority reference trailing electricity wires, or potential breach of tenancy or rented properties – again outside of ECTU's remit.

Option 3 – unless linked to the Gypsy/Traveller community, they are trespassers so should be addressed by the landowner.

Fire Safety

We are continuing to target groups who did not engage in the initial visits, as well as completing follow up visits etc. We are also adding value in producing more detailed site records including confirmation of site accessibility to appliances, and promoting fire safety outside of the primary site and home fire safety visits.



Fire Safety - Performance

Objective	Scope	Target measure	Target	Timescale / Report period	Performance at previous reporting period	Performance for Report period	Time scale
Home fire safety Visit	Approx 400 homes	% of total homes	70%	Nov 15 to Jun 16	57%	75%	May 17
Smoke Alarms issue	Approx 400 homes plus roadside	% of complete HFSV	75%	Nov 15 to Jun 16	70%	73%	May 17
Site Fire Safety Visits	Approx 174 Sites	% of total sites	75%	Nov 15 to Jun 16	71%	77%	May 17
Provide settled sites data Sheets	Approx 174 Sites	% of total sites	50%	Nov 15 to Jun 16	17%	71% available	Oct 16
“Press to Test” Campaign	County wide	% of total Homes	60%	Nov 15 to Jun 16	na	40%	Ongoing

Fire Safety - Data

	Visits – smoke alarms issued pre current reporting period	Timescale / Report period	Data for Report period	Comments
Home fire safety Visit	213	Nov 15 to Jun 16	86	Total 299
Smoke Alarms issue	263	Nov 15 to Jun 16	104	Total 367
Site Fire Safety Visits	85	Nov 15 to Jun 16	49	Total 134
Provide settled sites data Sheets	30	Nov 15 to Jun 16	95	
Dynamic updates on high risk encampments	ongoing	Nov 15 to Jun 16	ongoing	

Enhanced Data Sheets

Essex Countywide Traveller Unit
Fire Safety Inspection Form

Date of Visit: 20/02/15 Time of Visit: 1:00 PM

Site Name: LINDFIELD

Site Address: Churchill Road
Basildon

Name of Inspecting Officer: AB & BD

Access	Y or N
1. Is access to the site at all times?	Y
a. Is access to the site at all times?	Y
b. Is access for fire fighting appliances satisfactory?	Y
c. Is a Fire Point provided?	N

Additional Comments:

Management includes:

	Y or N
a. Are fire hydrants clearly marked?	Y
b. Are fire hydrants easily accessible?	Y
c. Are there empty cylinders on site - insert number	N
d. Is there a safe area for fire storage/empty cylinders?	NA
e. The housekeeping - Is there any rubbish accumulation which could be a fire risk?	N
f. Are there any hazardous materials on site?	N
g. Are there any other materials that may present a fire risk or hinder access?	N

Additional Comments:

3. Fire Safety:

	Y or N
a. Are all caravans adequately spaced apart? 1 caravan on a site	N
b. Do all homes have working smoke alarms?	NA
c. Do all homes have carbon monoxide detectors?	N
d. Do any residents require a Home Fire Safety Visit - complete section overleaf	NA

Additional Comments:

4. Outcome:

Considered Satisfactory	Refer to Fire Service	Date when details sent to Fire Service	Date

Essex Countywide Traveller Unit
Residents requiring Home Fire Safety Visit

Name	Pitch Number (as of 22/01/15)
Plot 1	AB 04
Plot 2	AB 04
Plot 3	AB 04
Plot 4	AB 04
Plot 5	AB 04
Plot 6	AB 04
Plot 7	AB 04
Plot 8	AB 04
Plot 9	AB 04
Plot 10	AB 04
Plot 11	AB 04
Plot 12	AB 04
Plot 13	AB 04
Plot 14	AB 04
Plot 15	AB 04
Plot 16	AB 04
Plot 17	AB 04
Plot 18	AB 04
Plot 19	AB 04
Plot 20	AB 04
Plot 21	AB 04
Plot 22	AB 04
Plot 23	AB 04
Plot 24	AB 04
Plot 25	AB 04

Red circle = Site
Pink circle = Site entrance
Yellow circle = Fire hydrant
Blue arrow = Towards Basildon
Orange arrow = Bunt Mills road

“Press to Test – Monthly is Best”

The recently launched campaign from the home office has been picked up by ECTU and material modified to better suit our target market. The following material is being circulated as an A4 hand out, and an A3 Poster, and coverage will be all sites visited and on an ongoing basis.



