

Gypsy Travellers' Strategy 2012 - 2015

Gypsy Travellers' Strategy 2012 – 2015

If you would like to have this document in large print, in an alternative language, in audio format, or you would like someone to help you read it or to explain it, please contact your local ACHA office.

Registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator, charity number: SC042713

Gypsy Travellers' Strategy 2012 - 2015



Ledaig Travelling Persons' Site

Bill McIntyre, Chair of ACHA's Board of Management

"ACHA hopes that this first Strategy for Gypsy Travellers is well received by those living on the three sites in Argyll and Bute. We also hope it is helpful for those Gypsy Travellers who live within settled communities and for those coming to our area for the first time. We welcome any comments you would have on our services".

Mairi MacGregor and Helen Martin, Nurse Co-ordinators for Homeless, Gypsy Travellers and Looked After and Accommodated Children (NHS)

"We welcome this strategy to help build on partnership working with ACHA and the Gypsy Traveller community both on the three sites in Argyll and Bute and also for those Travellers living in settled communities".

Janine Calder, Argyll Women's Aid

"Women's Aid endorses this document and works towards eliminating violence against women, including those identifying themselves as Gypsy/Travellers and is aware of the additional issues that women from this community may experience including racism and discrimination".

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Torlochan Travelling Persons' Site, Sandbank, by Dunoon

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Introduction

Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) owns and manages three travelling persons' sites. ACHA is the only housing association in Scotland currently operating sites for Gypsy Travellers, the others being in local authority ownership.

This document is publicly available through the ACHA website (www.acha.co.uk) or a copy (or recording of it) can be obtained from any ACHA office. A leaflet giving details of our services and this strategy is also available and will be given to every Gypsy Traveller tenant, or prospective tenant (see appendix two). The draft strategy was given in paper and audio format to tenants on our three sites. We are grateful for the time taken to respond to the draft and, where possible, we have included the changes that were suggested. The draft was also given to staff, the Tenants Panel, Area Committees and partner organisations to allow the fullest consultation. Thank you to everyone who responded.

The aim of this strategy is to promote equality and better understand the many issues around the provision of services for the Gypsy Traveller community.

In Argyll and Bute travellers live on three Travelling Persons' sites and also within our mainstream housing.

ACHA would like to work in partnership with Gypsy Travellers and local and national bodies to see continual improvement in the services provided for Gypsy Travellers in Argyll and Bute.

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Definitions, Background and Ethnic Origin

- 1 Every local housing authority must, when undertaking a review of housing needs in their district under section 8 of the Housing Act 1985 (c. 68), carry out an assessment of the accommodation needs of gypsies and travellers residing in or resorting to their district.
- 2 Subsection (3) applies where a local housing authority are required under section 87 or the Local Government Act 2003 (c. 26) to prepare a strategy in respect of the meeting of such accommodation needs.
- 3 The local authority who are that local housing authority must take the strategy into account in exercising their functions.
'functions' include functions exercisable otherwise than as a local housing authority.
- 4 A local housing authority must have regard to any guidance issued under section 226 in –
 - a) Carrying out such an assessment as mentioned in subsection (1), and
 - b) Preparing any strategy that they are required to prepare as mentioned in subsection (2).
- 5 In this section –
 - a) 'gypsies and travellers' has the meaning given by regulations made by the appropriate national authority;
 - b) 'accommodation needs' includes needs with respect to the provision of sites on which caravans can be stationed; and
 - c) 'caravan' has the same meaning as in Part 1 of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960.

As a racial group, Gypsy Travellers are also protected by the Equalities Act 2010.

Gypsy Traveller communities in Scotland include Gypsy Travellers (or Roma), traditional Scottish Travellers or Travelling People, Irish Travellers

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and other related ethnic groups with histories going back over many centuries in Europe. Some people believe the Gypsy/Travellers who have settled in Scotland originally came from India and they then travelled through the Middle East and down through Europe to reach Scotland. The language used by Gypsy Travellers is called 'Cant' and it originates from Sanskrit, which is a language that came from the north of India.

