

**Cork City Council
Housing Directorate**

**TRAVELLER
ACCOMMODATION
PROGRAMME
2019 TO 2024**

CONTENTS

Section: Page No.

Chapter 1:

Background	3 – 4
Introduction	5-6
Policy Statement	7
Statement Strategy	7

Chapter 2:

Outcomes under 2014 – 2018 TAP	8-16
--------------------------------	------

Chapter 3:

Accommodation Options	17-18
Assessment of Current & Future Accommodation Needs	19-25

Chapter 4:

Current Traveller Accommodation Schemes	26-27
Strategies and implementation Measures	28-33
Proposed Time-Frame for Implementation	34-35
Conclusion	36
Glossary	37

Chapter 1

BACKGROUND

This Traveller Accommodation Programme is by Ministerial direction, a five-year programme. The start/end date of the programme is directed by Minister Damien English, Minister of State, Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government. The Minister has directed that the 2019 to 2024 plan will run from the **1st July, 2019 to 30th June, 2024.**

This is Cork City Council's fifth Traveller Accommodation Programme and will replace the 2014 to 2018 programme which will expire on **30th June 2019.**

Under Section 10 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998, the Council is required to prepare an Accommodation Programme for a five year period to meet the current and future needs of the Travelling Community in the jurisdiction of Cork City Council. This programme incorporates areas currently within Cork County Council that are planned to transfer to the City Council's jurisdiction under the boundary extension that will take effect from **31st May, 2019.**

As the second major urban centre in the state, Cork City Council isn't without its challenges with respect to Traveller Accommodation and given that the Council is due to expand its area of jurisdiction on the 31st May 2019, these challenges will only increase. The Council has carried out a root and branch review of its Traveller Accommodation Programme with a view to making fundamental improvements and interventions to improve the lives of the travelling community in the City.

The following matters have been taken into consideration when preparing this programme:

1. The Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998
2. Guidelines for the Preparation, Adoption and Implementation of Local Authority Traveller Accommodation Programmes 2019-2024
3. 2018 Traveller Accommodation Surveys completed.
4. Summary of the Housing Needs Assessment as of June 2018.
5. Submissions received on the drafting of the 2019-2024 plan from various Stakeholders.
6. Consultation with the LTACC on the 2019 to 2024 Traveller Accommodation Programme.
7. Information available to the Staff of the Traveller Accommodation Unit from consultations with families with regard to current accommodation.
8. Presentation by CENA provided to the LTACC on 12th March, 2019.
9. Presentation by CTWN and TVG on the results of their Assessment of Needs prepared in conjunction with UCC to the LTACC on 12th March, 2019.

Introduction

The Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 came into force in July, 1998. Under this Act, Cork City Council (hereinafter called the Council) is required to prepare a five-year Traveller Accommodation Programme. The Council has implemented four Traveller Accommodation Programmes to date which cover the following periods:

- 2000 to 2004
- 2005 to 2008
- 2009 to 2013
- 2014 to 2018 (this programme will run until 30th June, 2019)

The current programme was reviewed in April 2016.

In advance of preparing this new programme, the Council as part of its stakeholder consultation invited submissions from the following Agencies and organisations in September 2018:

- Department of Education and Skills
- Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection
- An Garda Síochána
- Traveller Visibility Group
- Mahon Community Development Project
- We the People
- Cork Diocesan Office
- Cork Business Association
- City of Cork Vocational Educational Committee
- Cork Travellers Women's Network
- HSE
- Cork County Council
- Kerry County Council
- Cara House
- Homeless Persons Unit
- Edel House

- Probation Service
- LTACC Members
- Housing Associations – Tuath, Clúid, Carbery Housing, Respond, Co-Operative Housing, Threshold and Galtan.

The Council received submissions from the following agencies/organisations:

- Traveller Visibility Group
- Cork Traveller Women’s Network
- Southern Traveller Health Network
- HSE – Traveller Health
- CENA
- Chair of Cork City Council LTACC
- Minceirs Whiden Ireland
- Pavee Point
- Diocese of Cork & Ross
- Threshold
- Irish Traveller Movement

All submissions received as a result of the Council’s consultation have been considered in preparing this Traveller Accommodation Programme for 2019 to 2024.

It is noted that CENA provided a presentation to the LTACC on 12th March, 2019 and that both Cork Traveller Women’s Network and Traveller Visibility Group made a submission of their needs assessment to the LTACC.

Policy Statement

In accordance with Section 10 (2) (c) of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998 it is the policy of the Council to provide Traveller Specific Accommodation (Group Housing Schemes and Halting Sites), Standard Housing and access to voluntary and private rented sector accommodation to meet the accommodation needs of Travellers living in the jurisdiction of the Council. This policy will also cover Travellers currently living in areas in the jurisdiction of Cork County Council that will transfer to the City Council from 31st May, 2019.

Statement Strategy

The Council is the implementing authority for Cork City relating to the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 to 2024. The Traveller Accommodation Unit within the Housing Directorate of the Council has responsibility to deal with all matters arising from the implementation of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998.

The Traveller Accommodation Unit is responsible for ensuring that all parties concerned with Traveller Accommodation are kept informed with regard to the development of proposals and outcomes for Traveller specific accommodation in this programme.

