



VERWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

Operational Procedure in Respect of Unauthorised Encampments by Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show People

The Town Clerk (or nominated deputy) in consultation with the Chairman of either the Mayor or Deputy Mayor will decide the need for eviction in accordance with the Council's Travellers Policy.

If the decision is to evict, the following procedure will apply:

- a) **Where the unauthorised encampment is on Council or Charity property**, the Town Clerk will issue written notice requesting the unauthorised persons to leave by a specified date/time. If this proves to be unsuccessful, the Town Clerk will liaise with the Police, requesting action be taken under Section 61 of the Criminal Justice Act and Public Order Act 1994 in accordance with the 'Guide to effective use of enforcement powers – Part 1 Unauthorised encampments', published by ODPM and Home Office.

Should action under this section of the Act not be possible for technical, legal or Police resource issues, then action will be requested under Section 62 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 in conjunction with the Gypsy Liaison Officer of the Principal Authority (page 13/14, paras 50-56 of the 'Guide to effective use of enforcement powers Part 1 Unauthorised encampments' published by ODPM and Home Office refers).

It is interesting to note that para 59 (page 15) of the above guidance informs that, 'there are locations where immediate action to remove them should be taken because the presence of the encampment is seriously disrupting the ability of the settled community to make use of facilities or to conduct their business, for instance: urban parks'

- b) **Disruptive trespassers** – where appropriate, and persons have committed offences of aggravated trespass, the Council/Charity will request the Police to take action under Section 68 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994.

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