Scottish Gypsy Travellers have a long and rich cultural heritage of over a thousand years and many of their cultural traditions and customs are still used today. Scottish Travellers are believed to have their roots in Scotland itself when people were forced to leave their homes during the Highland clearances of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and so began to travel.

Some Highland Travellers use a Travellers form of Gaelic, although this is now dying out and isn't used by many young Scottish Travellers.

Ethnic origin information from ACHA's statistics:

Ethnic Origin

EO01	Scottish	EO07	Bangladeshi	EO13	Gypsy / Traveller
EO02	Irish	EO08	Chinese	EO14	Any Mixed Background
EO03	Other British	EO09	Other Asian Background	EO15	Other Ethnic Background
EO04	Other White Background	EO10	Caribbean	EO17	Polish
EO05	Indian	EO11	African	EO18	Arab
EO06	Pakistani	EO12	Other Black Background	ENOP	Do not want to provide

At the time of writing this strategy, information held on ethnic origin of current pitch users is incomplete. This may be as a result of reticence by

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Gypsy Travellers to complete ethnic minority forms. It is hoped that the introduction of an annual survey (see Appendix three) will help to increase our knowledge of the ethnic origin of site users.

There were seven applicants for housing at the time of writing this strategy (February 2012) who gave their ethnic origin as Gypsy Traveller. Applications recorded are for both mainstream housing and for pitches on sites through HOME Argyll).

Encampments

This term refers to unauthorised sites where travellers stop temporarily. ACHA will continue to work with other local agencies and services to provide information and advice regarding more permanent accommodation to Gypsy Travellers who are travelling within the area. ACHA will make the leaflet (appendix two) as widely available as possible. This leaflet gives information about the sites that ACHA has available and provides information to Travellers on the process involved in obtaining a pitch. A supply of leaflets will be given to the Police and to Argyll and Bute Council staff who deal with encampments.

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All about our three Gypsy Traveller sites

Appendix six gives details of each site including location, layout and an aerial photograph of each site.

Travelling persons' site licence

ACHA, as an operator of Travelling Persons' Sites must get a licence to operate the three sites. This licence is provided by Argyll and Bute Council who make sure that all facilities on site meet current legislation and fire responsibilities. ACHA works closely with Argyll and Bute Council and Strathclyde Fire and Rescue to ensure that our responsibilities are met.

Fire risk assessments

As part of the Caravan and Control of Development Act 1960, ACHA must carry out a Fire Risk Assessment at each of the three sites every year. The assessments provide details of possible risks to life and make recommendations to ensure compliance with fire safety legislation. A Fire Safety Log Book is maintained which details the fire safety equipment, staff fire safety training and fire risk action plan. New tenants are made aware of the Fire Action Plan and Fire Fighting Equipment at their site.

Travelling Persons Site Managers' Association

This group is made up of Site Managers from across Scotland with a committee elected annually to lead the group. Meetings take place at various locations across Scotland on a quarterly cycle and aim to share best practice and discuss legislative changes. ACHA staff attend meetings by rotation and will continue to support this group and offer accommodation for meetings when appropriate.

Pitch occupancy

Ledaig by Oban

Historically, Ledaig has had a long standing tenant group, made up of members of one extended family. The longest tenancy currently on site has been there since 1998. There is an emerging pattern of reduced demand with some pitches being empty for lengthy periods before they are re-let.

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Duncholgan by Lochgilphead

As with Ledaig there is an emerging pattern of low demand with some long term voids at times.

Torlochan by Dunoon

This site has traditionally had a more transient tenant group.

Allocations

Applications for accommodation at the three sites or for mainstream housing are made through HOME Argyll. HOME Argyll is a common allocations system which ACHA operates along with four Housing Association partners and Argyll and Bute Council. HOME Argyll is a needs-based waiting list, and consequently applications are pointed and prioritised according to applicants housing needs. Applicants indicate preferences for the particular areas and types of accommodation which they wish.