Chapter 2

Outcomes under 2014 to 2018 Traveller Accommodation Programme

St. Anthony's Park

St. Anthony's Park housing scheme opened on the 15th June, 2015. This is a sixteen unit mixed development consisting of seven houses and nine bays. This scheme cost €5 million which was funded by the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government.

Mobile Home Replacement

- Following Storm Ophelia, Storm Eleanor and Storm Emma in 2017 and 2018, a significant number of the mobile home stock across Carrigrohane Road and Spring Lane Halting Sites were damaged beyond repair. The Council replaced forty-seven mobile homes at a cost of €663,000. The Council received a 50% recoupment from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government of the purchase price for mobile homes that were storm damaged.
- During 2019, a limited mobile home replacement scheme will be put in place for families who were identified as having a need for a replacement mobile home but were unable to be facilitated at the end of 2018.

New Units for Traveller Specific Accommodation

- In March, 2019, the Council acquired two properties for the Traveller Accommodation Unit. These units will be used to tackle the overcrowding on Spring Lane Halting Site.

Environment

The Council provides licensed waste collection skips at the Spring Lane and Carrigrohane Road Halting Sites. These skips are dropped and collected on a weekly basis. This environmental service is costing approximately €36,000 per annum for both Halting Sites. In addition to the above, the Council provides an environmental waste collection service for St. Anthony's Park at a cost of approximately €21,000 per annum.

Illegal Dumping on Halting Sites:

- In 2014 the Council arranged an emergency environmental clean-up and licensed waste disposal of illegally dumped material on the Carrigrohane Road Halting Site. This substantial environmental service cost €110,228.49.
- The Council has, in March, 2019, cleared the access road to the Spring Lane Halting Site of illegally dumped materials. This environmental service cost €3,405.00.
- In addition, the Ellis's Yard site adjacent to the Spring Lane Halting Site has been environmentally cleaned of illegally dumped material in 2015 and again in March 2019. In order to prevent further illegal dumping on this site, the site will be secured with fencing to prevent unauthorised access. The environmental works in 2015 cost €43,915.00 and €96,475.00 in 2019.
- Pest Control services were also put in place prior to the clean-up of Ellis's Yard to prevent any rodent problems for the Halting Site and the general Ballvolane community. This service cost €1,451.40.
- Removal of illegally dumped caravan from Ellis's yard in March 2019 during the clean-up of Ellis's yard. This cost €1,248.50.
- In 2019 there were further incidents of illegal dumping at St. Anthony's Park in Hollyhill and Carrigrohane Road Halting Site which will be tackled in the coming months.

Carrigrohane Road Halting Site: Before Clean-Up 2014



Carrigrohane Road Halting Site: After Clean-Up 2014



Spring Lane Access Road 2019: Before Clean-Up 2019



Spring Lane Access Road: After Clean-Up March 2019



Ellis's Yard: Before Clean-Up



Ellis's Yard: Caravan Dumped on Site Post Clean-Up



Ellis's Yard – After Clean-Up



Electrical Upgrade and Road Resurfacing – Spring Lane Halting Site

An electrical upgrade was carried out and power points were installed in all the main bays and an additional 10 power points were installed around the periphery of the site. This greatly increased safety on the site where previously the peripheral households were running cables to the main bays for power, causing frequent outages. In addition to this, upgraded public lighting was also installed on Spring Lane Halting Site. Prior to the electrical upgrade works, there were 6 public lights on the access road and 4 on the main body of the halting site. Following the upgrade works, there are now 7 lights on the access road and 10 on the main body of the site for health and safety reasons. These works were completed in March 2016.

During the road resurfacing, both the access road and the internal road of the site were resurfaced. Repairs were carried out to the kerbing on the site. A total of 13 ramps were added to the internal road in order to reduce speed and improve health and safety for the residents. These works were completed in April 2016.

Spring Lane Halting Site - After Resurfacing Works





Improved Welfare Facilities

The Council refurbished one welfare unit at the Carrigrohane Road Halting Site during 2018 and it is planned to refurbish the remaining welfare units on this site over the life of the 2019-2024 Traveller Accommodation Plan.

The Council has also committed to improving the welfare facilities on the Nash's Boreen Site subject to the necessary approvals.

Representations for Standard Housing

On a weekly basis the staff of the Traveller Accommodation Unit advocate on behalf of traveller families who have expressed an interest in standard council housing and provide an advocacy service for Travellers to the Housing Allocations Section.

Re-Introduction of Caravan Loan Scheme

The Caravan Loan Scheme was suspended in 2013 due to poor repayment rate of Loans. In November 2018, the Council re-introduced this scheme on a trial period to allow families to fund replacement mobiles through a loan system.

As of March 2019, the Council has received three applications for Caravan Loans.

This system is currently on a trial basis and will be reviewed at the end of 2019 to determine if the scheme is viable.

Fire Safety

- On a monthly basis, electrical checks are carried out on the halting sites by an Electrical Contractor appointed by the Council.
- The Council has also identified accommodation units which require smoke alarms, carbon monoxide alarms and fire extinguishers to be replaced; these replacement works are ongoing.

Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) consisting of 9 City Councillors, 3 Advocacy Group Traveller Representatives, 2 Traveller Representatives as well as 3 Traveller guests and 4 City Council Officials continues to meet on a regular basis. In the period 2014 to 2019 the LTACC met on 29 occasions to discuss accommodation issues.

