SUBMISSION FROM FALKIRK COUNCIL

Our contact with Gypsy/Travellers

As BME Community Development Worker and Local Community Planning Officer, we have been supporting “Building Bridges” in developing and implementing a Growing Communities funded “Connecting Communities Project”.

Any policies or practice guidelines relating to Gypsy/Travellers that you have, including any aimed at other organisations/groups

Our Human Resources have policies related to the GT community and Housing have been reviewing and updating the site agreement. As part of this project we have involved other community planning partners in the process.

Any specific training or awareness-raising you undertake in relation to Gypsy/Travellers.

Through engaging with the GT community and Building Bridges we have and will continue to assist them in accessing services and promoting community cohesion.

Charlie Hastie
BME Community Development Worker
Frank McChord
Local Community Planning Officer
Falkirk Council
20 July 2012
“Connecting Communities Project” (Building Bridges).

Building Bridges are a Scottish Gypsy/Traveller’s group based in Falkirk. Our aim is to represent this community throughout Scotland and give them a collective voice for their views and issues that affect them in their daily life.

This particular community consultation event based in Falkirk District was part of a Growing Communities Funded (administered by CVS Falkirk & District) “Connecting Communities Project”. We were assisted by Community Learning & Development Staff of Falkirk Council to make this application.

The project would:

- address barriers to the local travelling community accessing services
- promote community cohesion
- tackle discrimination

The project conducted a series of information sessions/workshops/planning meetings including the following topics:

- Access to Health Services
- Access to Education
- Access to Housing
- Site Conditions
- Improving mutual understanding between the travelling community and the settled communities
- Employment and training
- Financial Inclusion/ Money advice

Events took place in a number of venues, on site and where travellers have settled. Cultural workshops were delivered to make links with the settled communities.

A key community consultation event was held. The three themes for the evening were as follows:

- Health and Community Safety
- Community & Culture
- Education & Employment

A report was then compiled in the form of a needs analysis/aspiration audit of the community of travelling people (see attached).

We then organised a joint community/stakeholders event to the launch of the report.

After presentations the stakeholders were invited to make comment and make a commitment. Below is a summary list of the notes from the comment cards.
Comment:
A very well worked document with realistic and achievable goals and outcomes
(Central Scotland Police)

Commitment:
I will ascertain and ensure that a programme of surgeries is facilitated and attended by local police officers

Comment:
Great to see the local Gypsy /Traveller community taking the lead in engaging with the settled community and services
(NHS Fife)

Commitment:
I will make every effort to raise awareness of the needs and culture of Gypsy /Traveller community with Health board managers

Comment:
Well men and woman clinics already run in the Falkirk area day and evening
(Keep well Manager NHS Forth Valley)

Commitment:
Would visit site /arrange staff to visit/promote service

Comment:
In the process of working with GPs to encourage public involvement, is there something we can do in partnership about raising awareness at the same time?
(Local Officer, Scottish Health Council)

Commitment:
Present report to key staff members within NHS Forth Valley
Set up health group to feed back concerns to NHS
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comment:</th>
<th>Commitment:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do you think that there is under reporting of Hate Crime?</td>
<td>Invite representation from Falkirk Gypsy Travellers to be present at team meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Central Scotland Regional Equality Council)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comment:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Happy to work together to improve the service at the Redding Site</td>
<td>Develop a partnership group- where officers will attend meetings and be accountable for service improvements jointly agreed by all parties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Neighbourhood and Access to Housing Manager, Falkirk Council)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commitment:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comment Areas highlighted in the report on issues at Redding Site. More</td>
<td>To look into these issues and others raised by Gypsy travellers on site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>awareness events needed to discuss issues.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Neighbourhood and Access to Housing Manager, Falkirk Council)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comment;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On site surgeries will be very useful. We set up outreach health screening in Fife which later was continued by Keep Well Project. Need more outreach services</td>
<td>Will raise awareness of health issues with NHS Fife staff as part of cultural diversity &amp; health training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( BME Health Advocacy Development Officer / Cultural Co-ordinator, FRAE Fife)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commitment:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comment</td>
<td>The report demonstrates a meaningful way for the Scottish Gypsy Community to communicate and be represented in the future</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commitment:</td>
<td>Comment:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I will ensure that the building bridges report is made available on the</td>
<td>A good example of proper involvement and cohesive working</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equalities page of the Falkirk Council website</td>
<td>(HR Adviser(Policy) Falkirk Council)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commitment:</td>
<td>Comment:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add Building Bridges information to website to the equality page on Falkirk</td>
<td>Housing Services would be happy to support the summer festival with resources or publicity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council website and signpost as appropriate</td>
<td>I would like to see other events happen like this in every area –or through the local</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>community council’s meetings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commitment:</td>
<td>Comment:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I will continue with the review of the travelling person’s site agreement</td>
<td>It is important to us if you would provide a list of all travelling sites within our</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in consultation with the residents on site. I will inform my colleagues</td>
<td>area so that we can update our systems and inform crews.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of the Building Bridges Report. I will make sure this informs future</td>
<td>(Central Scotland Fire &amp; Rescue Service)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>consultations with the travelling people’s community</td>
<td>Commitment:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>We can input travel sites information on our systems so that crews are informed on route</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>to an incident</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Comment: | Fire visits- Community education and fire engine  
(Central Scotland Fire & Rescue Service) |
| Commitment: | Support for fire safety visits, supply detectors- (heat and smoke) |

