

Issue 26, 31 May 2020

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This issue reports about the unauthorised encampment of Travellers on the Gardiner Recreation Ground



Travellers in Goring An unauthorised encampment on the Gardiner Recreation Ground

Since late yesterday afternoon (Saturday 30 May) there have been numerous reports made to the Parish Council about a break-in and establishment of an unauthorised encampment by a group of travellers on the Gardiner Recreation Ground.

Within minutes of the first caravans arriving, the Chairman of the Parish Council accompanied by the police visited the site. The Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) Gypsy and Traveller Services team was notified, a police incident reference was made, and the Clerk of the Parish Council immediately began exploring all potential options of how to properly address the matter.

The police and the Council have since received many more reports of property damage, apparent theft/removal of Council property, noise, failure to follow social distancing requirements, and other concerns.

Just prior to noon today a notice was served by the Clerk of the Council to the group. A copy of the letter is <u>available</u> <u>here</u>. This notice is served so as to trigger <u>Section 61 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994</u>. Immediately after the notice was served, as required by the legislation, the police gave notice that the group must

vacate the site by noon tomorrow (Monday 1st June, Thames Valley Police incident 321-310520). It should be noted that the letter of notification also referred to all of the properties owned by the Goring on Thames Parish Council. In addition, a representative of the OCC Travellers Team will visiting the site tomorrow morning.

The Parish Council hopes that as a result of this action the matter will soon be resolved. Any other reports of unlawful activity in this matter should be reported to the police in the usual way, quoting the incident number provided above. You may also email the Clerk (<u>clerk@goringparishcouncil.gov.uk</u>) as she is keeping a record of the reported issues.

To comment on any of these stories please email <u>contact@genienews.org</u> To send in news items, use <u>news@genienews.org</u>

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