

TAT NEWS E-BULLETIN

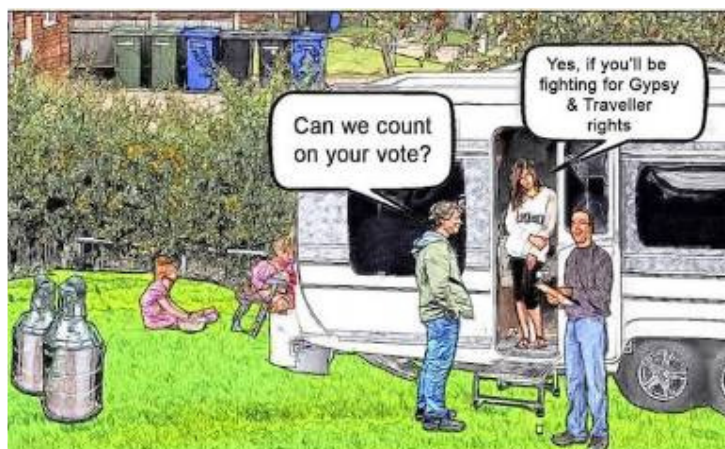


Newsletter of the Travellers Advice Team at Community Law Partnership

No. 37 - June 2017 – Glastonbury Special

Travellers Advice Team national telephone helpline for Gypsies and Travellers
0121 685 8677 Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm
No operator service. Get straight through to an expert.

Every Vote Counts



In advance of the June 8th General Election the Traveller Movement have revived their Operation Traveller Vote campaign. See the link at:- <http://travellerstimes.org.uk/Blogs--Features/-Whats-the-craic-about-this-election-then.aspx>

Information about registering to vote can be found on the Friends, Families and Travellers website at:- <http://www.gypsy-traveller.org/register-vote-voice-counts/>

CLP have done an analysis of the different Manifestos of the main political parties in England and Wales as regards Housing, Justice/Legal Aid and issues surrounding Gypsies and Travellers. To see our analysis on our website go to:- <http://www.communitylawpartnership.co.uk/news/party-manifestos-general-election>.

The No Mad Laws campaign has sent their latest briefing paper to all the main political parties in England and Wales. To see the briefing paper see here:- <https://www.nomadlaws.co.uk/news/>

No responses have yet been received from the parties but, if and when they are, they will be reported on the NML website.

The Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year Awards 2017

CLP have been shortlisted in the Legal Aid firm/not for profit agency category of the awards. For more details see:- <http://www.lapg.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/LALY-2017-finalists-press-release-.pdf>.



LAPG required a photo of CLP staff very quickly so here are those staff who were available at the time and apologies to the other staff members who were not available

Glastonbury Festival

As usual TAT in conjunction with Friends, Families and Travellers (FFT) will be running a stall in the Green Fields area at the Glastonbury Festival. TAT will be represented by CLP Partner, Craig Keenan and Housing Team member, Fleur Hall. If you are at the Festival, please come and visit them.



Defining Travellers out of Existence – Progress of the Definition Challenge

Regular readers will know that in August 2015 the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (SSCLG) changed the definition of Gypsy/Traveller for planning purposes. From that date those Gypsies and Travellers who have had to stop travelling permanently due to age or ill health have been excluded from the definition. We have been arguing since then that the definition is discriminatory, prejudicial, unreasonable and disproportionate especially as regards those Gypsies and Travellers who are old, disabled, in serious ill health or caring for others. As reported in our last edition of TAT News, we have now lodged a challenge on behalf of a Gypsy woman called Mrs Nunn.

Unfortunately, when dealing with the question of whether to give the case permission to proceed on the papers, Mrs Justice Lang refused permission. On behalf of Mrs Nunn we are now requesting an oral permission hearing. We will keep people informed of progress and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries about this.

We remain very interested in hearing from others who are affected by the definition and examples include the following:-

1. Those who lose planning appeals because of the new definition;
2. Those who are not included in Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment because of the new definition;
3. Those who are not allowed onto waiting lists or who are excluded from waiting lists because of the new definition.

We would encourage anyone who is affected by the definition or who wants to discuss this matter in general to contact us on our advice line. Mrs Nunn is being represented by Marc Willers QC and Tessa Buchanan of Garden Court Chambers.

News in Brief

The Women and Equalities Committee in Parliament

Unfortunately, due to the snap General Election being called, this Committee did not proceed with their enquiry into the commitments from the Ministerial Working Group on Gypsies and Travellers. It is hoped that the Committee will pick this matter up again after the General Election.

