

Question 1

At the 2022 Annual Meeting, it was stated that Cambridge City Council is “absolutely committed to delivering on a site” to meet the needs of nomadic Gypsies and Travellers, who currently have no choice but to resort to unauthorised stopping in Cambridge, leading to repeated evictions. This is despite the centuries of historical ties that Gypsies and Travellers have to Cambridge, such as the much-loved Midsummer Fair.

The promise of a site is a significant step forward in this council’s commitment to upholding GRT rights. However, vital questions remain unanswered.

- Is this site intended to provide permanent pitches or temporary stopping places?
- What progress has been made in setting up the cross-party group promised by Cllr Healy at the Annual Meeting?
- What steps have been taken by this council to work together with Cambridge County Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council?

Question 2

Last week, the consequences of the Police, Crimes, Sentencing and Courts Act was demonstrated when multiple vans of riot police were sent to evict a group of Travellers in Milton Keynes. According to news reports, this came in spite of the known presence of children at the encampment, and the fact that “there was little trouble” from those residing at the site, who left voluntarily. Four vehicles were impounded in this disgraceful incident, potentially leaving families without homes.

Like Milton Keynes, Cambridge has no transit pitches for authorised stopping. Cambridge City Council has stated that it does not intend to bring criminal proceedings under the PCSC Act against those who stop on council land without authorisation, while refusing to commit to a moratorium on evictions in the absence of adequate authorised stopping provisions.

As this council stated in its July 2021 ‘Motion on [the] Policing Bill’: “No family willingly stops somewhere they are not welcome.” Those who stop on council land without authorisation do so because they have nowhere

else to go. This will continue to be the case once they have been evicted, and there is no guarantee that the landowner of their next encampment will take the same moral stance against prosecution. It is therefore not a matter of if, but when this council's actions will lead to criminal proceedings under the PCSC Act.

This does not have to be the case. At the 2022 Annual Meeting, Cllr Healy expressed a desire that this council explore options for negotiated stopping in Cambridge. It is increasingly clear that this provision cannot come soon enough.

QUESTION: What steps have been taken towards provision of negotiated stopping in Cambridge? In particular, what progress has been made with regards to:

- Working with Cambridgeshire County Council to provide negotiated stopping on Park&Ride sites
- Working with the Churches Network to provide negotiated stopping on church land.

Question 3

"Hello, I come on behalf of the UCU and Justice4CollegeSupervisors to discuss the payment of those who teach undergraduates for the colleges at the University of Cambridge. The Council here is a living wage accredited employer, but only 1/31 of the Cambridge Colleges are. Even beyond this, we believe that many of the people who provide undergraduate supervision are paid below the living wage and potentially below the minimum wage. It takes only 2 hours and 20 minutes of preparation for one contact hour to go below the living/minimum wage, something Cambridge UCU surveys suggested was very prevalent. What actions has the council taken in the past 3 years to investigate below minimum wage pay by the colleges and what actions will it take going forward?"