

Date: 14 January 2020
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Our ref: CNR/Traveller Forum



Dear Sir or Madam

Invitation to the new Traveller Forum- Blackdown House, 2.30pm on 26th February 2020

Please join us at the first meeting of our new East Devon Traveller Forum, open to all Gypsies and Travellers living in or near East Devon. It'll be in the Clyst Room at Blackdown House (our new offices in Honiton) at 2.30 on 26th February. It'll last around an hour and a half and will be a friendly group where you, your friends and family are made welcome. We'll listen to your concerns, try to resolve issues (this may mean passing them to our 'partners') and will pass on your feedback to consultations. It is really important that our decisions meet your needs, you really can make a difference.

I'll run the first meeting, I'm a planning officer who is looking for new Traveller sites and have been involved in working with Gypsy and Traveller communities for a number of years now. I will be supported by three Councillors who all understand the issues you face.

Our first meeting will focus on the Government proposals to make trespass a criminal offence (which would mean Travellers could go to prison for being on privately owned land) and whether you think there's a better approach, for example providing more pitches or better temporary facilities. I'll take anonymous notes of the meeting and will use these to respond to the Government consultation. Afterwards we can discuss any other issues you wish to raise and talk about how future meetings might work. If the Forum is well attended we'll have further meetings to talk about things that are important to you or your community. Please invite your friends and family to come along too, or let me know if they can't come but would like to receive the minutes and details of future meetings. It would also help me to plan the meeting if you could phone on 01395 571543 or email crodway@eastdevon.gov.uk to let me know if you're able to come (although you are very welcome to just turn up).

Yours Sincerely
Claire Rodway
Senior Planning Officer

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