The functions of the Committee are:

- To advise in relation to the preparation and implementation of any accommodation programme for the functional area of the City Council.
- To facilitate consultation and to liaise between Travellers and the Council in relation to accommodation policy, needs and initiatives.
- To advise on the management of accommodation for Travellers.

Chapter 3

ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

The following Social Housing Supports are available to eligible citizens from the Council.

➤ **Standard Social Housing**

These are properties that are owned by Cork City Council in housing estates and apartment blocks throughout the City. All properties available are advertised on the Council's Choice Based Letting (CBL) system which allows Housing Applicants to place an expression of interest on available properties

The Council operates a public counter specifically to assist applicants with the CBL System. The counter is beneficial to applicants who may have difficulty in accessing the CBL system. The CBL counter has a staff member available to assist the applicant to log into the system and to place an expression of interest on any properties advertised. This counter is open between the hours of 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

➤ **Supports for Private Rented Housing**

Supports for private rented accommodation cover a number of options available to eligible members of the public including the Travelling Community. The options available are as follows:

Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

RAS is a social housing support introduced to cater for the accommodation needs of persons and families who are in receipt of long-term rent supplement.

Eligible persons and families must normally be in receipt of rent supplement for a minimum period of 18 months and be assessed as having a long-term housing need.

Under RAS, private rented properties provide an additional source of good quality rental accommodation for eligible persons and families.

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

HAP is a form of social housing support provided by all local authorities. Under HAP, local authorities can provide housing assistance to households with a long-term housing need, including eligible long-term Rent Supplement recipients.

HAP simplifies the current system of social housing supports. It also allows householders that get full-time work to remain in the scheme. If you are eligible and approved for HAP, your local authority will make a monthly payment to your Landlord, subject to rent limits and conditions, on your behalf. In return, you pay a contribution towards your rent to the Local Authority. This 'rent contribution' is based on your household income. It is calculated in the same manner as the rent paid by a tenant of a local authority owned property.

➤ **Group Housing**

A Group Housing Scheme is normally a small development of houses constructed specifically for members of the Travelling Community. Generally, the families living in these schemes would be from the same family or would be deemed compatible to live in a scheme together. The Council currently has two Group Housing Schemes namely St. Anthony's Park in Hollyhill and Meelagh Group Housing Scheme in Mahon.

➤ **Halting Sites**

A Halting Site is a facility constructed with dedicated bays to allow the permanent placement of mobile homes/caravans. Each bay would have a separate welfare unit to provide for cooking/washing facilities. The Council currently has two halting sites namely Carrigrohane Road Halting Site and Spring Lane Halting Site.

Assessment of Current and Future Accommodation Needs for Traveller Families

The Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998, Part II Section 6 specifies the following:

- Relevant Housing Authorities must carry out an assessment of need for Traveller Families.
- The act also states that notice of the assessment must be given to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee and the views of this committee must be considered.
- The Local Authority must consider the estimated growth in families, need for Transient Halting Sites, etc.

The Council commenced the 'Assessment of Need' process in October 2018 by inviting the residents of the following traveller specific schemes to complete a survey with the staff of the Traveller Accommodation Unit, the timeframe provided for families to complete the survey was from the 31st October, 2018 until 12th November, 2018.

- Meelagh Group Housing Scheme
- St. Anthony's Park (Group Housing Scheme)
- Carrigrohane Road Halting Site
- Spring Lane Halting Site
- Unauthorised sites at Nash's Boreen, Corkeran's Quay and Fairhill (three locations)

In order to achieve better engagement and a greater response to the surveys issued, the Council also involved the advocacy group for the Travelling Community and the LTACC in the exercise.

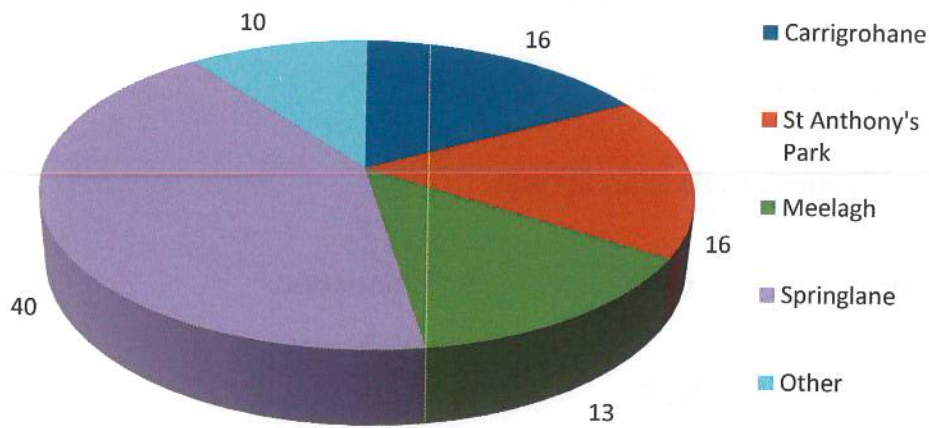
The Assessment of Need primarily focused on families living in halting sites and group housing schemes within the jurisdiction of the Council. All families who presented to the Council to complete the survey were facilitated. Existing tenants of the Council have mechanisms in place should they wish to transfer from an existing Council house. The transfer system would also allow families to express an interest in transferring to specific traveller accommodation, should they so wish.

