

## **East Dorset Gypsy and Traveller site exhibitions announced**

On 18 November, East Dorset District Council launches its consultation on proposed Gypsy and Traveller sites in its area.

The Dorset-wide Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Site Allocations Joint Development Plan Document (DPD) Issues and Options Consultation runs for 12 weeks until 10 February 2012.

All Dorset planning authorities will be running their consultation at the same time and are working together with the county council to produce a Development Plan Document (DPD). Once adopted, this document will allocate permanent and transit sites to meet the county's needs for the next 15 years. Over the last year, consultants Baker Associates have been working to identify and assess potentially suitable locations against strict criteria, before drawing up a shortlist of options for each Dorset council.

The Dorset-wide consultation process has been approved by each council and now, as part of this process, the Council will hold two public exhibitions in the district. These will be on 24 November at Allendale Community Centre, Wimborne (noon - 3.30pm) and 28 November at The Hub, Verwood (3.30pm - 7.30pm)

Copies of the Issues and Options Consultation document, Site Options Summary document and response forms will be available at EDDC's Offices, Corfe Mullen Library, Colehill Library, Ferndown Library, Fordingbridge Library, Ringwood Library, Verwood Library, West Moors Library, Wimborne Library, Corfe Mullen Parish Council Offices, Ferndown Town Council Offices, Wimborne Town Council Offices and Verwood Town Council Offices.

Having enough permanent and transit sites helps the police use special powers to move Travellers who camp illegally on private or public land. It can reduce problems with associated anti-social behaviour by having properly managed sites and limits the detrimental effects on travelling communities' health, education and well-being.

Leader of East Dorset District Council, Cllr Spencer Flower, said: "I encourage all members of the East Dorset community to have their say on the Gypsy and Traveller sites proposed for the district. The two public exhibitions are an ideal opportunity for residents to find out more about the process and speak to Baker Associates and Council staff, who will be able to answer any questions they may have."

The preferred way for people to respond to the consultation is on-line, with the consultation documents, and details of where the exhibitions and sites are across the whole county, are available at [www.dorsetforyou.com/travellerpitches](http://www.dorsetforyou.com/travellerpitches)

Any queries about the consultation for East Dorset please contact [policy.planning@eastdorset.gov.uk](mailto:policy.planning@eastdorset.gov.uk) or phone 01202 886201 and ask for policy planning.