| Comment: | Visit and inspect registered sites surgeries to ensure safety of community. A joint inspection regime involving local authority & Fire Service  
(Central Scotland Fire & Rescue Service) |
| Commitment: | A local enforcement officer will be available to give advice inputs/reports |

| Comment: | 1) Lack of cultural awareness re Travellers needs and aspirations  
(Forth Valley College) |
| Commitment: | 1) Cultural awareness talks to groups at FVC  
2) Liaise with marketing dept to promote courses (full time flexible, etc), |

| Comment: | Opposition to transit sites. “Encourage other travellers into the area”. Why is this bad thing?  
Q. Re culture of settled travellers- what is it and how?  
Very glad that building bridges has happened.  
(Development Officer, Community Learning & Development, Falkirk Council) |
| Commitment: | To work with the building bridges group to identify practical ways of supporting literacy and numeracy development support. Please invite me to meet up with you to discuss |
Comment:
All the way through, I find myself thinking that you’re dealing (and dealing well) with relationships between travellers and the system. I guess that is about it. (Elected Member, Fife)

Commitment;
Of the population accounted for what do you do about the 90+% who for the most part are not racist or bigoted so much as ignorant. There’s a wide spread belief that different rules apply to different people. When explained otherwise, that transmutes a belief that it can’t be right that someone can just plant a caravan “anywhere”. I now know a fair bit about all this but my constituents don’t. How do we sort that out?

Comment:
The interaction of services and SGT is essential. Too many examples of SGT having things “done to them” (Elected Member, Fife)

Commitment;
Interested that settled SGT do not want temporary transit camps in Falkirk Area.

Comment:
Great presentation and achievable report (Site manager, Fife Council)

Commitment;
To support Building Bridges to raise awareness-promote a positive image to combat negative reports

Comment:
Interesting comments about Transit sites. Fife is still investigating possibility of transit sites.

(Senior Manager Housing & Neighbourhood Services, Fife Council)

Commitment:
To refresh my understanding and colleagues on Gypsy Travellers views in Fife about Transit Sites.
Conclusion

There has been a lot of shared learning throughout this process. The comments and commitments will help inform our thinking when we draw together our development plan and programmes. We thank everyone for wholeheartedly participating in our project.

Alister Fowler
Development Worker
Building Bridges
Scottish Gypsy Travellers Movement
Falkirk Gypsy /Traveller’s Project
“Building Bridges, Making a Difference”

Community Workshop
Tuesday 6th December 2011
6.30pm - 8.45pm
The Rosebank Room
Cameron Community Education Centre
Falkirk
“Scottish Gypsy Travellers continue to remain one of the most marginalised groups in Scotland. A number of research reports highlight the severe levels of prejudice and discrimination faced by this group.”(1)(2)

[1] Scottish Parliament Equal Opportunities Committee 2005

(2) EHRC Research Report 12 – Inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller Communities
Foreword

In September 2011, I was commissioned by Building Bridges to compile and publish this report, the contents of this document contains details of the process undertaken to complete their stated project aim "Building Bridges Making a Difference"

The project has given a unique opportunity for the voices of local Gypsy/Travellers to be heard at least at a local level.

