

Report by Cllr Ian Ackroyd, Chair of the TGR working group.

Executive Summary

The recent visit by members of the Traveller community to Gargrave concluded successfully and peacefully. While a small number of minor disruptions occurred, the overall stay was characterised by mutual respect and cooperation. This positive outcome is directly attributed to the proactive, empathetic, and organised approach taken by the Gargrave Parish Council, supported by North Yorkshire Police.

Incident Overview

The stay passed off with very few complications. The only notable events included: an incident involving the unauthorized removal of chickens from their pen
some localised, rowdy behaviour on the Friday evening
some issues on mill Lane regarding residents' access.

This can be addressed as a separate issue on any revised plan. Aside from these isolated events, there were no further incidents or escalations. The atmosphere remained calm for the remainder of the visit.

The Parish Council's Approach

The success of this visit was wholly due to the strategy deployed by the Parish Council. Rather than adopting a reactive or adversarial stance, the council focused on open communication, ensuring that visitors fully understood and respected local community standards, while simultaneously addressing the practical needs of the travellers.

To facilitate a comfortable and managed stay, the council provided;

Sanitation: Placement of temporary toilet facilities.

Animal Welfare: Allocating dedicated, suitable grazing areas for their horses.

Waste: Refuse sacks and Green bins arranged with North Yorkshire Council

Key Takeaway:

The Traveller community expressed sincere appreciation for these efforts, noting that the provision of basic amenities made their visit significantly more comfortable and demonstrated genuine goodwill from the village.

Looking Forward:

Building Lasting Bridges

The overarching goal of this initiative was to move away from historical friction and focus on long-term relationship building. By treating the visiting community with dignity and clear expectations, the Parish Council has laid a strong foundation for the future.

The success of this visit proves that proactive management and mutual respect can foster better understanding, ensuring that future transits pass off peacefully for both the resident and travelling communities.

