

**Reducing cost and conflict around unauthorised
Traveller encampments - challenges and opportunities**

Assessing the Potential of Negotiated Stopping

Andy Bagley

Real-Improvement

25 February 2016

The Questions

The report aims to answer three questions:

1. What has Negotiated Stopping achieved in Leeds, and how?
2. Could it be applied elsewhere?
3. If so, what is needed to make this happen?



Who Benefits?

Evidence that it works in Leeds for:

- Gypsies and Travellers themselves
- The Council
- The Police
- The settled community



Elsewhere?

- Examples from other areas
 - Variations on a theme – adapted to local circumstances
- Works best with Gypsy/Traveller groups who have local connections
 - Either permanent based in the area, or staying regularly
- Less suited to areas where different groups pass through for short periods
 - Alternatives: Transit sites, “toleration”

Making it Happen

Needs:

- Practical issues

- E.g. suitable sites, basic services, planning permission

- **But most of all, needs 'political will' and leadership to make it happen**



Cost Savings

FOR COUNCILS

- Reduced legal fees and clean-up costs
- Figures vary from a few thousand up to £400,000 per year
- Reasonable estimate is that Councils could save tens or hundreds of thousands per year

FOR THE POLICE

- Less need to visit unauthorised sites
- Better use of police time and resources
- *and* better relations with Gypsy and Traveller communities

Recommendations

1. Discussion with JRCT to follow this up
2. Further research on costs and benefits
3. Prioritising the potential – where will Negotiated Stopping work best?
4. Better Local Authority communications
5. Tackling wider issues of prejudice and discrimination
6. Building capacity within Gypsy and Traveller communities