Allocations are made according to the HOME Argyll Policy.

The address for the HOME Argyll website is: www.homeargyll.co.uk

We have developed a leaflet to help people coming to Argyll and Bute who may be looking for information on how to apply for housing or a pitch on one of the sites (see Appendix two). This leaflet is available in all our area offices and on our website. We will also ensure that colleagues in Argyll and Bute Council who work with Travellers on temporary encampments have copies of the leaflet to hand out. The leaflet is also available on audio CD.

Low demand for pitches

ACHA has a strategy to deal with instances of low demand and the following is an extract from that:

- ACHA has three Travelling Persons' sites within the Argyll & Bute area, providing thirty two pitches for caravans. In some sites there is an emerging pattern of reduced demand with some pitches being empty for lengthy periods before they are re-let
- Annual consultation will take place with tenants at the three sites and local meetings will be held to discuss tenants' thoughts on current

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services provided and to identify and determine priorities for any site improvements.

- Consideration will be given to pitches being advertised in relevant publications.
- We will provide easily accessible information on the full range of housing options for Gypsy/Travellers including access to pitches.

Leases

When ACHA took over the three sites in 2006 an ACHA Travelling Persons Site Lease was developed (see Appendix one). The lease differs from the standard Scottish Secure Tenancy lease which is used for much of ACHA's housing stock. Tenants at ACHA's Travelling Persons Sites do not have the right to buy, and this is in line with all Travelling Persons Sites in Scotland.

Repairs

The Scottish Secure Tenants (Right to Repair) Regulations 2002 contains provisions for the Right to Repair Scheme to cover the rights of all tenants on a Scottish Secure Tenancy. Qualifying Repairs normally reflect the type of repair which might affect health, safety or security of the tenant and their household or property. Tenants of our travelling persons' sites do not have a Scottish Secure Tenancy, however, ACHA is committed to providing equality of service and regards repairs as a contractual right. The level of repairs service to all tenants of our travelling persons' site is the same as house tenants.

Aids and adaptations

ACHA is committed to ensuring that tenants of Travellers Sites have the opportunity to remain in their chosen accommodation should their health deteriorate. Therefore, adaptations up to the cost of £200 will be carried out by the Association to amenity units. Should there be further adaptations identified, ACHA will work with Social Work and Health colleagues to provide appropriate installations.

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Participation, Consultation and Partnerships

Participation

We will encourage tenant participation with those living on our three sites and with Gypsy Travellers living in mainstream housing. Through the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 Gypsy Travellers living on sites have no legal rights of consultation. ACHA believes that everyone should have the opportunity to be involved and our Tenant Involvement Strategy 2009 – 2012 contains information on a range of participation options. Our strategy is available on request or on our website www.acha.co.uk and staff will be more than happy to discuss the contents.

ACHA staff encourage tenants of the three sites to get involved in a way best suited to their needs. It can be difficult to sustain the momentum of a tenants association if the tenants involved are transient. However, the trend is moving towards more settled communities at the travellers' sites. It is hoped that the annual surveys and meetings with everyone on sites will encourage more participative working and information sharing between sites.

The new Scottish Social Housing Charter will set out the standards of service to be expected by all tenants of ACHA as their landlord. This Charter will specifically identify Gypsy Travellers as a group of tenants and lay out in broad terms the standards of service to be expected. The Charter will come into effect from April 2012 and will be available from any ACHA office or from our website.

Consultation

ACHA undertakes consultation with all tenants, including Gypsy Travellers, across our major services. These are outlined in our Customer Contact and Feedback Strategy 2011 – 2014 including:

- repairs satisfaction forms and phone calls;
- three-yearly tenant satisfaction questionnaires;
- new tenant sign-up questionnaire;
- exit questionnaire (when a tenant gives notice to leave);

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- rent setting (annual questionnaire);
- anti social behaviour (feedback from those who asked for our help).

