



See attached up to date reports from Dublin City Council regarding COVID 19 response.

- Traveller specific email [traveller.accommodation@dublincity.ie](mailto:traveller.accommodation@dublincity.ie) monitored.
- All Traveller Accommodation phone lines are manned – ongoing daily
- A full emergency maintenance service is provided.
- Caretakers inspecting and maintaining sites daily - additional waste collection on-site as required.
- All Sites are being monitored for vermin and pest, appropriate actions were taken on a number of reports of vermin in St Margaret's Halting site and Labre Park, our contractor has been requested to provide a full service.
- Clerk of Works/Caretakers/Management continually monitoring sites for maintenance, illegal dumping, weeding etc.
- Installation of water supplies has been completed on all unauthorised sites.
- DCC are currently working on providing electrical connections to Belcamp Lane, this has been delayed due to further encroachments on DCC lands, families erecting fences and moving caravans etc. DCC phase of the Electrical works is now completed awaiting connection from the ESB  
We are still working to have electrical supply in for end of December.
- Planning has begun for the provision of electricity supply to St Dominic's, Tara Lawns, and Northern Close work is schedule to begin the first quarter 2021.

In 2020 we had a major outbreak of Covid-19 in a number of our sites throughout the city. The Department of Health has set up an Outbreak Control Team, Involving the Irish Traveller Community groups, Department of Housing, Travellers Accommodation Team, Public Health Department, and HSE.

TAU requested that the Safety-net team carryout testing on all sites, to date several hundred residents have been tested, unfortunately a large number have been tested positive.

The Traveller Accommodation Unit have worked very hard throughout the year on behalf of the Traveller community under our remit

- full maintenance service provided to all sites
- Biofogging/disinfection of all sites.
- Distribution of hygiene packs to all sites.
- Prioritising suitable families for standard housing to alleviate overcrowding on sites
- 3 Traveller Specific Voids and 4 standard Voids to be allocated to Traveller families when complete.
- Extra Portaloos on request.
- Covid-19 information and signage delivered to all sites.

For self-isolating needs we offered

1. City west Hotel, immediately on request
2. Two offsite Isolating location, Southside, North side.
3. We have purchased Touring Caravan for use as Isolating units on site as close as possible, keeping in mind the fire safety regulation, so in most cases the caravans will not be in bays.

We are continuing to supply sanitation pack for residents who need them on request from themselves or Traveller Reps.

#### **Sanitation Packs include**

- Sanitiser spray for worktop surfaces
- Cloths
- Hand sanitising gel
- Hygienic wipes
- Disposal masks
- Disposal gloves

We all need to reinforce the public health messages as there have been significant COVID-19 outbreaks among Travellers & Roma throughout Ireland over the past months.

#### **Waste Management Issues**

Please see below, costs of removing illegal dumping from Travellers sites. from the start of January until the end of October 2020. We have no figures for several months due to Covid-19

<b>SITES</b>	<b>TOTAL UP TO END OF November</b>	<b>TOTAL Tonnage for all sites to October</b>
Labre Park	€27,902.39	Jan. 34.88
St Dominic's	€2,979.06	Feb and March no figures due to Covid -19
St Margaret's Park	€9,814.93	April. 7.56
Cara Park/Close	€124.85	May. 293.42
Grove Lane	€250.15	June. 94.4
St Josephs Park	€8,905.93	July. 63.46
Unofficial Sites	€5,870.56	Aug. 31.52
Tara Lawns	€1,446.36	Sep. 17.06
Bridgeview	€649.22	Oct. 70.98
Kylemore	€ 1.617.38	Nov and Dec. Waiting.
<b>Total</b>	<b>€57.943.45</b>	<b>583.23 tons</b>

Please see attached environment working group form that I am hoping to introduce into all Traveller sites with the support and help of the LTACC Committee and local Traveler representatives.

We have been in touch with a number of the public domain officers and have agreed that they will work closely with the environmental groups and also encouraged participate in any major cleanup to encourage Travelers to take part in the City Neighborhoods competitions.

### **Cultural Travellers Wagon,**

The Lord Mayor of Dublin Hazel Chu, opened Social Inclusion Week on Monday the 28<sup>th</sup> September with the unveiling of the Cultural Travellers Wagon, this was a multi departmental project with the Social Inclusion Unit, Exchange House and Travellers Accommodation Unit, to bring attention to the many issues around Travellers lives.



### **Severe Weather Policy**

The Traveller Accommodation Unit has drawn up a new Severe Weather Policy that has been submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage for approval.

### **Pilot Caravan Loan Scheme**

The purpose of the pilot preferential loan scheme is to enable local authorities to provide loans to Travellers to purchase their own caravans/ trailers/ mobile homes on halting sites for use as their primary residence.

Acting Senior Executive Office, Patrick Teehan will be giving a full report on the Tap Programme

**Stay home; maintain physical distance; wash your hands; wear a mask; avoid large gatherings at this time; stay safe.**

**Patrick Smith**  
**Area Housing Officer.**