I wish to thank Building Bridges and the Gypsy /Traveller community of Falkirk for giving me the opportunity to work alongside them and the other partners involved in the project

I sincerely hope that this document can help 'make a difference' in a positive lasting way for Gypsy/Travellers in Falkirk and beyond.

The report was presented and accepted by the management committee of Building Bridges at their management meeting on Monday 30th January 2012, and signed on their behalf by Morag Fowler Chairperson.

Mark Owenson
Sections

1  Background to Project

2  Methodology

3  The Event
   i)  Introduction
   ii) Building Bridges
   iii) The Themes
   iv) Transit Sites

4  The Way Forward

5  Conclusion

Appendices

1. Invitation Letter
2. Event Program
3. Initial Scoping Exercise
1. Background to Project

Building Bridges are a Scottish Gypsy/Travellers group based in Falkirk. Our aim is to represent this community throughout Scotland and give them a collective voice for their views and issues that affect them in their daily life.

This particular community consultation event is part of a Growing Communities Funded (administered by CVS Falkirk & District) “Connecting Communities Project”. We were assisted by Community Learning & Development Staff of Falkirk Council to make this application.

The project will:

- address barriers to the local travelling community accessing services
- promote community cohesion
- tackle discrimination

The project will conduct a series of information sessions/ workshops/surgeries including the following topics:

- Access to Health Services
- Access to Education
- Access to Housing
- Site Conditions
- Improving mutual understanding between the travelling community and the settled communities
- Employment and training
- Financial Inclusion/ Money advice

A report would then be compiled in the form of a needs analysis/aspiration audit of the community of travelling people. It would also contain key information to address misconceptions.

Events would take place in a number of venues, on site and where travellers have settled and make links with the settled communities.

We have been working with a number of community planning partners to organise a programme of events and participate in others. These partners have included CVS Falkirk & District, Community Learning & Development Staff, Central Scotland Regional Equality Council, Public Health Practitioners and Housing Staff.

2. Methodology
There was an initial scoping meeting organised at the Traveller’s site Reddingmuirhead in May 2011. The following points came out through discussion:

- Better relationships with the police, not just to see them when they are conducting enforcement duties. We would probably see more reporting of hate crime. Potentially a member of the travelling community could become a special constable
- Raised awareness of health issues, e.g., diabetes, diet, drugs and alcohol awareness, access to services/health promotion
- Better living conditions (the rent seems high for what you get), social group housing (examples from other areas), social group harmony and understanding of allocation policy.
- Accessing education classes etc. numeracy, literacy, ICT, certificated/accredited courses at college etc.
- Business start up, book-keeping, self employment support, tax help. Young people becoming modern apprentices.
- Working with schools to raise awareness of travelling people’s culture and language

It was decided to test these issues out through facilitating a community consultation event to see if these were the key issues of concern for the local Travelling Community. We agreed the three themed for the evening would be as follows:

- Health and Community Safety
- Community & Culture
- Education & Employment

We would give some background to Building Bridges and the “Making a difference project” and then address the themes.

3. The Event
(i) Introduction

The event was held in Camelon Education Centre. Invitation to and awareness of the event was through distribution of a letter giving the reason for, the time, date and location of the event (appendix1) these were given to known Travellers living in the wider community and onsite in the Falkirk area, local Traveller’s networks were also used. On the evening of the event 33 people attended and given the treacherous weather conditions this was appreciated by the organisers. An informal networking session with refreshments and information stalls started the evening. We then moved on to the main business of the evening.

(ii) Building Bridges

Alastair Fowler Building Bridges development worker gave a presentation on the history of the organisation. The key points were as follows:

Building Bridges was formally constituted in May 2010. We are a registered Charity and work throughout Scotland with travelling communities and various community planning partners and agencies.

Our aims are:

- To break the myths and the barriers between the local communities, gypsy travellers and the local service providers
- To raise awareness of services and how people can access them
- To raise the standard of living and well-being of gypsy travellers
- To hold conferences and events which promote our social and cultural values amongst our members and with other communities.