In order to assess the Traveller families' housing needs, the Council prepared two surveys:

1. Traveller Accommodation Survey for Families
2. Traveller Accommodation Survey for Young Adults (Aged 13 to 17)

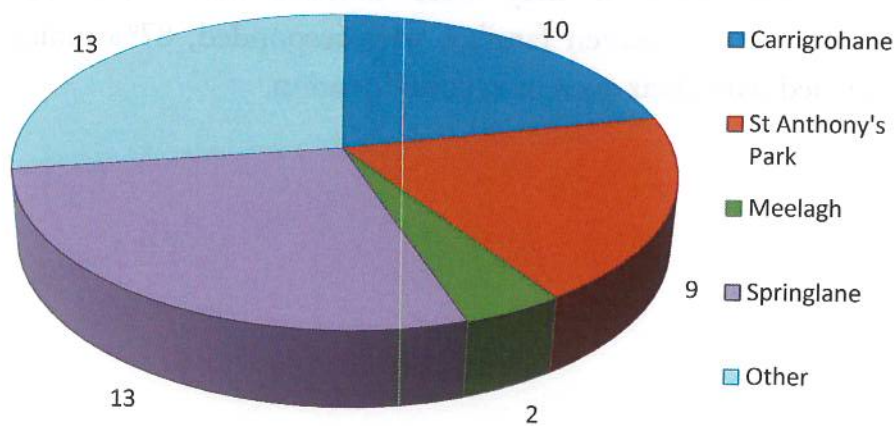
The Council issued 95 invitations to Traveller Families to complete a traveller accommodation survey.

Number of invites to TAP survey



The staff of the Traveller Accommodation Unit completed the survey with all families who wished to complete the survey. The Council received a response of 47 out of a possible 95 surveys which are broken down as follows:

Number of responses to TAP survey

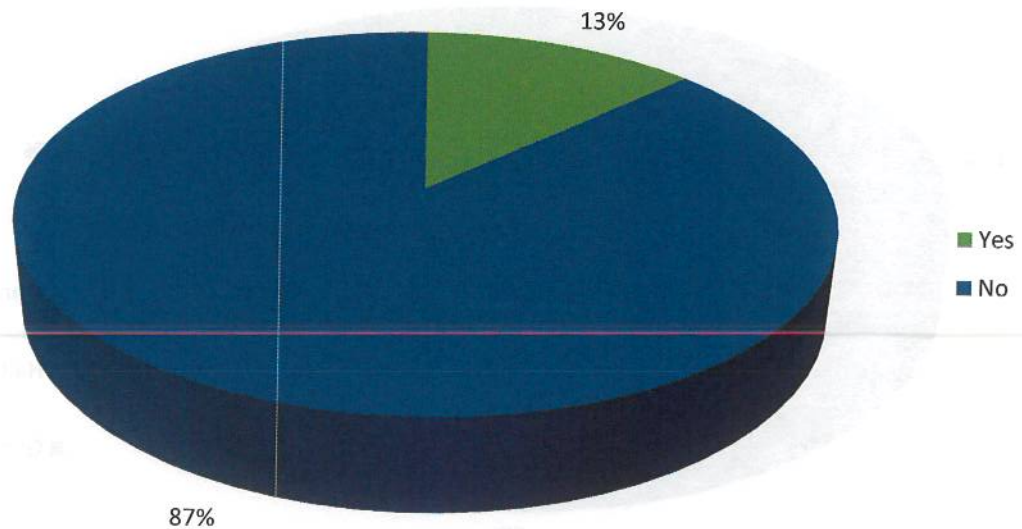


The Traveller Accommodation Survey sought to obtain information on the following specific areas in order to determine the needs of the Traveller Families within the jurisdiction of the Council.

- Current Accommodation Type
- Satisfaction with current accommodation
- Reasons for dissatisfaction with current accommodation
- Preferred accommodation type
- Preferred location
- Horse ownership
- Need for a Transient Site

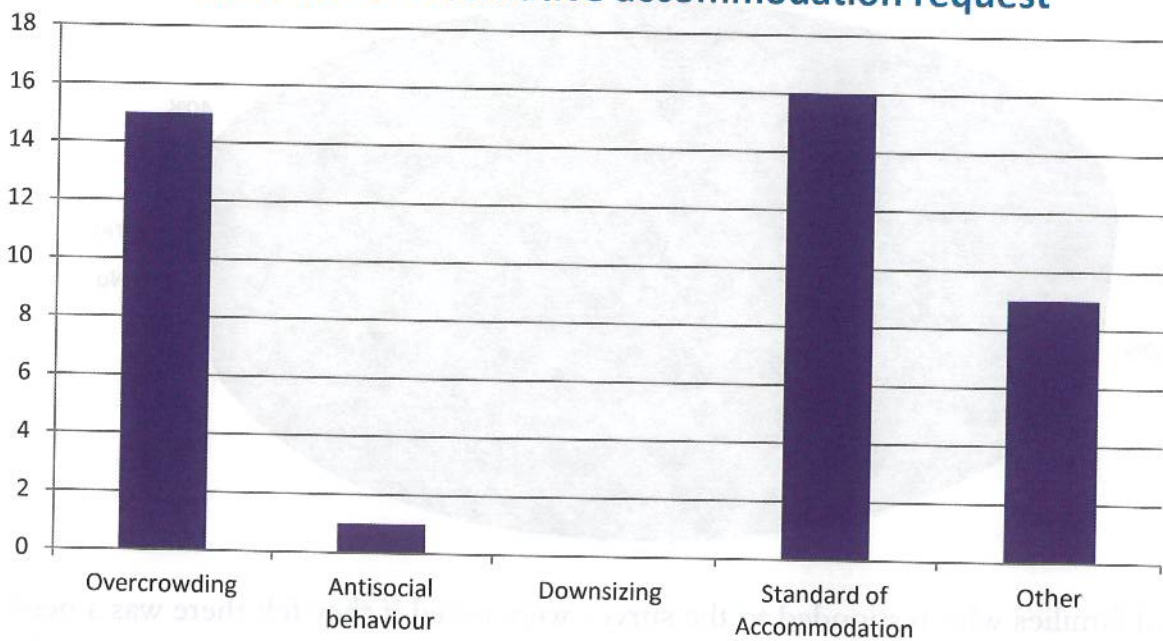
All families surveyed were asked if they were satisfied with their current accommodation. Out of the forty-seven families who responded, 87% indicated that they were not satisfied with their current accommodation.

