1. In West Dunbartonshire there is one well established site at Dennystoun Forge, Dumbarton. The site is in a central location close to schools, shops and the main health centre. The site was opened in 1981, is very stable and has a minimal turnover.

There are 20 pitches. All pitches have individual amenity units and all the static caravans are plumbed in to the mains water and sewerage supplies.

The site was upgraded in 1992 and in 2003/2004 the amenity units had new kitchens, bathrooms and improved insulation installed. A small play area was installed in 2004/2005 and in 2005/2006 the internal road was resurfaced and the lighting was improved.

Following recent consultation with the site residents, we are at present obtaining costs for further improvement work i.e. the extension of the hard standing at each pitch, improved fencing throughout the site and the provision of sheds.

In West Dunbartonshire, following the retirement of the site manager, we do not have a dedicated site manager. The site is managed by a small team of named officers based in the Homelessness & Allocations section.

The weekly rent is £61.00 payable over 47 weeks.

Within the site residential agreement, site residents can leave the site for 12 weeks in any 12 month period.

2. Within the Local Plan an area at Dalmoak, Renton and an area adjacent to the exiting site at Dennystoun Forge have been identified as possible additional sites. However, the existing site residents have expressed concern about both of these locations and no further action is being taken at the present time.

3. In identifying the areas outlined above we worked closely with the Planning Department to identify land that was both in Council ownership and was zoned appropriately. The availability of land does restrict the potential size of any proposed site but in discussion with the local Gypsy/Traveller community, the provision of 20 pitches would appear to be an optimum number.

In relation to demand for additional site provision, we closely monitor the needs of emerging households on the established site, the waiting list for the established site, general housing demand from the Gypsy/Traveller community and the accommodation needs (if any) of Gypsy/Travellers setting up unauthorised encampments throughout the area.

4. We have no temporary/halting sites and have no plans at present to establish any.

5. Please see response to Question 3 - second paragraph. This is an on going process.
6. All complaints are recorded and addressed within the framework of the Council's agreed complaints procedure. However, to address any literacy issues, we do ensure that the process is user friendly.

7. When discussions were taking place about additional sites, we did take in to account their proximity to local services. However, these considerations have to be balanced with the availability of land.

8. There are no private sites in West Dunbartonshire.

9. When Gypsy/ Travellers move on to a piece of land without the owner's permission we would classify this as an unauthorised encampment. We ensure that we make contact with them as quickly as possible and offer advice, information and any other assistance required.

10. The Council has a Gypsy/ Traveller Corporate Forum which includes senior officers from all Council departments. This Forum meets on a quarterly basis and has the remit to ensure that Gypsy/ Traveller issues are included in each department's forward planning processes.

Staff have attended awareness raising courses.

11. In West Dunbartonshire we do not have either a Gypsy/ Traveller Liaison officer or a dedicated site manager

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West Dunbartonshire Council
1 June 2012