

The Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994

The Police and Local Authorities have powers under the above Act to enforce the removal of unauthorised encampments. Legislation under S62A to S62E of the Act provides the Police with the power to direct trespassers to leave land and remove any vehicles and other property from the land where there is a suitable pitch available on a relevant site elsewhere in the Local Authority area.

Where a direction has been given it is an offence for that person or persons to fail to leave the land as soon as is reasonably practicable or to enter any land in the Local Authority area as a trespasser within three months of the direction being given.

Failing to comply with a direction may lead to:

- A fine
- Imprisonment
- Seizure of vehicles

If vehicles are removed from the land the owner may be charged with the removal costs and storing or disposing of them.

Evictions can also be undertaken by a Local Authority obtaining a Court Possession Order.

Health

If you have any medical or dental problems you should be able to access any local GP or dentist even if you are not registered. In the event of emergencies you should report directly to the nearest Accident and Emergency department. Seek advice from the Traveller Team, contact details below.

Education

If you require any help or information regarding your children's education, please contact the East Sussex County Council Traveller Education Team, contact details below.



Contacts

East Sussex County Council
Traveller Team
01273 481340

Traveller Education
01323 482671

Good Practice Guide for Gypsies and Travellers in East Sussex



The Good Practice Guide for Gypsies and Travellers in East Sussex

This Guide has been drawn up in conjunction with the Districts and Boroughs and Sussex Police to deal with unauthorised encampments in East Sussex.

The Guide sets out the expectations placed on the Gypsies and Travellers and how unauthorised camping will be managed.

The Guide applies to all unauthorised encampments of Gypsies and Travellers who pursue a nomadic lifestyle for all or part of the year.

The Guide will be issued to all occupants regardless of the decision to either tolerate or seek eviction from an unauthorised encampment.

Local Authorities will make decisions on toleration/eviction on a case by case basis in accordance with policies on unauthorised camping and national laws and guidance.

Failure to comply with the Guide may result in action being taken to move the encampment as quickly as possible.

The following terms and conditions apply to all unauthorised encampments:

Occupants must:

- Keep groups small (normally not more than six caravans)
- Park vehicles safely so as not to cause a road or health and safety hazard
- Not cause damage to fences, trees or hedges
- Not burn or dump rubbish on the site or surrounding area
- Not threaten or cause a nuisance to neighbours and/or any visitors to the site
- Keep all animals under proper control
- Make use of refuse and toilet facilities provided
- Keep the site clean and tidy
- Provide details of all occupants, including any health and welfare issues when requested by Council Officials

Examples of unsuitable locations:

- Parks, playing fields, sports and recreation grounds
- Public car parks
- Industrial estates, retail or business parks (including sites under development)
- Village greens or other public open areas
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
- Public Highways
- Areas where there is a serious risk to the health and safety of the occupants, e.g. areas with serious ground pollution; by the side of a busy road.