Some activity to date has included

- Informing the Strategic Community Advisory Group in Tayside
- Liaison with Central Scotland Police
- Organising Gypsy Traveller Festivals in Fife
- Community Engagement Open Days in Falkirk
- Participation in consultation events such as Falkirk Local Housing Strategy
- Site Visits In Stirling and Clackmannanshire
(iii) The Themes

Charlie Hastie and Frank McChord, Community Learning & Development Staff (Falkirk Council) facilitated this part of the evening. This was facilitated in the one group with Charlie and Frank moving round the semi circle of seats taking peoples comments and prompting discussion. Points were noted on flipcharts. A summary of the points raised are listed on a theme by theme basis.

Health & Community Safety

It was felt by many of those participating that there was certain misperceptions and assumptions made when considering the travelling community. Anecdotal evidence suggested that it was not necessarily the general practitioners but the reception staff who seemed to present people with a certain type of attitude. There was mention of health records being lost or not transferred. However there was also mention of the health visitors being more understanding and acting in a sympathetic and very professional manner.

In terms of taking responsibility for their own health, there seemed to be a willingness to participate in health and fitness programmes. Some participants had gone on a tour of the building and indicated that they would like to access the gym there or for that matter other gyms. One member had managed to get a health pass and perhaps others could do the same. Health Checks (Well Men type programmes) would be welcomed. These would have to be in the evening as most of the men were out working during the day. Weight control/diet advice programmes were another idea that was mentioned.

It was felt that generally sites are built in areas that are not particularly conducive to health. These included sites directly next to motorways, in damp areas, next to landfill sites, contaminated ground, etc. Safety issues on the Redding site were of particular concern. Utilities on site were seen as being less than acceptable. The showers did not have hot running water. The supply of electricity meant that cables would be run across the bays and this presented a health hazard, especially for the children. This also presented problems when a second caravan was required for larger families. Fire hoses had not been replaced despite this being reported. As far as participants understood, there had been no community fire officer visits for a long time. Another problem was getting contents insurance as they would not cover mobile homes.

Community & Culture

It was felt that there was a lot more work to be done to promote community cohesion. This was seen as a two way street and the participants were willing to work in communities to discuss issues and promote an understanding of the traveller culture. They fully admitted that like other communities they are not all perfect and would happily liaise with police, health, education, etc, through forums, surgeries etc to attempt to resolve any issues. A festival perhaps not on the same scale but similar to those organised in Fife could be a way forward.
**Education & Employment**

There is an appetite to learn more. Accessing modern information technology was seen as important. It was also pointed out that the travelling community have produced doctors, professors, academics, etc and are very capable people. One way forward was accessing the internet onsite could assist communication. This could result in inter generational learning or family learning. Information on accessing community based classes and college classes would be helpful. There was a willingness to work in schools to promote the culture of travelling people and encourage community cohesion. This had happened at Westquarter Primary School and it was felt that there was a really good understanding of the Travelling Community there.

There were a number of employment issues raised. Some of those present had stated it was easier to avoid mentioning that you came from a travelling background than to challenge prejudice as it could result in losing work.

**(iv) Transit Sites**

Alistair Fowler asked to discuss with the participants the Issue of transit sites and the possibilities that Falkirk Council may be planning to make one in the area.

He asked if everyone was aware of the term “transit site” and then went on to give the following definition.

*In December 2004, the then Scottish Executive issued guidelines to local authorities on the management of unauthorised encampments by Gypsies/Travellers in Scotland.*

*These Guidelines recommend that local authorities assess land vulnerable to unauthorised encampments and consider protection for those deemed to be of high value to communities.*

*As protection of all vulnerable sites will lead to displacement to other parts of local areas A, the Guidelines suggest consideration of transit sites.*

*A site intended for short stays. Such sites are usually permanent, but there is a limit on the length of time residents can stay.*

This stimulated a vibrant debate on the reason why there should be a transit site in Falkirk and is there a need. Alistair asked for a vote on a yes or no basis. All in attendance voted against any such provision in the Falkirk area.

