Consultation response proforma

If you are responding by email or in writing, please reply using this questionnaire pro-forma, which should be read alongside the consultation document. You are able to expand the comments box should you need more space

Your Details (Required fields are indicated with an asterix(\*))

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Family Name (Surname)\* |  |
| First Name\* |  |
| Title |  |
| Address |  |
| City/Town\* |  |
| Postal Code\* |  |
| Telephone Number |  |
| Email Address\* |  |

Are the views expressed on this consultation your own personal views or an official response from an organisation you represent?\* (please tick as appropriate)

[ ] Personal View

[ ] Organisational Response

Name of Organisation (if applicable)

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please tick the box which best describes your organisation.

[ ] Local Authority (including National Parks, Broads Authority, the Greater London Authority and London Boroughs)

[ ] Neighbourhood Planning Body/Parish or Town Council

[ ] Private Sector organisation (including housebuilders, housing associations, businesses, consultants)

[ ] Trade Association / Interest Group/Voluntary or Charitable organisation

Other (Please specify)

**Unauthorised development and encampments**

**Question 1:**

What evidence is there of unauthorised development and encampments in your community, and what issues does this raise for the local community?

*Please enter your comments here*

**Powers for dealing with unauthorised encampments**

**Question 2:**

We would like to invite evidence of unauthorised encampments which have occurred in the last 2 years, as follows:

* 1. the number of instances where trespassers have occupied land without authorisation, including the location and scale of the encampment.
	2. whether the land in a) required cleaning or repair once the encampment had left, and if so, what was the cost?
	3. how was each unauthorised encampment encouraged to leave, how long did it take, and was the local authority able to move them on; or did the police became involved?

*Please enter your comments here*

**Streamlining the powers under which local authorities can direct unauthorised campers to leave land**

**Question 3:**

Do you think that the existing powers made available to local authorities to remove unauthorised campers from land are effective?

*Please enter your comments here*

**Question 4:**

Do you think local authorities could improve their use of existing powers?

*Please enter your comments here*

**Question 5**: What other powers may help local authorities deal with unauthorised encampments?

*Please enter your comments here*

**Aggravated trespass**

**Question 6**:

Do you consider that the current powers for police to direct trespassers to leave land are effective?

*Please enter your comments here*

**Question 7**:

Would any new or revised powers that enable police to direct trespassers to leave land make it easier to deal with unauthorised encampments?

*Please enter your comments here*

**Question 8**:

Do you consider that the Government should consider criminalising unauthorised encampments, in addition to the offence of aggravated trespass? If so, how should a new offence differ, and what actions and circumstances should it apply to?

*Please enter your comments here*

**Use of injunctions to protect land**

**Question 9**:

What barriers are there to the greater use of injunctions by local authorities, where appropriate, and how might they be overcome?

*Please enter your comments here*

**Joint-working between local authorities, communities and the police**

**Question 10:**

Do you have any suggestions or examples of how local authorities, the police, the courts and communities can work together more successfully to improve community relations and address issues raised by unauthorised encampments?

*Please enter your comments here*

**Court Processes**

**Question 11**:

Are there ways in which court processes might be modified in a proportionate way to ensure unauthorised encampments can be addressed more quickly?

*Please enter your comments here*

**Interim possession orders**

**Question 12**:

In your view, what would the advantages and disadvantages be of extending the IPO process to open land?

*Please enter your comments here*

**Powers for dealing with unauthorised development**

**Question 13:**

Are you aware of any specific barriers which prevent the effective use of current planning enforcement powers?

*Please enter your comments here*

**Question 14**:

If you are aware of any specific barriers to effective enforcement, are there any resourcing or administrative arrangements that can help overcome them?

*Please enter your comments here*

**Question 15:** Are you aware of any specific barriers which prevent the effective use of temporary stop notices? If so, do you have a view on how these barriers can be overcome?

*Please enter your comments here*

**Improving the efficiency of enforcement notice appeals**

**Question 16:**

How do you think the existing enforcement notice appeals process can be improved or streamlined?

*Please enter your comments here*

**Government Guidance**

**Question 17**:

How can Government make existing guidance more effective in informing and changing behaviour?

*Please enter your comments here*

**Question 18**:

If future guidance was issued as statutory guidance, would this help in taking action against unauthorised development and encampments?

*Please enter your comments here*

**Planning and traveller site provision**

**Question 19**:

Are there any specific barriers to the provision of more authorised permanent and transit sites? If so, is there any action that the Government could take to help overcome those barriers?

*Please enter your comments here*

**Impacts on the travelling community**

**Question 20:**

What impact would extending local authority, police or land owner powers have on children and families and other groups with protected characteristics that public authorities must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to under their Public Sector Equality Duty?

*Please enter your comments here*

**Question 21**:

Do you expect that extending the powers referred to above would have a positive or negative impact on the health or educational outcomes of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities? If so, do you have any evidence to support this view, and/or suggestions for what could be done to mitigate or prevent any negative impacts?

*Please enter your comments here*

**Other comments**

**Question 22**:

Do you have any other comments to make on the issue of unauthorised development and encampments not specifically addressed by any of the questions above?

*Please enter your comments here*

**Your opinion is valuable to us. Thank you for taking the time to read the consultation and respond.**