Annual survey

ACHA will conduct an annual survey of tenants of Travelling Persons Sites (see Appendix three). The survey will be conducted by ACHA staff talking to individual tenants on the sites and recording their feedback. If tenants prefer to complete the survey in confidence they can return the survey to us by post. We will also produce the survey in audio format and if preferred, the comments can be made verbally to a member of staff or to someone acting on behalf of the tenant. It is planned to conduct these surveys during November each year. The information gathered from the surveys will be collated and fed back to the tenants through meetings held at each site. These meetings will give tenants an opportunity to discuss the results of the survey and options for future service developments. The outcomes of these annual consultations will be fed into our Gypsy Traveller Action Plan (see section below, page twelve). The results of the annual surveys and on-site consultations will be given to our four local Area Committees and to the Board of Management. We may also share the results of surveys with partner organisations if appropriate.

Partnership working

ACHA recognises that a key element to providing effective services to Gypsy Travellers within our communities is to work with other agencies and providers.

One such collaborative service is that of the Nurse Co-ordinators posts for Homeless, Gypsy Travellers and Looked After & Accommodated Children. These two posts are jointly funded by Argyll and Bute Council and NHS Highland. The aim is to ensure that the Gypsy Traveller community have access to health screening programmes and are linked to their local health services. The Nurse Coordinators work with travelling families to ensure a flexible, supportive service throughout Argyll & Bute. ACHA supports and works with the Nurse Co-ordinators and provides meeting space at sites where possible.

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Another example of a successful partnership is the family service provided by Fyne Families at Duncholgan Travelling Persons Site. Fyne Families is a voluntary sector, parent run, charitable company providing a variety of childcare options in mid Argyll including pre-school and family services. In addition to this, the family centre enables adult education to be delivered by partner organisations. This service has been in place for many years and is generally regarded as having provided excellent services to the Travelling community over that time.



The Gypsy Traveller Action Plan

ACHA seeks to promote effective consultation and continual improvements to services over the lifespan of this strategy. An Action Plan has also been developed to enable improvements to be considered on an on-going basis with measurable targets set.

The Action Plan will contain items which have been considered by ACHA as requiring attention together with issues raised by Gypsy Travellers themselves. Some actions will have fairly short timescales placed against them while others may require a much longer timeframe to develop.

The Action Plan will consider the annual feedback from Gypsy Travellers from both the Annual Traveller Survey and the meetings arranged within the sites. The proposed actions and timescales within the Action Plan will be discussed with tenants of the sites.

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There are some areas that we know will require to be included in the Action Plan, for example:

- Play areas - None of the three sites currently has any fixed children's play area equipment although all of them have open amenity space. The Ledaig site has a small set of goal posts. All of the sites are too far from other play areas to allow children from the Travellers' sites safe or easy access to these. ACHA is currently pursuing funding to provide modern, equipped play areas tailored to each site.
- Improved take up of pitches - ACHA recognises that there appear to be emerging issues of low demand for some sites. It is necessary to try to identify the reasons why and address these.
- Traveller awareness of services - ensuring that all tenants at sites are aware of the range of services available to them and the range of formats for information to be provided to them.



Duncholgan Travelling Persons' Site

Appendix one - sample lease

To: [Tenant's Name]
[Tenant's Address]

Date: [date]

Offer to Let

We, Argyll Community Housing Association Limited registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1965 (Registered Number 2661 RS) and having its Registered Office at 63 – 65 Chalmers Street, Ardrishaig, PA30 8DX (“**ACHA**”)

hereby offer to let to you (“**the Tenant**”)

the caravan pitch number [] (“**the Pitch**”)

which forms part of [] Travelling Persons Site (“**the Site**”)

and that on the following terms and conditions:

1. The let is from [] (“**the Date of Entry**”) until [], and will continue on a weekly basis thereafter, until terminated.
2. The rent is £ [] per week, payable in advance. This is exclusive of electricity.
3. ACHA reserve the right to review the rent and other charges levied for the Pitch, subject to 28 days written notice.
4. Either party may terminate this agreement by giving four weeks’ notice, in writing, to the other party.
5. The Tenant is entitled to use the electricity connected to the Pitch by connecting to the external power point on the Pitch, which connection must be made with an approved weatherproof fitting and authorised by ACHA. No unauthorised connection to the electricity supply will be permitted. There is a meter for the supply of electricity at the Pitch and the Tenant pays the electricity supplier direct for the electricity used.
6. One caravan and one motor vehicle only will be allowed on the Pitch, unless prior written approval has been received from ACHA for more than that number.
7. No animal shall be kept on the Site without prior written approval from ACHA and where approval has been given, the animal must be kept under proper supervision and control at all times.
8. The Tenant is not permitted to take in a lodger, or to sub-let the Pitch.
9. The Tenant may have visitors and a Tenant’s visitor will be the responsibility of the Tenant while they remain on the Site.
10. The Tenant shall keep the Pitch in clean and tidy condition and is jointly responsible, with the other tenants at the Site, for keeping common areas of the Site in a clean and tidy condition. All litter and rubbish must be deposited in the containers provided for that purpose.
11. No burning of vehicles, tyres of any other materials and no open fires are permitted on the Site.
12. Petrol, diesel and paraffin must not be stored on the Site and all inflammable liquids and gas containers must be kept outside caravans.
13. The Tenant is not permitted to assign the Pitch, without the prior written approval of ACHA, whose approval will not be unreasonably withheld.
14. No caravan or vehicle shall be sold or transferred to a third party and thereafter remain on the Site, unless the Tenant has assigned the Pitch to that third party

- with the prior written approval of ACHA.
15. No Tenant or any members of his/her family or any of his/her visitors, shall cause any nuisance by noise or otherwise to other occupants of the Site.
 16. ACHA shall have the right to enter the Pitch (1) at all reasonable hours, for the purpose of inspection, maintenance or repair, or for any other reasonable purpose and (2) at any time, in case of emergency.
 17. A speed limit of 5 miles an hour shall be observed on the Site at all times.
 18. Provided that prior notice is given to ACHA, permission will be granted to vacate the Pitch for a maximum of 8 weeks of any 12 months. The rent during any period of vacancy for which permission has been granted will be one-half share of the full rent payable before vacation of the Pitch.
 19. If the Tenant leaves the Site without giving 7 days written notice, one week's rent will be charged in lieu of notice.
 20. The Tenant is required to report all defects in the Pitch and / or the Site to ACHA.
 21. The Tenant is liable for any damage to the fixtures or equipment provided on the Site by ACHA, including damage caused by any member of his/her family or by his/her visitors.
 22. The Tenant shall take all reasonable precautions to minimise the risk of fire and to shall familiarise him/her-self with arrangements for fire fighting on the Site.
 23. The Tenant must occupy any caravan sited on the Pitch as his only or main residence. This is a residential Site only. No business or trade may be carried out from the Site.
 24. At the termination of this agreement, either by the Tenant or by ACHA, the Pitch must be left clean and in a condition acceptable to ACHA. Any keys and other equipment furnished by ACHA must be returned to ACHA.
 25. The above conditions may be altered by ACHA on giving 28 days prior notice, in writing.
 26. ACHA will be entitled to terminate this agreement if:
 - there has been a breach of the above conditions by the Tenant, where ACHA has served notice on the Tenant of that breach and the Tenant has not complied with the notice within a reasonable time.
 - the Tenant is not occupying any caravan sited on the Pitch as his only or main residence.
 - having regard to the age and condition of any caravan sited on the Pitch that caravan is having (or is likely to have) a detrimental effect on the amenity of the Site.