Some of the reasons noted for opposition were as follows

- Fly Tipping local travellers would be blamed for this
- Encourage other Travellers to come into the area
- They would not move on
- Criminal elements moving onto site
- Would be hard to manage
- Would set back any positive work local Gypsy/Travellers were doing to support Community Cohesion
4. The Way Forward

There had been a lot of good discussion on a range of topics. It was felt that the best thing to do is compile this report and circulate it prior to taking any action. The main people are of course those that participated in the evening. We will then send it out to key stakeholders and arrange a meeting to discuss the findings in detail. We can then start to map out the next steps and our way forward.

Health & Community Safety

a) Make G.P. surgeries aware of the feelings of the travelling community.
b) Discuss with Health Practitioners the matter of files being passed on to new practices
c) Promote health passes
d) Discuss with Health Practitioners the potential for well men clinics or specific classes such as weight management classes
e) Conduct a community safety audit of the site. Invite Police and Fire Safety professionals to take part
f) Discuss the issue of contents insurance with Housing Staff.

Community & Culture

a) Set up a calendar of on-site surgeries for police/fire safety officers and other services
b) Organise a summer festival to promote community cohesion and raise awareness of Traveller’ culture
c) Investigate the potential for working in schools

Education & Employment

a) Investigate the potential for internet access at the site
b) Raise awareness of range of classes/courses available
c) Arrange a tour of CLD buildings/activities
d) Liaise with Forth Valley College to promote courses within the Travelling Community
e) Investigate potential for courses in schools, family learning, accessing glow
f) Investigate the range of business/start-up support that is available

Transit Sites

a) Make Housing Services aware of the opposition to transit sites being set up in Falkirk
b) Let the local MSPs know of this position.
5. Conclusion

Building Bridges are grateful for the support of firstly, our own gypsy traveller community for participating in the event and secondly for the assistance from Community Learning & Development Staff in organising the event. We also recognise the help given by other Community Planning Partners in the lead up to this event. The partnerships and networks are starting to strengthen locally and this all goes well for future progress.

We will be arranging a stake-holders event in the near future to raise awareness of the issues raised in this report. We as an organisation will also be working on a development strategy for the Falkirk Area where we can work to achieving meaningful outcomes for the local gypsy/ traveller Community.

Morag Fowler

Chairperson
Building Bridges
Appendices
Building Bridges
Scottish Gypsy Travellers Group

Community Consultation Event Invite

Dear friend,

Building Bridges are a Scottish Gypsy/Travellers group based in Falkirk. Our aim is to represent this community throughout Scotland and give them a collective voice for their views and issues that affect them in their daily life.

At present we are conducting a community consultation event to look at issues that are important to Scottish Gypsy/Travellers living in the Falkirk area.

The event is part of a Growing Communities Funded Connecting Communities Project.

We would like to invite you to come along and take part in this event.

"The more people we consult the more seriously we will be listened to"

Where: The Rosebank Hall
Cameron Education Centre
Abercrombie Street
Cameron
Falkirk
FK1 4HA

When: Tuesday the 6th of December 2011 at 6.30pm
Refreshments and a light snack available from 6pm

Some possible points for you to consider for discussion

Housing – Planning – Sites

What is your experience of site provision in Falkirk?
Are Gypsy/Travellers involved enough in the management of sites?
What experience do Gypsy/Travellers have of the housing system?

Education

What are the experiences of Gypsy/Travellers with the education system?

Health

What are the experiences of Gypsy/Travellers accessing Health Services?
What can you say about the health of Travellers?

Community Safety – Police, Fire Service

What are the experiences of Gypsies and Travellers with the police and Fire Brigade?

Local Politics

What are the experiences of Gypsies and Travellers in dealing with local politicians, councillors and policy makers?

These are just a few come along and have your say on what is important to you and your family.

To register please contact Alistair Fowler 07919 404722 building-bridges@live.co.uk
Appendix 2

Falkirk Gypsy Traveller’s Project “Building Bridges, Making a Difference”

Community Workshop

Tuesday 6th of December 2011
At 6.30pm-8.45pm

In the Rosebank Room, Camelon Community Education Centre.

Programme

6.30 7.00 Buffet

7.00 -7.15 Welcome and introduction

7.15-8.15 Talking about the themes

8.15-8.30 Top up your cups
Falkirk Gypsy Traveller’s Project “Building Bridges, Making a Difference”

Community Workshop

Tuesday 6th of December 2011
At 6.30pm-8.45pm

In the Rosebank Room, Camelon Community Education Centre.

