

**APPENDIX C This Code of Conduct is for guidance only and does not create impliedly or expressly any rights for you to stay on the land. The information contained in the Code should not be relied upon as a substitute for legal advice. You occupy the land as a trespasser without Licence or consent and the owner reserves the right to take all such appropriate action to have you evicted at any time.**

# Code of conduct for unauthorised encampments

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To make sure both local people and the Travelling Communities can live together in a peaceful way we expect you to follow this Code of Conduct while you are in the area. We expect you to treat the land you have occupied with respect, and that you respect the rights and freedoms of other people who also wish to use the area.

We expect the following basic standards of behaviour, which are the same as those we expect of other local people:

- If the encampment does not cause any disruption to the local area, then we will try hard to make sure that you are left in peace whilst legal proceedings are progressing, however:
  - Public areas such as school playing fields, public parks and other areas regularly used by local residents are not good places for Traveller camps, since they stop local people being able to use them. If you camp in public places such as these, then we will take steps to have you removed.
  - If the encampment causes a problem for local businesses or residents, for example by blocking their entrances, or stopping vehicles getting in or out, this stops businesses being able to work, and people from being able to go about their lives. If your site gets in the way of residents or businesses going about their daily lives we will take steps to have you removed.
  - Please be particularly careful about where you put your caravans; blocking footpaths or pavements stops people from getting past, and upsets local residents. If you are blocking pavements or footpaths then we will take steps to have you removed.
- If the encampment has caused no damage to an area, then we will try hard to make sure you are left in peace whilst legal proceedings are progressing, however, if you have caused damage, for example by breaking locks or digging up barriers to get access to a site, or by causing damage to buildings or property on a site, then we will take steps to have you removed.
- While you are in the area, we will make every effort to make sure that you are offered the opportunity to hire a skip for domestic waste and portable toilets at your expense to make sure the site is kept tidy and clean. Local agencies will be available to discuss the disposal of commercial waste, for example hardcore, soil or UPVC, and will take appropriate action if they have evidence of fly-tipping or unlicensed transporting of commercial waste. We

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therefore expect you to keep the site clean and tidy. If you do not use the skips and toilets, and cause a mess on the site, then we will take steps to have you removed.

- While you are in the area, we will work hard to make sure that you are not the victims of crime or racial, verbal or physical abuse, and will investigate anything which you make us aware of. We will not assume that you have committed any crimes; however, if we have evidence that you are intimidating or abusing local people, or have committed criminal offences in the area, then we will have to arrest any suspects and take steps to have you removed.
- We understand that while you are in the area you need electricity, however interfering with live electrical cables is very dangerous for you and other people in the area, and if we have evidence that you have tried to interfere with electricity supplies then we will take steps to have you removed.
- We understand that you need to use generators for electricity, but since generators make a lot of noise which stops people sleeping at night, we ask that you turn them off between 11 o'clock at night and 7 in the morning so local people can sleep. We also ask that between 11 at night and 7 in the morning you keep noise, particularly loud music and voices to a minimum.
- Everybody has a right to keep animals, and we respect your right to keep dogs, horses and other animals which are healthy, happy and safely secured. However, if your animals are causing a nuisance in the area, for example if they are loose and intimidate people, attack people in the area, are used for illegal activities such as hare coursing/dog fighting or are not properly looked after, then we will consider removing them from you, and we will take steps to have you removed.
- While you are in the area, we will make sure that the educational needs of your children and young people are met. However, we expect you to make sure that children, particularly of primary school age attend school, and that you work positively with teachers and representatives of the education authority who are trying to meet the educational needs of your young people.

**Please remember that if damage is caused to land or property which you are camped on, or the landowner has to pay to remove rubbish, waste or any other mess after you have left, then steps will be taken to recover costs from persons who are or have been present on the site.**