



## What is this leaflet about?

This leaflet aims to let you know more about Gypsies and Travellers, and the role they play in the life of the county.

Suffolk has many different communities, including Gypsies and Travellers living in the county. These communities help to enrich the local culture with their own.

Understanding what different communities are all about will help us to live and work together better.

## Find out more...

More information about the support available for Gypsies and Travellers can be found at:

[www.suffolk.gov.uk/gypsiesandtravellers](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/gypsiesandtravellers)

**Tel: 01473 265194**

## Who produced this leaflet?

This leaflet was produced on behalf of partner organisations in Suffolk, and is intended to be read and distributed by any groups or individuals in the county to promote increased understanding between communities.

If you need help to understand this information in another language please call **08456 066 067**

إذا تحتاج إلى مساعدة لفهم هذه المعلومات في أي لغة أخرى فالرجاء الاتصال على الرقم التالي. **Arabic**

এই লেখাটি যদি অন্য ভাষাতে বুঝতে চান তাহলে নিচের নম্বরে ফোন করুন **Bengali**

如果你需要其他語言來幫助你了解這些資訊，請撥以下電話。 **Chinese**

જો તમારે આ માહિતી બીજી ભાષામાં સમજવા મદદ જોઈતી હોય, તો કૃપા કરી નીચેના નંબર પર ઠાપકો કરો. **Gujarati**

بەدەم زانیاری یەشێتی یە بۆ ئێوە گەڕێتی ئە هە یارمەت بۆ ئێوە بێت بەگەڕێتی بەکە. وە یە خواوەرم ژمارەن دی بەیوە بەزمان کێ تێر شکا یە **Kurdish**

Jeżeli potrzebujesz pomocy w zrozumieniu tych informacji w swoim języku zadzwoń na podany poniżej numer. **Polish**

Se precisar de ajuda para ler estas informações em outra língua, por favor telefone para o número abaixo. **Portuguese**

If you would like this information in another format, including audio tape or large print, please call **08456 066 067**.

Do you know about .....

# Gypsies and Travellers



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This leaflet has been produced on behalf of partner organisations in Suffolk

# Who are Gypsies and Travellers?

The term Gypsies and Travellers covers many different groups, including Romany Gypsies, Irish Travellers, Circus, Fairground and New Travellers. Although belonging to different communities, these groups all share in common a nomadic lifestyle and often have their own distinct traditions and cultures.

Gypsies and Travellers are individuals like us and belong to a strong culture that is very different to that of the settled community.

## Where do they come from?

Gypsies are from the **Romany** ethnic group, whose ancestors migrated here from India during the tenth century onwards, mixing with Europeans and other

groups over the centuries. Gypsies have been in Britain for at least 500 years.

**Irish Travellers** are a nomadic group with a distinctive way of life who have been here since at least the early 19th century, thought to be linked to the 1830's potato famine.

The first recorded modern circus was established in London in 1770. The long history of circus has frequently been associated with family names stretching back over many generations e.g. Chipperfields.



The Fairground community protects its interest and way of life partly by membership of the Showman's Guild of Great Britain which dates back to the end of the nineteenth century.

Most New Travellers have grown up in mainstream society. People adopt this way of life for a variety of reasons including homelessness, unemployment, environmental reasons or choice.

## How do Gypsies and Travellers affect me?

Some of the more well known areas of work that Gypsies and Travellers are involved in, include seasonal agricultural work, motor trading and tree-felling. Some are employed as academics, teachers and public servants, and in this way add to the economy. Gypsies and Travellers add to the culture and diversity of Suffolk through their storytelling, music and dance. The positive contribution of Gypsies and Travellers should be recognised.

## The facts...

- Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers are recognised as ethnic minorities and are protected by race relations legislation.
- There are 204 authorised spaces, or 'pitches' in Suffolk spread across 23 different sites that members of the Gypsy and Travelling communities use. On these pitches Gypsies and Travellers pay rent, water bills, electricity bills, and Council Tax

just like any other member of the settled community.

- Of approximately 432 caravans recorded in the January 2008 Suffolk caravan count, approximately 92%, were on authorised sites.
- Gypsies and Travellers often set up sites on land without planning permission because there is a lack of publicly provided spaces for

them. 90% of planning applications Gypsies and Travellers submit fail, which means they are often forced to make camp wherever possible.

- The East of England Regional Spatial Strategy has identified that by 2011 a further 156 individual pitches will be required in Suffolk.