

Welcome to Genie's 'Public Information' newsletter

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This issue provides an update about the unauthorised encampment of Travellers on the Gardiner Recreation Ground.



UPDATE: Travellers in Goring **Unauthorised encampment on the Gardiner Recreation Ground**

After their arrival in the afternoon of Saturday 30 May, the Parish Council served a notice to the group indicating that they were not authorised to establish an encampment on the Gardiner Recreation Ground, or on any Parish Council property. A copy of the letter is [available here](#). This notice was served in order to trigger [Section 61 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994](#). Immediately after the notice was served, as required by the legislation, the police gave notice that the group must vacate the site by noon Monday 1 June (this is Thames Valley Police incident 321-310520).

The deadline passed and the Travellers had not vacated the site (the photo, above, was taken at 1pm yesterday afternoon). Disappointingly, the Thames Valley Police then notified the Parish Council that they did not feel that the situation was serious enough, and it was decided that the police would not enforce the notice. The Parish Council will take up this matter separately with Thames Valley Police as it is strongly believed that the witnessed criminal break-in and damage to the Council-owned property is quite serious and should be dealt with according to the law, especially in the light of the numerous complaints of harassment and anti-social behaviour by individuals identified as members of the group at the unauthorised encampment.

As a result, another approach has been taken. A professional enforcement service has been commissioned to address the issue, serve notice and to remove the individuals from the site. This is an approach taken by other local authorities and private landowners, and is fully compliant with common law. Yesterday evening the police were notified and have been invited to attend. The process commenced at about 9am this morning and will take approximately 4 - 6 hours. **IT IS REQUESTED THAT LOCAL RESIDENTS AVOID THE GARDINER RECREATION GROUND DURING THIS PERIOD TO ALLOW THE EVICTION PROCESS TO TAKE PLACE.** The aim is to keep the process as peaceful as possible and to minimise the potential for police involvement, and, especially during this period of the Covid-19 virus and social distancing, to keep people safe.

IT IS ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT GATES TO FIELDS AND FARMYARDS OR LARGE PROPERTIES BE LOCKED AND ACCESS RESTRICTED.

After the site is cleared, it will need to be secured and the clean-up needs will be assessed and a plan implemented.

Please see [attached a letter from the Parish Council](#) for further, more detailed information.

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

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

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