

Date	<b>21/12/2011</b>	Item	
<b>Safer Lewisham Partnership</b>			
Title	<b>Crime and Safety impact assessment on proposed Traveller site</b>		
Author	<b>Gary Farmer (Constable: Lewisham Police Partnership Team) Ken Massey (Crime analyst)</b>		

## **Summary:**

This report relates to a request by the local Resources Directorate of the London Borough of Lewisham for Lewisham police to undertake a crime and Safety assessment on the proposed location within the London Borough of Lewisham that is being considered as possible site for the new Traveller Site required within Lewisham Borough.

The consultation information has been collated for submission to the Lewisham Mayor and Cabinet on 21st December 2011.

## **Introduction:**

The following assessment relates to research carried out with regards to proposed site for a future Lewisham Traveller site. The future site is intended to be developed to meet the current accommodation needs of the Gypsy and Traveller community in the borough.

This report only looks at the proposed site from a crime and safety view and should only be used as part of a wider assessment of the locations. It does not seek to promote the particular location, but to give details of recorded crime and basic safety information of the proposed site as it is at this point of time.

## **Information:**

This report has taken into account information supplied from the Lewisham Central Safer Neighbourhood team (SNT) who cover the proposed site to give a local policing view of the dynamics of the location.

The location has been analysed from a crime statistical view in order to give a snap shot of crime in the area.

### **Safer Neighbourhood Team View**

**Proposed Site: Old Watergate School site, Church Grove, Lewisham SE13.**

1. The proposed site has only one entrance to the location due to the geography of the road layout and the backing of the site onto the Quaggy river.
2. The site has not come to notice regarding crime offences although crime offences occur along the main arterial road (Ladywell Road), which it has in common with other main thoroughfare areas of Lewisham.
3. It would be fair to say that through general patrol feedback local Community public feeling is not positive as far as using the site for such a purpose.

## **Police Research:**

### **Crime Analysis**

An analysis of crime related incidents covering from 01/01/2011 until 20/12/2011 has been carried out by Ken Massey who was involved in the previous report submitted in 2007 by Sgt Michael Ide. The Analysis can be found in Appendix 1 below.

## **Consultation:**

This report is submitted as part of the police input to the wider local Community consultation process.

## **Conclusions:**

Four years after the last assessment the number of proposed Traveller site locations have been reduced to the single site option located at the end of Church Grove SE13. After completion of the drop in surgeries and public meeting it can be seen that Community tensions run high with regards to this location becoming a Permanent Travellers site. The issue does not appear to be one so much of the size of the site or number of pitches but one of logistics around the size of the access route and the potential disruption to the local residents should this site be selected for development and residency. The objections raised in 2007 as to the sites suitability have remained essentially the same four years on. With no other location being submitted for consideration there appears to be only limited options surrounding the use of this site but it would be fair to say that from a policing stand point there is likely to be an increase of tensions within the Community surrounding any Travellers site application no matter where the proposed location was to be within Lewisham Borough.

From a Policing prospective there are no objections raised concerning the use of Church Grove as a permanent Travellers site.

## **Recommendations:**

1. That the local Safer Neighbourhood Team be involved within the consultation process to provide a local Policing perspective.
2. That any issues of racially motivated crime or incidents that occur during the consultation be reported immediately to police.

Gary Farmer  
Police Constable and Gypsy Traveller Liaison Officer  
Lewisham Borough Police  
Partnership Team

## Problem Profile

# Proposed Travellers Site – Crime Analysis

Protective Marking	RESTRICTED - INTELLIGENCE
Suitable for Publication Scheme	
Title and Version	Proposed Travellers Site – Crime Analysis
Purpose	
Relevant to	
Summary	Overview of proposed site locations
Author	C705307 Ken Massey
Creating OCU	Partnership Team PL
Date Created	22/05/2007
Review Date	One year subsequent to the creation date