SIGNED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF ACHA:

_____ Authorised signatory

_____ Witness

_____ Address

I have read and understood the above offer of let and agree to abide by the terms and conditions therein:

SIGNED BY THE TENANT:

_____ Date

_____ Signature

_____ Witness

_____ Address

End of Lease

SAMPLE

Contact your local ACHA office using the numbers below:

Helensburgh & Lomond

31 James Street, Helensburgh G84 8AS

Tel: 01546 605920

Cowal

Dolphin Hall, Manse Avenue, Dunoon PA23 8DQ

Tel: 01546 605950

Bute

Union Street, Rothesay PA20 0HD

Tel: 01546 605870

Mid Argyll

Dalriada House, Lochgilphead PA31 8ST

Tel: 01546 605800

Kintyre

Old Quay Head, Campbeltown PA28 6ED

Tel: 01546 605880

Islay

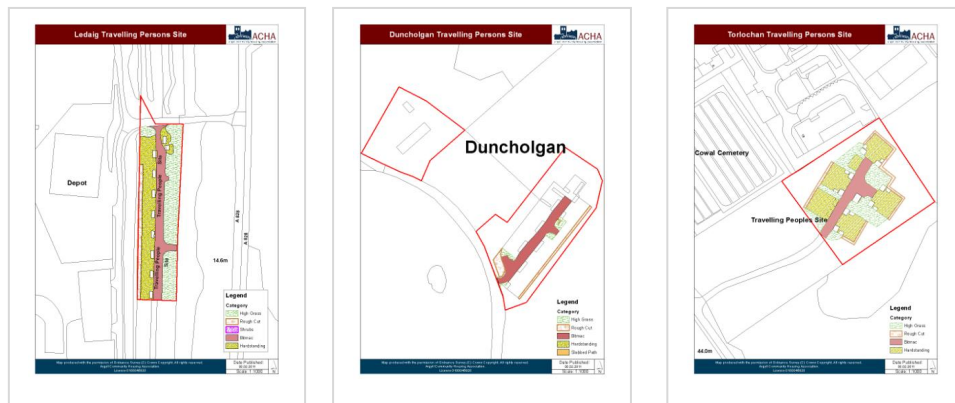
Jamieson Street, Bowmore PA43 7HP

Tel: 01546 605890

Oban, Lorn and Isles

Menzies House, Glenshellach Business Park, Oban PA34 4RY

Tel: 01546 60930



Services for Gypsy Travellers

This leaflet explains the services available to Gypsy Travellers both within and out with ACHA's Travelling Persons sites

Sites are currently located at:

- Ledaig (near Oban) - 8 pitches
- Duncholgan (near Lochgilphead) - 14 pitches
- Torlochan (near Dunoon) - 8 pitches



Registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator,
Charity number: SC042713

ACHA Travelling Persons' Sites

Each of the three sites is visited on a weekly basis by Housing & Neighbourhood Services Assistants. Staff can assist with paperwork, provide information and liaise with other relevant agencies.

ACHA also provides a Welfare Rights Service and tenants can request a home visit to help with any benefit queries/applications or alternatively call into their local ACHA office.

Any repairs to pitches can be reported to ACHA's staff or by phoning the Customer Service Centre free phone number 0800 028 2755 (calls from mobile phones will be charged at network rates).

ACHA's Travelling Persons Sites also have a variety of local initiatives such as educational classes and pre-school places. Please contact ACHA staff in the local office for information (see contact information on the back page).

We would be more than happy to give you information on any of our services, please don't hesitate to ask. We can provide leaflets and other information in large print or in alternative languages on request.

ACHA has a Gypsy Travellers' Strategy and can provide a copy of this for you if you would like, please ask us.

Applying for a Pitch

Pitches are allocated in line with the HOME Argyll allocations policy. Application forms are available from local ACHA offices or can be downloaded from the Home Argyll website www.homeargyll.co.uk.

ACHA staff would be happy to help you to fill in the application form and give you information on allocations. Applications are assessed according to housing need. Depending on the level of demand, there may be a waiting list for pitches.