FIRE KILLS
YOU CAN PREVENT IT

**PRESS TO TEST.
MONTHLY IS BEST.**

FIRE SAFETY IN THE HOME:
FIRE KILLS

Test your smoke alarms every month to check they work.

Offer to test the smoke alarms of an older family member who needs help

KEEP YOUR CARAVAN SAFE !

- Ensure all caravans and mobile homes are the recommended safe distance apart to prevent the spread of fire
- Change their batteries once a year
- If an alarm doesn't beep when you test it, replace the battery or replace the alarm
- Never remove the batteries in your smoke alarms unless you're replacing them

MAKE SURE EVERYONE IN YOUR HOME KNOWS WHAT TO DO
IN A FIRE - GET OUT, STAY OUT AND CALL 999

Home Office

ECTU

Public Health



Health									
Objective	Sub objective	Scope	Target measure	Target	Timescale / Report period	Performance at previous reporting period	Performance for Report period	Time scale	Comments
Facilitated to received primary Immunisation		Unknown	No.	100	Jun 16 to Nov 16	22	28	May 17	Total 48
Facilitated to receive the flu jabs		Unknown	No.	150	Jun 16 to Nov 16	1	192	Nov 16	Total 192
Report known pregnancies on site and link to anti natal , stop smoking etc		Unknown	na	na	Jun 16 to Nov 16	5	3	Ongoing	Total 8
Identified Long Term Condition		Unknown	No.	50	Jun 16 to Nov 16	36	8	May 17	Total 44

Health cont.

Objective	Sub objective	Scope	Target measure	Target	Timescale / Report period	Performance at previous reporting period	Performance for Report period	Time scale	Comments
Number confirmed/ assisted to register with GP	Permanent	Unknown	No	40	Jun 16 to Nov 16	91	21	May 17	Total 112
	Temporary	Unknown	No	na		1	6	May 17	Total 7
Number confirmed/assisted to register with Dentist	Permanent	Unknown	No.	50	Jun 16 to Nov 16	5	5	May 17	Total 10
	Temporary		No.	na		0	0	May 17	
Health Checks Facilitated		Unknown	No.	25	Jun 16 to Nov 16	4		Nov 16	
Number referred to stop smoking/alcohol and healthy eating, Skin and Child Safety etc		Unknown	No.	50	Jun 16 to Nov 16	45	76	Nov 16	Total 121

There is a lot of support/signposting carried out by the outreach team which is not reflected in the above reporting, including direct support to Health Visitors, referrals for specialist support ie Speech and Language , direct support in making and attending medical appointments, mental health referrals, support in obtaining disability aids etc.

Health days in Essex

We have had a full season of Health days on various sites across Essex – 6 events in total. These have concentrated on

- Blood pressure monitoring
- Lifestyle advice
- Smoking caseation
- Weight management
- Basic first aid training
- Health and Safety advice to children and young people
- Drug and alcohol awareness

The events are designed as hands-on / interactive days to encourage participation, and ensure literacy issues are not a barrier. They also cater for adult and child participation with promotional materials to suite



The graph below show dome of the intervention achieve in this programme



Education



Education								
Objectives	Scope	Target measure	Target	Timescale / Report period	Performance at previous reporting period	Performance for Report period	Time scale	Comments
Number of Children supported into pre-school /school 2 – 16	unknown	No.	150	Jun 16 to Nov 16	200	54	May 17	
Number of children transferring from primary to secondary	unknown	No.	15	Nov 15 to Jun 16	40	10	May 17	
Number of young adults supported into further education	unknown	No.	15	Nov 15 to Jun 16	12	0	May 17	
Number of transport applications Supported	unknown	No.	40	Nov 15 to Jun 16	18	22	May 17	
Number of 2 year olds funded applications supported	unknown	No.	40	Nov 15 to Jun 16	3	3	May 17	

There is a lot of additional work that goes on around education in terms of supporting meetings at schools, supporting with uniform issues, bullying issues, attendance meetings and home education.

