

Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee
% Traveller Accommodation Unit
City Hall
Cork
T12 T997

Friday 14 August 2020

To whom it concerns –

On behalf of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) of Cork City Council, I ask that the ambition to fully realise the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019–2024, as adopted by Cork City Council, is fully reflected in the Cork City Development Plan 2022–2028.

The plan recognises the significant challenges faced by Cork City Council in providing suitable Traveller accommodation in the city. In particular, the plan recognises the challenges in overcoming overcrowding, welfare and health and safety issues affecting Traveller residents of the city.

In addition to official Traveller accommodation sites in the city, there are also several unauthorised and unofficial sites. Some of these are receiving humanitarian assistance from Cork City Council in addition to housing and homelessness support.

The programme envisions the building of Traveller-appropriate accommodation at an existing zoned site at Ellis' Yard in Ballyvolane. The plan envisions the potential development of further smaller Traveller-specific group housing schemes to deal with overcrowding at Spring Lane.

Lands towards the rear of the existing Meelagh site in Mahon are to be considered for development as Traveller-specific accommodation to cater for existing families living at the site in overcrowded conditions. The group housing scheme at St Anthony's Park is also included in the plan for an extension to the current properties to address overcrowding issues identified by families.

The Carrigrohane Road Halting Site is earmarked to be relocated due to the unsuitability of the location. The plan includes the need to identify a site for the development of a Traveller-specific group housing scheme to address this need.

A group-housing scheme is also envisioned to support the family occupying a site at Nash's Boreen. The family occupying the unofficial site at Corcoran's Quay will be housed in suitable standard accommodation.

In my experience at the LTACC, there is a very significant reluctance among Traveller residents to re-locate outside of the general locality of their existing accommodation, even despite the challenges of extremely poor living conditions where they currently live. This will need to be considered when identifying locations for Traveller-specific accommodation that successfully relieve overcrowding and extremely poor living conditions for Travellers at current Traveller-specific accommodation locations in the city.

I also believe there is a very great need to provide culturally-appropriate recreation and amenity facilities, particularly for children living in Traveller accommodation, as part of the proper planning of Traveller accommodation in the city.

The full Traveller Accommodation Plan 2019–2024 can be accessed online here: <https://www.corkcity.ie/en/council-services/services/housing/traveller-policy/>

Sincerely,
Oliver Moran
Chair, LTACC