



## SCRUTINY TOPIC REGISTRATION

<b>Date:</b>	16 August 2018
<b>Name of person proposing topic:</b>	Dennis Parsons
<b>Contact:</b>	07540 398914
<b>Suggested title of topic:</b>	Travellers and other unlawful occupants of council land
<b>What is the issue that scrutiny needs to address?</b> We receive a large number of complaints from residents every time Travellers and/or other groups camp for a few days without the permission of the landowner, whether that be council or private. For them, it can mean a loss of amenity as residents are uncomfortable and often fearful of using public parks when such groups are there, often with large numbers of dogs. Every unauthorised encampment on council land costs the council a four figure sum in officer time, legal fees and other costs associated with taking court action to move them on followed by clearing the rubbish that is always left behind.	
<b>What do you feel could be achieved by a scrutiny review (outcomes)</b>  Council staff have a practised procedure for dealing with encampments once they are here. Legal requirements are such that this is not a quick fix. A scrutiny review could do two things: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Research attempts at solving this problem by other local authorities to see whether any might work here; and</li><li>2) Consider prevention rather than cure i.e. what steps the Council could take to protect some of the more vulnerable Council-owned sites.</li></ol>	
<b>If there a strict time constraint?</b>	Not really
<b>Is the topic important to the people of Cheltenham?</b>	To those affected by these encampments, it is very significant.
<b>Does the topic involve a poorly performing service or high public dissatisfaction with a service?</b>	There is high public dissatisfaction with the way the problem is dealt with currently.
<b>Is it related to the Council's corporate objectives?</b>	
<b>Any other comments:</b>	

**Officer Implications:**

**None at this stage.**

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