Aims of Project

- To break down barriers
- To improve access to services
- To tackle discrimination

Indication of Success/Outcomes

- Better relationships with the police, not just to see them when they are conducting enforcement duties. We would probably see more reporting of hate crime. Potentially a member of the travelling community could become a special constable
- Raised awareness of health issues, e.g.- diabetes, diet, drugs and alcohol awareness, access to services/health promotion
- Better living conditions (the rent seems high for what you get), social group housing (examples from other areas), social group harmony, Site letting policy and understanding of allocation policy.
- Accessing education classes etc. numeracy, literacy, ICT, accessing “glow”, certificated/accredited courses at college etc.
- Business start up, book-keeping, self employment support, tax help. Young people becoming modern apprentices.
- Working with schools to raise awareness of travelling people’s culture and language

Themes of the Evening

It was decided that in order to address key issues, the three themes for the evening would be as follows:

- Health and Safety
- Community & Culture
- Education & Employment
Scottish Gypsy / Traveller Organisation

For further information on the project and the work of the group contact:

Alister Fowler
Development Worker

Building Bridges
C/o Park Street Community Education Centre
Park Street
Falkirk
FK1 1RE
Telephone: 07884075565

Email: admin@sgtm.org.uk

http://www.sgtm.org.uk/
BUILDING BRIDGES

Making a Difference

“Making a Difference”

Employment, Training, Health, Community Services, Education, Image, Safety

building-bridges@live.co.uk

Falkirk Scottish Gypsy Travellers Connecting Communities Project 2011

Growing Communities Fund
“Scottish Gypsy Travellers continue to remain one of the most marginalised groups in Scotland. A number of research reports highlight the severe levels of prejudice and discrimination faced by this group.” (1) (2)

[1] Scottish Parliament Equal Opportunities Committee 2005

(2) EHRC Research Report 12 – Inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller Communities
“A social group of any size, whose members reside in a specific locality and have a common cultural and historical heritage” (1)

- January 2009 Count 2,120 people (2)
- “Organisations working with Scottish Gypsy Travellers estimate that the figure is closer to 20,000 people” (3)

- Falkirk Council Area – Estimate under 600
- Redding Site
- Private Sites

(1) http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/community
(2) Gypsies/Travellers in Scotland: The Twice Yearly Count - No. 16: July 2009
Local Community Planning

“We help community members come together to examine issues that effect them, individually and collectively.”

“We help them articulate their concerns and aspirations to service providers and other communities.”
Key Areas

- Sustainable
- Fairer
- Growing Businesses & Prosperous People
- Young People Who are Confident and Successful
- Safer Communities
- Healthier People
- Involved Communities

Key Themes from Falkirk Strategic Community Plan 2010-2015
Our Organisation

Building Bridges was formally constituted in May 2010. We are a registered charity and work throughout Scotland with the travelling communities and various community planning partners and agencies.

Our aims are:

• To break the myths and the barriers between the local communities gypsy/travellers and the local service providers
• To raise awareness of services and how to access them.
• To raise the well-being and standard of living of gypsy/travellers
• To hold conferences and events which promote our social and cultural values among our members and other communities
Some Activity to Date

- Informing Strategic Community Advisory Group in Tayside.
- Gypsy Traveller Festival, Fife.
- Liaison with Central Scotland Police Lay Advisors
- Community Open Day Events, Falkirk
- Participation in Falkirk Housing Strategy Consultation
Falkirk Gypsy Traveller’s Project
“Building Bridges, Making a Difference”

A successful application was made to the Growing Communities Fund, administered by CVS, Falkirk & District to fund this initiative

The project would be to:
• Address barriers to the travelling community accessing services
• Promote community cohesion
• Address issues of discrimination
Process

- Scoping Meeting
- Planning Working Group
- Site Open Day
- Traveller's Event/Workshop

1. Health & Safety
2. Community & Culture
3. Employment & Training
- Presentation of Report / Stakeholder’s Event
Report & Comment Cards
Feedback
Making A Difference – *progress so far.*

- Community Engagement
- Youth activity
- Partnership Networking
- Promotion
- Membership Increased
Way Forward

- E Copy Sent
- Notes circulated invite further comment
- Comments/Commitments will inform future development activity
Thank You For Participating