



DRAFT

RESPECT CODE

West Dunbartonshire Council respects and recognises that Gypsy/ Travellers have a right to maintain their way of life and there should be no acts of discrimination shown as a result of their lifestyle.

The Council is committed to balancing the needs, wishes and rights of Gypsy/Travellers and the settled communities.

Be the Best as a Guest

When an encampment is unauthorised The Council will usually seek eviction from the public land being used promptly.

In exceptional circumstances the Council may make the decision to grant a defined period of stay. In these circumstances it is important to recognise that Gypsy/Travellers are effectively guests of both the Council and the local community. Therefore it is critical that they treat the land and the community with respect, observing this respect code.

The Respect Code will be issued to all people on unauthorised encampments on any West Dunbartonshire sites (both Council and private land) as quickly as possible.

Follow the Respect Code

- The site should not be overcrowded
- Vehicles and caravans should not create a road blockage or hazard
- The site should be kept clean
- Litter or rubbish should not be dumped. This includes domestic and trade waste such as scrap metal, tree cuttings, tyres, and rubble
- The burning of rubbish that emits toxic fumes or causes any form of nuisance to passers by or neighbours is not permitted
- Fires should not be started
- Human waste, babies' nappies etc. should be disposed of appropriately.
- Pets must be kept under control and all mess should be disposed of in an appropriate manner
- Generators should not be used between 10pm- 7am within the vicinity of residential properties
- The use of threatening/intimidatory behaviour towards Council employees, other agencies, local residents or Gypsy/Travellers of other members of the public will not be tolerated
- All residents on site should be aware that any criminal activity will always be reported to the Police immediately

If Gypsy/Travellers breach the Respect Conduct, or camp on an unsuitable location, West Dunbartonshire Council will take enforcement action, which may include seeking eviction from that location.

LOCATIONS THAT WILL BE DEEMED UNSUITABLE FOR ENCAMPMENT

Locations seen as unsuitable for encampment will depend upon their particular attributes, circumstances and location. Examples of locations that are unsuitable are detailed below:

- Parks, public open spaces in regular use, sports and recreation ground
- Public car parks
- Industrial estates, retail or business parks (including sites under development)
- A site where pollution from vehicles or dumping could damage ground water or watercourses.
- A site of special scientific interest where an encampment endangers a sensitive environment or wildlife
- A public highway or designated highway land
- A location where there is, or is likely to be a significant risk of harm to the health and safety of the occupants (e.g. an area with toxic waste or any other serious ground pollution, or on the verge of busy roads where traffic could pose a danger to children).