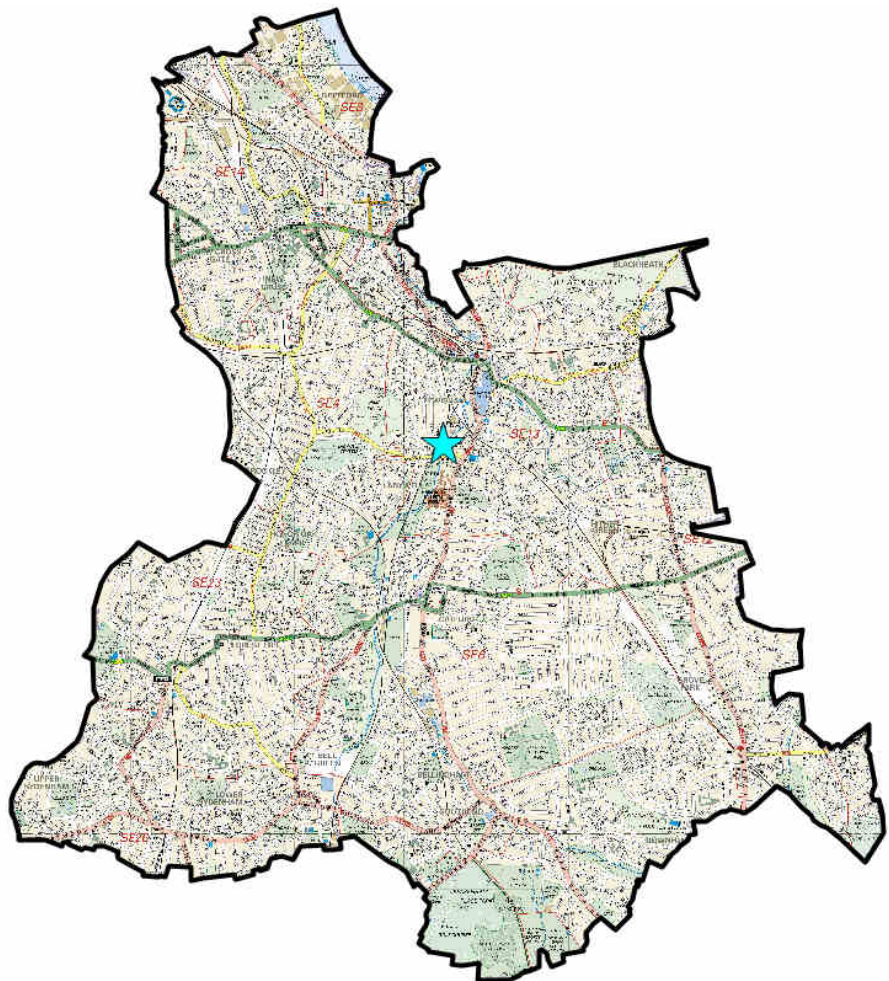
Authorising Officer	Det Insp Lesley Hamilton
Additional Research	
Dissemination	
Location of Report	H:\_PL\Travellers
Location of supporting analysis	H:\_PL\Travellers

### Overview

This report is to assess the impact a travellers site at WATERGATE / CHURCH ROAD SE13 may have on the local community and the travellers themselves.

The analysis will present a historical snapshot of crime for the year between 21/12/2010 - 20/12/2011 to assist in understanding the issues specific to the proposed location.

The assessment will focus on a 300 yard radius from the centre of the site to encompass all immediate issues. Other factors such as commercial premises, traffic and security issues will also be considered.



### Watergate/Church Grove

This potential relocation site is accessed via CHURCH GROVE.

There were 3 offences in Church Grove for the year which comprised of two thefts and one ABH.

Most offences in the surrounding area are generated by commercial activity. Ladywell Road from Vicars Hill to Lewisham High Street is densely populated by shops.

It is this area that presents the greatest threat to the proposed site due to the proximity of the main street and the pedestrian traffic it attracts.