Are you happy with the accommodation?



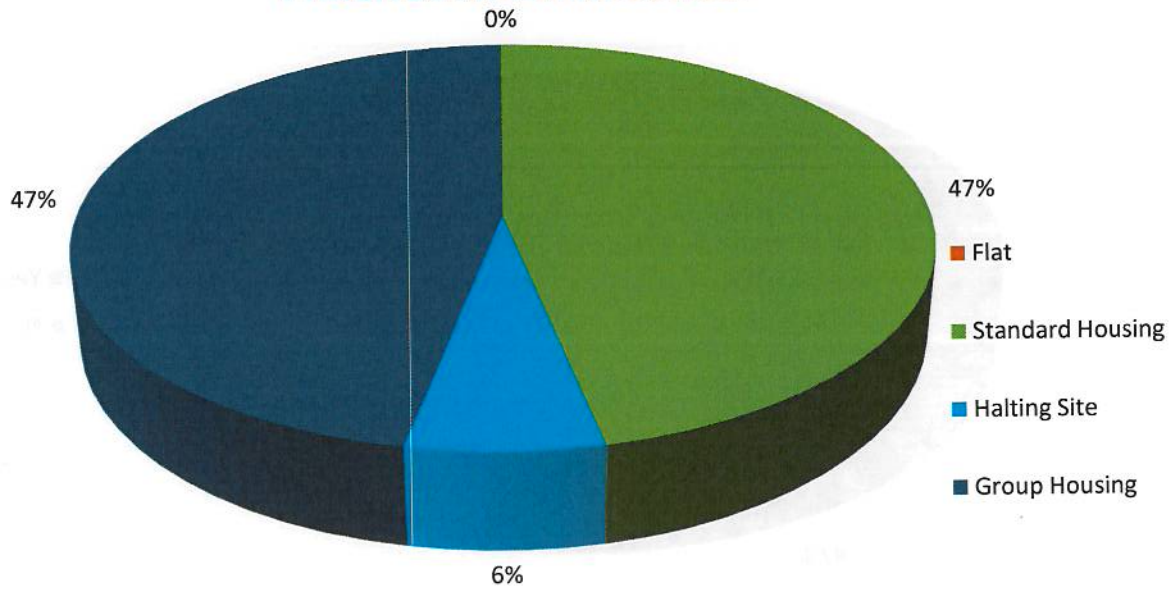
The families surveyed were asked to indicate why they were dissatisfied with the current accommodation. As can clearly be seen from the chart presented hereunder, over-crowding and the basic standard of accommodation are the two main areas of concern from members of the travelling community.

Reasons for alternative accommodation request



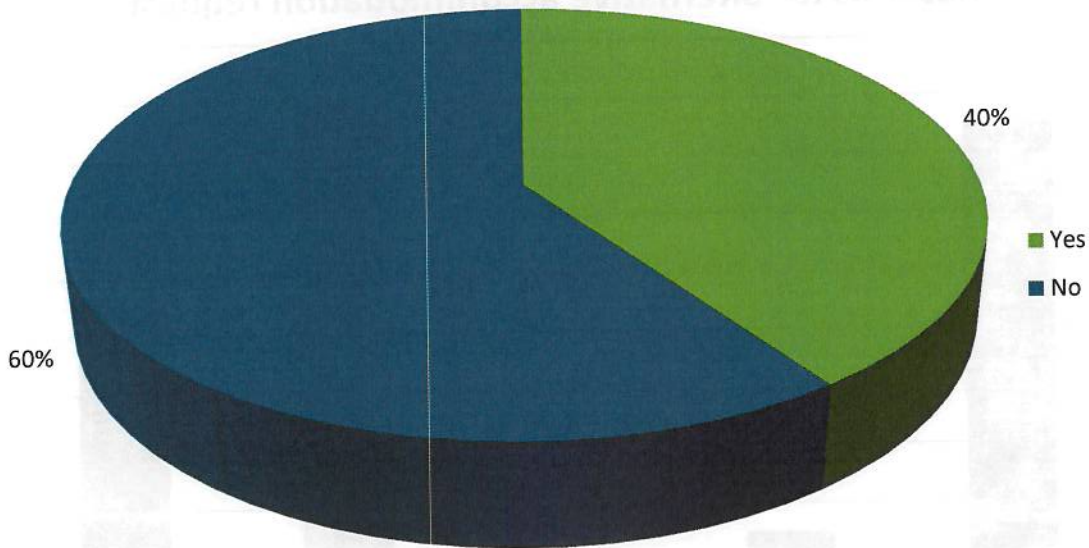
The families surveyed were asked to indicate the type of accommodation they would prefer. The results of the survey clearly indicate a shift from Halting Site Accommodation to more standard type accommodation such as Group Housing and Standard Council Housing.