ACHA Tenants

If you are allocated a pitch on one of ACHA's Travelling Persons' Sites you will be required to sign a Tenancy Agreement. This agreement outlines your obligations to us as your landlord and also our obligations to you.

As with all other ACHA tenancies you have the right to be consulted on issues such as rent increases. We would be happy to give you information on how you can get involved with ACHA ; tenant participation, Tenants Consultation Register etc.

You can apply for membership of the Association. This £1 for life membership enables you to vote on matters at the Annual General Meeting of ACHA and also receive a copy of our Annual Report each year.

Appendix three - Annual Travellers' Survey

Annual Travellers' Survey November 2012

This is a **confidential** survey.

ACHA holds information securely and does not share this information with any other organisation. The information is used to understand who our customers are, if we are meeting your needs and what we need to do to plan future services.

Please tick ✓

Site: Ledaig Duncholgan Torlochan

Pitch Number :

Tenants and Joint Tenants Name :

Tenant	
Joint Tenants	

Others living with you - please tell us if they are your child, partner, grandparent, friend etc:

How long have you lived on this site: years, months

Q1 when you came to live on the site were you happy with the information and service you received from ACHA?

Yes No

If no, please specify:

Q2 Do you think that the rent charge for your pitch is good value for money?

Yes No

Q3 Are you happy with the different ways that you can pay your rent?

Yes No

Q4 Have you been contacted by the Welfare Rights Officer?

Yes No

Q5 Are you happy with the ways that you can contact ACHA?

Yes No

Q6 Do you think that the frequency that ACHA staff attend the site is.....

Just right Not enough

Q7 What do you think is good about your site:

Q8 What do you think would improve your site:

Q9 Would you like to become part of the Tenants Consultation Register?

You would occasionally be sent questionnaires to help us improve services.

Yes No

Q10 Are you aware of ACHA's Complaints Policy?

Yes No

ACHA will gather all your comments together and give you a copy of the results (with no names or pitch numbers so they will be completely confidential).

The results of the survey will be fed back to tenants on the three Travellers sites. They will be given to the local ACHA Area Committee and also to ACHA's Board of Management.

Ethnic Origin

The Scottish Government requires all landlords to record the ethnic origin of its tenants. This information is not shared with anyone else and the statistics passed to the Scottish Government are only numbers of each ethnic origin (no names or addresses are included).

EO01	Scottish	EO07	Bangladeshi	EO13	Gypsy / Traveller
EO02	Irish	EO08	Chinese	EO14	Any Mixed Background
EO03	Other British	EO09	Other Asian Background	EO15	Other Ethnic Background
EO04	Other White Background	EO10	Caribbean	EO17	Polish
EO05	Indian	EO11	African	EO18	Arab
EO06	Pakistani	EO12	Other Black Background	ENOP	Do not want to provide

Please state which ethnic origin you would consider is appropriate for yourself and those living with you:

Full Name		Ethnic Origin number	
SAMPLE	Mrs Fiona MacIntyre	SAMPLE	EO13

Appendix four - Traveller Facts

- There are 100,000 - 200,000 Gypsy Travellers in the UK, according to the Gypsy Council.
- Save the Children in Scotland estimate there are 20,000 Gypsy Travellers in Scotland.
- For a variety of reasons many Gypsy Travellers live in houses for part or all of the year rather than live on the road, however, they still consider themselves to be Gypsy Travellers because of their culture and traditions.
- There are over 30 official local authority sites for Gypsy Travellers in Scotland.
- Family and tradition are really important to Gypsy Travellers.