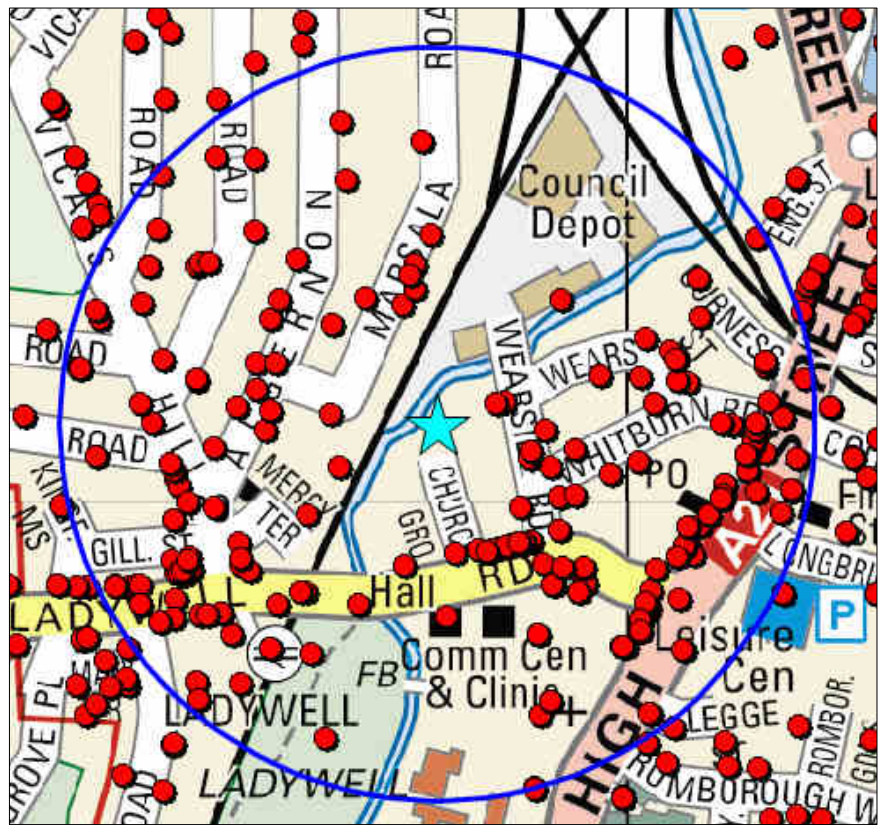
The positive factor for this site is that it is sufficiently removed from surrounding areas due to the natural boundaries created by houses, railway tracks and the River. Furthermore, Church Grove does not attract through traffic because it does not lead anywhere purposeful for consumers or drivers.

Paradoxically, the knowledge of a travellers site close by may reduce robberies and assaults in the immediate area due to youths reluctance to target the travelling community.

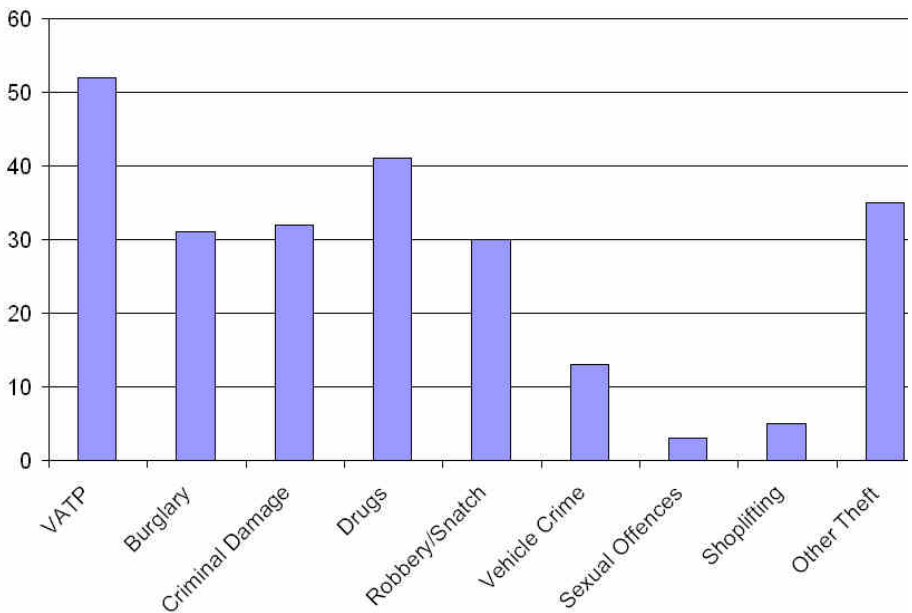
This is supported by the fact that only 1 crime occurred during the period which entailed a traveller victim. This pertained to a criminal damage to a door after a previous altercation arising from the suspects being refused entry to a private party held by victim. Both suspect and victim were from the travelling community.

### Conclusion

Based on the crime figures for the year to February 2007 and the environmental factors such as proximity to commercial



The map above shows all crimes within a 300 metre radius of the proposed site.



CLASS	No
VATP	52
Burglary	31
Criminal Damage	32
Drugs	41
Robbery/Snatch	30
Vehicle Crime	13
Sexual Offences	3
Shoplifting	5
Other Theft	35
TOTAL	242

**RESTRICTED**

<p>areas and through traffic, it would appear that the Watergate site offers the most suitable location.</p> <p>The location also presents a clear demarcation of private residential land which in itself would discourage outsiders loitering around the area.</p>	
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**This report is dependant upon the accuracy of data held on CRIS and the Geocoded data extrapolated thereof.**

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