Preferred Accommodation



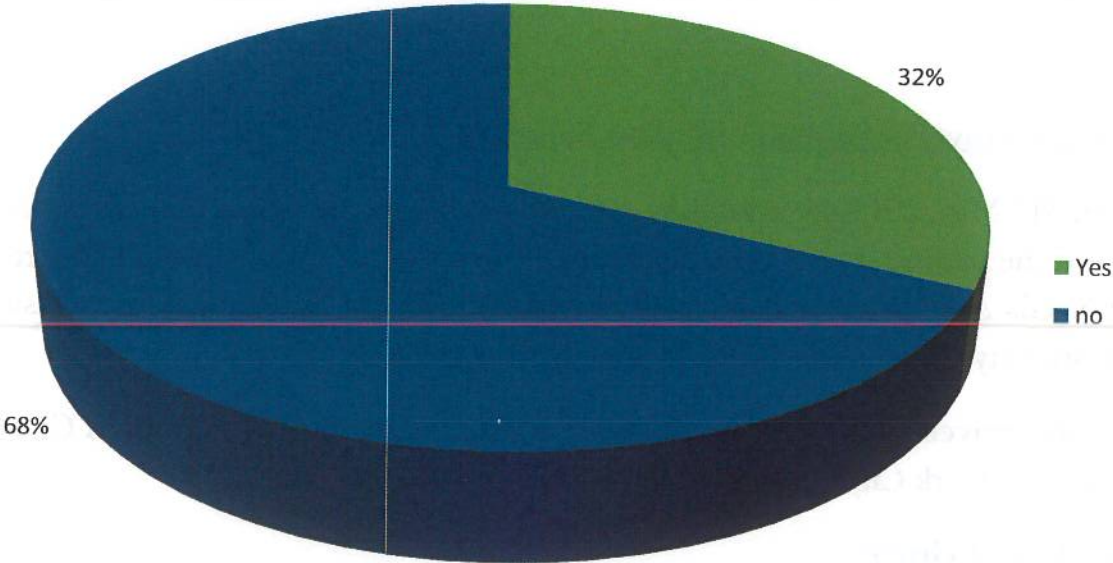
Of the forty-seven surveys completed, 40% of the families surveyed indicated that they would consider HAP as an accommodation option. This level of interest would indicate that this is a possible solution that needs to be explored further.

Would you consider HAP?



All families who responded to the survey were asked if they felt there was a need for a Transient Site. The response indicates that 32% of respondents indicated that there was a need for a transient site and 68% of respondents did not feel there was a need.

Is there a need for a transient site?



Chapter 4

Current Traveller Accommodation Schemes

From 31st May, 2019 the boundary extension is planned to come into effect. As part of the process, it has been agreed that Cork County Council would undertake the Needs Assessment and forward the results to Cork City Council for inclusion in Cork City Council's TAP.

The only traveller specific accommodation planned to transfer from Cork County Council to Cork City Council is:

Hazelwood Grove

Hazelwood Grove is a Group Housing Scheme consisting of seven houses. The properties are three bed single storey bungalows. Cork County Council provides services to this scheme such as landscaping, pest control services. Cork City Council will continue to provide these services once this scheme transfers to the City Council from 31st May, 2019.

Cork County Council reported that there was no response to the surveys issued to Hazelwood Grove.

Spring Lane Halting Site

Spring Lane Halting Site is a ten-bay site located in the Ballyvolane area of Cork City. This site has increased in population over the years and is now significantly overcrowded with approximately 38 family units on site. There are a range of concerns for the Council on this site such as overcrowding, deficiencies in welfare facilities as well as ever-changing challenges with general health and safety and anti-social behaviour due to the scale of the population on the site. This is a dynamic ever-changing site with a relatively young population.

Carrigrohane Road Halting Site

This is a twelve bay site located on the Carrigrohane Road. This site is located on a flood plain and the site is not of concern at present to the Council from an overcrowding aspect.

St. Anthony's Park

This site was opened in 2015 and comprises a mixture of bays and houses. This site caters for 16 families. There is again emerging evidence of overcrowding on this site due mainly to children of tenants setting up their own family units.

Meelagh Group Housing

This scheme was opened 14 years ago and contains a mixture of bays and houses. There are 9 houses and 3 bays within this scheme. This site caters for 12 families. There is evidence of overcrowding on this site and this site is in need of additional accommodation.

Corkerans Quay

Corkerans Quay is an unauthorised halting site that has been in existence for approximately 16 years. There is one extended family living on this site. This site is not supported by the Council as it is an unauthorised site. The Council provides basic welfare facilities for this family on humanitarian grounds.

Nash's Boreen

Nash's Boreen is an unauthorised halting site that has been in existence for approximately 20 years. This site is occupied by one extended family (4 family units). This site is not supported by the Council as it is an unauthorised site. The Council provides basic facilities such as welfare and waste facilities to this family on humanitarian grounds.

