



## What is the Minorca Lane Project?

### Minorca Lane

Minorca Lane, Bugle has become an established home for Travellers, migrant workers and other vulnerable groups, some in sub-standard accommodation which has evolved in an unauthorised manner over a number of years.

It has become a focus for issues around public protection, illegal activity and welfare which represent a significant liability for the council and other agencies.

### Minorca Lane Project

The Minorca Lane Project will enable Cornwall Council and partner organisations to remedy long term unauthorised activity and associated environmental harm, with an end development delivered that meets the needs of the local area.

The project will focus resources and combine the efforts of partner organisations to lead to a regularised development. It will also gain an understanding of stakeholder groups, mapping and addressed.

### Key Outcomes:

- Management of risk to human health and life.
- Improved standard of housing, through regulation and licensing.
- Improved health and wellbeing outcomes.
- Improved catchment water quality through effluent management.
- Reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Engaged community accessing information and services.
- Reduction in pollution, litter and fly tipping.
- Mapping of individual housing needs and options.

### Project Partners:

- Cornwall Council
- Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service
- Devon and Cornwall Police
- Public Health
- Environment Agency.

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## Minorca Lane today:

The Minorca Lane caravan site is made up of 15 separate sites accommodating approximately 270 people in 250 caravans. Although historically these sites accommodated Gypsy and Traveller (G&T) families and land ownership still rests with some of these original family members, the majority of Minorca Lane today exists as private rented accommodation to Cornish and UK citizens and European Economic Area (EEA) migrant workers and their families. The original G&T families, in most cases, now have a role as private landlords.

In August and September 2013 Cornwall Council's Children Schools and Families service and Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service completed a survey of all Minorca Lane, engaging with residents and landlords on all 15 sites. The survey report contains many personal details and I have extracted information which evidences the situation on Minorca Lane without identifying individuals.

Their findings produced the following statistics for Minorca Lane:

### Statistics from visits to Minorca lane

12<sup>th</sup>&13<sup>th</sup> August 2013 & 5<sup>th</sup>& 6<sup>th</sup> September 2013

Number of people seen	<b>194</b>
Number unavailable	<b>69</b>
<b>Nationalities</b>	
British	<b>112</b>
Portuguese	<b>66</b>
Lithuanian	<b>10</b>
Polish , Latvian or Romanian	<b>6</b>

The CSF and Fire officers found that only one site maintained a Gypsy/Traveller lifestyle and it was the only site to have any residents to define their ethnic origin as "*British Traveller*" and, at the time of the survey, had 12 caravans on site.

CSF and Fire also reported "*Minorca Lane is often referred to as a Traveller site, however, whilst the origins of the site were of that nature and some of the original residents reside there; the site today is made up a families who have no other means of accommodation and/or have chosen to live here due to the convenience in respect of their employment.*

*This is a multi- cultural site that includes a large Portuguese community, Polish and Lithuanian residents."*

Further evidence showing the evolution of Minorca Lane from a G&T site to established private rented accommodation is provided below;

- In May 2014 Cornwall Council Shared Services provided information about housing benefit accounts for Minorca Lane. This showed 87 households currently claiming Housing Benefit on Minorca Lane of which 51 were via direct payment to landlords.
- In August 2014 Cornwall Council Shared Services provided information about council tax accounts for Minorca Lane. This showed that of the properties registered within the Minorca Lane postcode, 214 had 'live' council tax accounts.
- In August 2014 Cornwall Council and Public Health officers met with a local recruitment agency who confirmed that at that time, approximately 100 residents of Minorca Lane had been placed with local employers by them.

As part of the Minorca Lane Project all sites on Minorca Lane are currently engaging with Cornwall Council Planning and Licensing officers to legitimise their situation with regard to planning status, caravan licensing and other applicable legislation. By the end of 2014 it is anticipated that every site on Minorca Lane will have attained a legal status and will no longer be unauthorised.

For information please see below an aerial photograph and site layout diagram of Minorca Lane.



