

Unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller Sites in Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC) Council's Administrative Area

Parish Councillors have no part to play when an unauthorised Gypsy & Traveller site is established in the parish and they should NOT get involved as this may prejudice the legal process.

All the Parish Council can do is report an unauthorised encampment online to CWaC

https://my.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/en/AchieveForms/?form_uri=sandbox-publish://AF-Process-8d570eb4-279f-4152-8301-bff3899db3cd/AF-Stage-3fc712ed-ce01-471a-aacc-c445e0d88014/definition.json&redirectlink=%2Fen&cancelRedirectLink=%2Fen&consentMessage=yes

and telephone the Police. It is the Principal Authority's function with the help of the Police to do the rest e.g.

THEY WILL:

- Visit the site as soon as possible (usually within 48 hours).
- Checks will be made on the tidiness of the site, any impact on local residents/businesses and an assessment of any obstruction of highways or public rights of way.
- As a legal requirement they will also take into account whether there are any health or welfare needs.
- If circumstances allow unauthorised encampments may be tolerated for a short time.
- If the decision is taken that the unauthorised encampment will not be permitted to stay, they will try to negotiate a mutually acceptable deadline for the unauthorised campers to move by.
- If that fails, there are powers that local authorities can use to officially evict the unauthorised encampment.
- This decision is subject to the Human Rights and Race Relations Act and all decisions made by the local authority in relation to the unauthorised encampment can be challenged in Court if people feel the decision is disproportionate.

Any attempt to move an unauthorised encampment without following relevant procedures may seem quicker, but it could lead to lengthy court actions and considerable costs.

If you need to report this out of hours or in an emergency then you can following the process below.