Unauthorised Occupation

The Council will continue to work and engage with families who have no available accommodation to assist them to apply for housing supports, housing assistance payments, providing details on homeless supports etc. The Council will make every effort to work with families and will offer mediation where appropriate to encourage them to voluntarily vacate unauthorised sites. Failure to comply with the request of the Council to vacate unauthorised sites will result in legal proceedings being commenced after all other available avenues have been exhausted by the Council.

Strategies and Implementation Measures

Outlined hereunder is the proposal for each of the sites to address the accommodation needs of traveller families. It is proposed to meaningfully engage with key stakeholders such as other state agencies, Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government and the voluntary housing sector with the aim of delivering the proposals.

Spring Lane Halting Site

As outlined above Spring Lane Halting Site poses serious challenges. The issue of the overcrowding on this site will be prioritised under this programme. It is proposed to deal with the overcrowding on this site by the following measures:

- Progressing quickly with the development of a Group Housing Scheme on the adjoining Ellis's Yard Site. This site is zoned for Traveller Specific Accommodation in the City Development Plan.
- To upgrade and refurbish the existing ten bay site and return this Halting Site to its original ten bay usage.
- The Traveller Accommodation Unit will continue to support families who wish to opt for social housing through the CBL system and will support any expression of interests on properties advertised.
- The Traveller Accommodation Unit will provide support to all families who wish to avail of the HAP scheme.
- The Council will support families who wish to purchase replacement caravans through the Caravan Loan Scheme subject to the applicants meeting the criteria for the scheme.
- The Traveller Accommodation Unit will also consider other options such as smaller group housing schemes or purchasing of properties suitable for Traveller accommodation should this be necessary subject to the approval of funding from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government.

The proposal to develop Ellis's Yard will be subject to a Part VIII Planning Application as per the Planning & Development Acts and Regulations; such an application will be required to be brought before Council after a minimum period of public consultation.

Following the consultation process on the Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme and the comprehensive feedback received the following modifications have been included in the final version of the 2019 to 2024 Traveller Accommodation Programme: "That in the case of proposed works in connection with the Halting site at Spring Lane and the adjoining site at Ellis's Yard, the council will,

- a) prepare a comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan relating to these proposals in order to achieve effective and meaningful engagement with all stakeholders. This will take place during the design period of any works and will eventually inform any applicable design and future management arrangements; all this will take place before the Statutory 2 month consultation period in any Part 8 application for such works wherein the public, key stakeholders and elected representatives will be given a full and transparent opportunity to participate in the process and,
- b) will immediately re-intensify engagement with the Gardai and all appropriate bodies to immediately investigate the persistent anti-social behaviour and criminal issues alleged in the consultation submissions. In addition, the Council will engage with these bodies in the design of all future arrangements to provide smarter management and control/monitoring (using the latest digital technology) of access and anti-social behaviour in both the site and surrounding area to control and design out these problems.'

Carrigrohane Road Halting Site

This site has previously been earmarked to be relocated to a new site on the basis that it is located on a flood plain and was seriously flooded in 2009. This is a twelve-bay site with two families doubled up in bays. The following are the proposals for this site:

- Identification of a site for the development of a Group Housing Scheme and apply to the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government for funding if a suitable site is found.
- To support families who wish to opt for standard housing through the CBL system.
- To support families who wish to opt for private rented accommodation through the HAP scheme.
- To support families who wish to purchase replacement caravans through the Caravan Loan Scheme subject to the applicants meeting the criteria for the scheme.
- To refurbish remaining welfare units on this site and to ensure the provision of improved welfare facilities for the families on this site.

Meelagh Group Housing Scheme

The Meelagh Group Housing Scheme is 14 years old. This scheme requires refurbishment for which a funding application has been submitted to the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government. This site is experiencing overcrowding at present. The following actions are proposed for this site to address the current and future accommodation needs of families:

- Refurbishment of Meelagh Group Housing Scheme. Funding has been sought from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government for a refurbishment programme to be undertaken during Q3/Q4 of 2019.
- To support families who wish to purchase replacement caravans through the Caravan Loan Scheme subject to the applicants meeting the criteria for the scheme.
- Lands at the rear of Meelagh are to be considered for development to cater for existing families in overcrowded homes. This will be provided on the basis that the lands identified are suitable for construction and will be subject to the Part VIII planning process in addition to the availability of funding from the Department of Planning, Housing & Local Government.

St. Anthony's Park

As this scheme was only opened in June, 2015, the Council will not be able to consider any expansion of this scheme under this Programme. The Council will continue to support families who wish to:

- Avail of private rented accommodation through the HAP scheme.
- Obtain support in seeking standard council housing.
- Purchase replacement caravans through the Caravan Loan Scheme subject to the applicants meeting the criteria for the scheme.

The Council will put proposals forward to the Department of Housing, Planning, & Local Government for an extension to the current properties to address the overcrowding issues of the identified families.

Corkeran's Quay

The Council is currently in discussions with the family occupying Corkeran's Quay to identify suitable alternative standard council accommodation.

Nash's Boreen

The Council will make every effort to identify a suitable site to construct a Group Housing Scheme for the family occupying this site. This is subject to funding being secured from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government. Due to the shortage of land available, there may be limited choices available to the Council; it will work with the family to endeavour to locate a suitable site.

In the interim, the Traveller Accommodation Unit will engage with the family at Nash's Boreen in the coming weeks to try and source alternative **temporary** accommodation until such time as a Group Housing Scheme can be provided. This temporary proposal will address the issues on this site.