Police



Sgt Paul Downes is confirmed as remaining with the Unit for at least a further 9 month period to ensure continuity in Police participation/support. The initial intention is for Paul to seek to recruit a successor within the first 6 months followed by a 3 month hand over period. There are alternative proposals which will be considered during this time period, so there may still be an alternative ultimate scenario.

At the recent PCC round table event, Stephen Kavanagh – Chief Constable, expressed his staunch support of the unit, and Essex Police's commitment to it and partnership working. He was vocal in suggesting that all Essex authorities should be actively participating, and could not understand why we still have those who remain outside of the unit/partnership.

Communications plan – for review - ongoing

External – reactive – there is limited opportunity/appetite for positive stories around the Gypsy/Traveller community, hence this is likely to be in response to encampments etc. It is important that we have a consistent message being delivered in terms of the partnership operation/involvement as there have been examples of member comments differentiating the partner authority action from the ECTU partnership action.



External – release/positive – on the occasions where there has been an interest, it has been caveated from the media with a request for direct input from members of the Traveller Community. Due to the generally private nature of the community, mistrust of the media and potential repercussions from the settled community, it is very difficult to achieve active participation at that level, unless the member of the Traveller community has a particular agenda they want to get across.

Proposal - All reactive external comms from partners reference areas where we are working in partnership ie Unauthorised Encampments, should either be routed through ECTU office, or follow an agreed format reflecting the working arrangements of the partnership.

Websites – this has been discussed at previous meetings but has been a low priority over operation issues. We still need to address the central website, and ensure complimentary entries on partner web sites to ensure optimum customer experience. Additions planned during what will hopefully be a quieter winter period

- Dynamic encampment reporting – all live encampments, and status will be uploaded onto the website on receipt of report.
- Ideally a dedicated ECTU web site hence reporting on key issues in other partner areas
- Traveller friendly content to encourage pro-active use by the community
- Poss Facebook / Twitter presence
- Any other suggestions?

Internal – predominantly through direct email/telephone, and the Operations Board (Officers) and Joint Committee meetings. There have been ad hoc newsletters circulated to partners/non partners which could be formalised/fixed frequency should the appetite be there. The following are suggested format/frequency for discussion:-

- Format - email (pdf) and/or hard copy?
- Frequency – to fall in the mid-point between the bin annual meetings or more frequently?
- Content – an update on performance stats, plus case studies, key issues/influences? Should we include some more informal elements ie team profiles, the lighter side of Travellers etc

Transit Sites

Following the decision by ECC's political leadership team to endorse the proposal to develop transit sites, there has been an initial appraisal of four sites re their suitability, in planning terms, for future development as transit sites.

The four sites which are the subject of this appraisal are:

- Shalford, Braintree Road (Braintree District)
- Ongar, Mill Lane (Epping Forest District)
- St. Osyth, Colchester Road (Tendring District)
- Great Wakering, Common Road (Rochford District)



Essentially, there are two possible routes for the provision of transit sites:

- a) Application route - This would consist of a site finding exercise and preparation and submission of a site-specific planning application.
- b) Planning Policy route - Planning policy documents have to be reviewed from time to time, in order to ensure that their policies reflect changing circumstances. The review process includes site specific land use allocations and policies. If there are any known sites which would be suitable for development as transit sites, these would be put forward for inclusion in the development plan. The advantage of a successful site allocation is that a subsequent planning application would likely be considered to be in accordance with planning policy. The disadvantage of the planning policy route is that the policy review process is a long-term process, and that not every local plan is currently at the review stage.

Update to be provided by Paul Ashworth

Training

Member training and roll out – pilot training completed in ECC, and Colchester members received training in late October. Other partners are showing interest in pursuing this route, and it has emerged as an action from the PCC Roundtable meeting.

The training consists of an introduction to the Gypsy/Traveller culture, the history the community in the UK, and the issues they have faced over the years and ongoing.

Current day issues are presented bespoke to the relevant area receiving the training, and based on feedback to date, we present good and bad examples of sites, encampments etc.

In order to ensure resource is available for the timely delivery of member training, we will need to identify those remaining authorities interested in pursuing, and look to schedule dates for delivery.