Scottish Government statistics (twice yearly count - July and Nov)

Information on Gypsy Travellers across Scotland is compiled annually by the Scottish Government. The following findings were recorded in July 2009:

- A total of 684 Gypsy Traveller households living on Council or Registered Social Landlord Sites (RSL) sites, private sites and unauthorised encampments in Scotland. This represents an estimated population of around 2,120 people, a small decrease from the July 2008 population of 2,455 people.
- There were 294 (43%) households living on Council or RSL sites, 161 (24%) on private sites and 229 (33%) on unauthorised encampments. Comparable figures for July 2008 were 313 on Council or RSL sites, 162 on private sites and 269 on unauthorised encampments.
- There are currently 31 Council or RSL sites across Scotland, one less than in the July 2008 Count. 28 of these operate all year round and 3 are only open in the summer. These sites provide a total of 478 pitches (down from 499 in the July 2008 Count) of which 345 (72%) are currently tenanted, 61 (13%) are available for let but untenanted and 72 (15%) are unavailable for letting.
- Of the 31 Council or RSL sites, 8 were operating at full capacity. All 3 seasonal sites were in use at the time of the Count while the site in Glasgow remains unused.
- Around 225 (64%) of households based on Council or RSL sites had been tenants for over a year. 31% of all households had held their tenancies for 5 years or more.
- There were 22 private sites at the time of the Count, 17 of which operate all year round and 5 of which are seasonal open only in the summer months. 161 households were living on private sites, with the great majority 148 (92%) having been there for 4 weeks or longer.
- The number of unauthorised encampment locations occupied on the day of the July 2009 count stood at 46 across 18 local authorities. Over the six months to July 2009 there were 195 encampment locations used. The national average encampment size over this six month period was 5.2 caravans.
- Around 43% of the Gypsy Traveller population living on Council or RSL sites is aged 19 or under, compared to only 23% in the wider Scottish population; conversely only 10% of Gypsies/Travellers are over 60, compared to around 22% of the general population.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/08/18105029/0>

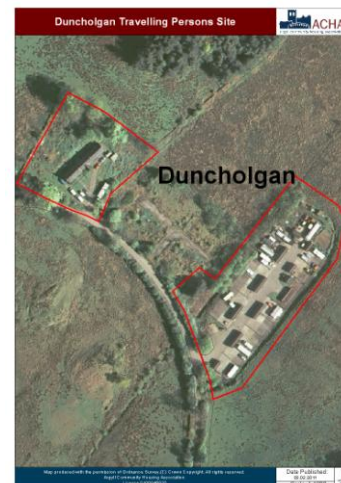
Appendix six - ACHA's Travelling Persons Sites

Ledaig Travelling Persons Site



Ledaig Travelling Persons Site is situated seven miles from Oban and has eight pitches, each with an amenity block. There are not currently any community or play facilities on site. There is a large grassed area which is maintained as part of ACHA's ground maintenance contract. The site was upgraded by Argyll and Bute Council in 2005. New kitchens and bathrooms were installed and an interior utility area provided in the amenity blocks. The electricity supply was also upgraded to each pitch.

Duncholgan Travelling Persons Site



Duncholgan Travelling Persons Site is situated two miles from Lochgilphead and has fourteen pitches, each with an amenity block. There is a community facility on site and the grassed areas are maintained as part of ACHA's grounds maintenance contract. The site was upgraded by Argyll and Bute Council in 2005. New kitchens and bathroom were installed and an interior utility area provided in the amenity blocks. The electricity supply was also upgraded to each pitch.

Torlochan Travelling Persons Site



Torlochan Travelling Persons site is situated three miles from Dunoon, there are eight pitches each with an amenity block. There are not currently any community or play facilities on site. Grassed areas are maintained as part of ACHA's ground maintenance contract. The site was upgraded in 2010, with improvements works carried out to each amenity block providing new kitchens and bathrooms. The electricity supply was also upgraded to each pitch, and CCTV was put into the site which can be viewed remotely by office staff.

Appendix seven - Legislation affecting travellers

The Housing Act 2004

Equalities Act 2010

Caravan and Control of Development Act 1960

Scottish Secure Tenants (Right to Repair) Regulations 2002

Housing (Scotland) Act 2001