Planning Cases

We have reports on two recent planning cases on our website:-

R (Jays) – v – Flintshire County Council:-

<http://www.communitylawpartnership.co.uk/noticeboard/gypsy-and-traveller-cases/traveller-planning>

Dartford Borough Council – v – Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government :-

<http://www.communitylawpartnership.co.uk/gypsy-and-traveller-cases/dartford-borough-council-v-the-secretary-of-state-for-communities-and-local-government>

We are all so many things



This campaign has been started by London Gypsies and Travellers (formerly the London Gypsy and Traveller Unit). For more details see:- <file:///C:/Users/Chris.Johnson/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/Content.Outlook/GW9UCKH9/WeAreSoManyPressrelease%20.pdf>.

Scottish Government

The Scottish Government has recently published revised guidance on Managing Unauthorised Encampments. This guidance is actually rather good. See:- <https://beta.gov.scot/publications/guidance-local-authorities-managing-unauthorised-camping-gypsy-travellers-scotland/>

Boatdweller Wins in Court of Appeal

In our last edition of the TAT News E-Bulletin we reported on the major Court of Appeal result in the case of *Jones – v – CRT*. See:- <http://www.communitylawpartnership.co.uk/noticeboard/links/tat-news>

The barrister who represented Mr Jones, James Stark of Garden Court North Chambers has written an excellent article about the case on the chambers' website and you can find the article at:- <http://www.gcncchambers.co.uk/news/Article-8-Defences-Does-the-Court-of-Appeal-s-decision-in-Jones-v-Canal-River-Trust-refusing-summary-disposal-have-lessons-for-housing-cases>

Welsh Government

The Welsh Government are proposing a new planning circular for Gypsies and Travellers which seems to be very good, certainly when compared to the English one! <https://consultations.gov.wales/consultations/draft-circular-planning-gypsy-traveller-and-showpeople-sites>

Travellers Times Law Blogs

Marc Willers QC of Garden Court Chambers, the planning consultant Dr Simon Ruston and Chris Johnson of TAT provide regular law blogs for Travellers Times website. Here is a recent blog:- <http://travellerstimes.org.uk/News/Legal-challenge-to-discriminatory-Traveller-plan.aspx>

The Travellers Advice Team

The members of TAT are Chris Johnson, Parminder Sanghera and Sharon Baxter. Thanks to our TAT Administrator, Emma Westwood, for organising this Bulletin.

CLP Website

On our website you can find:

- News items about Gypsy and Traveller issues:
<http://www.communitylawpartnership.co.uk/noticeboard/news>
- Updates on campaigns and consultations:
<http://www.communitylawpartnership.co.uk/noticeboard/campaigns-and-consultations>
- Recent Gypsy and Traveller legal cases:
<http://www.communitylawpartnership.co.uk/noticeboard/gypsy-and-traveller-cases>
- Judgements and reports on our leading cases:
<http://www.communitylawpartnership.co.uk/our-leading-cases>
- Links to Gypsy and Traveller groups:
<http://www.communitylawpartnership.co.uk/links/travellers>
- And , of course, the latest edition of TAT News and previous TAT News E Bulletins:
<http://www.communitylawpartnership.co.uk/links/tat-news>
- Plus lots of information about the Housing and Public Law Teams who, amongst other things, represent Gypsies and Travellers in housing and

homeless Gypsies and Travellers who are seeking housing in the Midlands and surrounding areas. For full details of the Housing Team see: <http://www.communitylawpartnership.co.uk/our-services/housing-law>

And the Public Law Team see: <http://www.communitylawpartnership.co.uk/our-services/public-law>

Until Next Time

We hope you find our E-Bulletin useful. All and any comments very welcome.

**Don't forget our national self-funded advice line for Gypsies and Travellers:
0121 685 8677
Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm**

Keep up the good fight! Best wishes to all our readers. Kushti bok!

**The Travellers Advice Team
Part of The Community Law Partnership
Solicitors
4th Floor, Ruskin Chambers
191 Corporation Street
Birmingham B4 6RP**

**Tel: 0121 685 8595
Fax: 0121 236 5121
E-mail: office@communitylawpartnership.co.uk
Website: www.communitylawpartnership.co.uk**





The Travellers' Advice Team (TAT) at Community Law Partnership (CLP) provide advice and representation to Gypsies and Travellers throughout England and Wales in the following areas:-

Evictions from unauthorised encampments;
Evictions from rented sites (local authority, housing association and private);
Serious disrepair on rented sites;
High Court Planning Appeals;
Planning Injunctions;
Stop Notices and direct action;
Homelessness (including for those in houses who need a pitch);
Allocation of pitches on local authority sites and increases in pitch fees;
Cases for boat dwellers especially concerning the Continuous Cruising Guidance;
Public Spaces Protection Order.



**YOU MAY QUALIFY
FOR LEGAL AID**

Travellers' Advice Team at Community Law Partnership
Solicitors: 4th Floor Ruskin Chambers, 191 Corporation
Street, Birmingham B4 6RP

Email: office@communitylawpartnership.co.uk

Website: www.communitylawpartnership.co.uk



Tel: 0121 6858677