Hazelwood Grove

As this Group Housing Scheme is planned to transfer to Cork City Council in May, 2019 there are currently no plans to provide any further accommodation for this scheme under this programme. As no surveys were completed for this scheme, no details on needs were identified. The Council will work with the

families on this site over the coming months and if there is a need identified, it will be processed.

Homelessness

There are currently 16 families that are registered as homeless that have identified themselves as Travellers.

Since the Homeless Persons Unit transferred to Cork City Council the process for registering as homeless is now more streamlined as this service is now operated by Council staff. The Traveller Accommodation Unit and Homeless Section of the Council will work with families to assist them in finding accommodation by utilising the Placefinder scheme.

The Placefinder scheme is a scheme which is available to persons who are registered with the Council as Homeless that allows the Council to support families who wish to move into private rented accommodation by providing financial support with the deposit and first month's rent.

Estate Management Meetings

The Traveller Accommodation Unit engages with the Traveller Families on a daily basis. The Traveller Accommodation Unit is available to set up regular Estate Management meetings with residents, should this be requested.

Other Measures to Improve Traveller Accommodation

- The Council has commenced discussions with CENA with a view to collaborating with the Council to address Traveller Accommodation needs over the life of this Traveller Accommodation Programme. The Council is also committed to working with other housing bodies to address the accommodation needs of Traveller Families.
- The Council will also continue to work with the LTACC and the various advocacy groups to improve accommodation needs for Traveller Families.
- The Council recognises travellers as an ethnic minority group within Irish society and will endeavour as far as possible to provide traveller specific accommodation.
- The Council acknowledges the importance of horse ownership for members of the travelling community. This needs to be balanced against

requirements for public safety and ensuring that stray horses are not left in public areas. It is the intention of the Council to collaborate with relevant agencies with the aim of developing a solution that would benefit members of the travelling community and would also provide the necessary reassurances to the public at large that horses will be cared for in a controlled environment.

Proposed Time- Frame for Implementation of the Programme

All of the actions and proposals outlined above are subject to the availability of resources such as staffing, funding, suitable sites and co-operation from the families concerned.

The proposed time-frame for the implementation of this programme is outlined hereunder:

Name of Scheme	Proposal	Time-Frame
Spring Lane Halting Site	Submit proposal for the development of Ellis's Yard as a Group Housing Scheme to include Part VIII planning process.	January to August 2020
Spring Lane Halting Site	Submit application to DHPLG for funding to construct a Group Housing Scheme. – <u>This proposal is subject to approval of funding.</u>	January – August 2020
Spring Lane Halting Site	Meaningful engagement with families, key stakeholders and detailed design, construction of the group housing scheme.	February to September 2020
Meelagh Group Housing Scheme	Refurbishment of Scheme- subject to approval of funding application	Contract Start Q4 2019
Meelagh Group Housing Scheme	Proposal to be prepared for lands adjacent to site. Part VIII process and funding application submitted to the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government <u>This proposal is subject to approval of funding application</u>	2021
Meelagh Group Housing Scheme	Discussions with families, detailed design, construction etc.	2021-2023

Name of Scheme	Proposal	Time-Frame
St. Anthony's Park	Submit a proposal for funding to DHPLG for families identified as suitable for an extension.	2021
Carrigrohane Road Halting Site.	Site to be identified	Ongoing
	Proposal to be put forward for funding to include Part VIII process.	2022
	<u>Subject to approval of funding application,</u> consultation with residents, Design and Construction. If approved, construction to commence.	2022-2026
Nash's Boreen	Identify suitable site for a small group housing scheme – 4 Houses	2020
Nash's Boreen	Submit Proposal for Funding to include Part VIII Planning Process.	2020
Nash's Boreen	<u>Subject to approval of funding,</u> discussions with families, design and Commence works	2020-2024
Transient Site	To be reviewed during the life time of this programme.	2019-2024

Conclusion:

- Cork City Council's Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 – 2024 while prepared in response to statutory requirements is based on the hands-on experience of the Traveller Accommodation Unit which consults regularly with the LTACC. While the proposals put forward by the Council are challenging and ambitious; they are also realistic and are achievable. They are based on the assessment of need carried out, the submissions received and the experience of the Traveller Accommodation Unit which deals with families in trying to resolve accommodation issues on a daily basis.
- The Council will make every effort to deliver traveller specific accommodation to families who have expressed an interest in this type of accommodation however the expectations of the families need to be realistic and alternative accommodation options need to be explored by families such as Private Rented Sector, Standard Housing etc.
- The Council will continue to collaborate with the LTACC, advocacy groups and the traveller families themselves while striving to ensure that satisfactory accommodation is provided.

This programme will be reviewed and updated where necessary no later than 31st December, 2021.

Prepared By: Colette Dennehy

Colette Dennehy,
Administrative Officer,
Traveller Accommodation Unit,
Housing Directorate.

Approved by: Brian Geaney

Brian Geaney,
Director of Services,
Housing Directorate.

Date Adopted: 16 - December - 2019

Glossary

LTACC	Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee
CTWN	Cork Traveller Women's Network
UCC	University College Cork
TVG	Traveller Visibility Group
CBL	Choice Based Letting
RAS	Rental Accommodation Scheme
HAP	Housing Assistance Payment
DHPLG	Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government