

Milly Southworth

From: Sarah Thorneycroft <Sarah.Thorneycroft@cornwall.gov.uk>
Sent: 16 July 2026 13:35
Subject: FW: Van Dweller Survey
Attachments: Town and Parish Council Survey into local Van Dwellers - Final.docx

Information Classification: PUBLIC

From: Sarah Thorneycroft
Sent: 16 July 2026 10:04
Subject: Van Dweller Survey

Dear Parish & Town Councils,

At the request of our Housing Portfolio Holder, Councillor La Broy, we are undertaking some research to understand the scale of 'van dwelling' in Cornwall. Information about this group of people is almost impossible to find as they move around frequently and are often not registered on usual databases.

As you hold the knowledge on your area, we hope you can help us collect more information on this group of people. We have compiled a [short survey](#) on our Let's Talk pages which will run until the 25th September 2026. A briefing note has been made available on the website for those that would like more information on this group and includes learning from other authority areas, as well as a word version of the survey if you would like to circulate it to all your councillors (attached for ease).

I do hope you can support this activity, but if you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,
Sarah

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Working days are generally Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays (from home)

Please let us know if you need particular assistance from us, such as facilities to help with mobility, vision or hearing, or information in a different format.

Please consider the environment. Do you really need to print this e-mail?



Figure 1. The effect of the concentration of the *Agrobacterium* suspension on the transformation efficiency of *Agrobacterium* strains. The number of transformed cells was determined by the number of colonies growing on the selective medium. The results are the mean of three independent experiments. Error bars represent standard deviation.

Town and Parish Council Survey into local Van Dwellers

Privacy Statement

Introduction

Accurate data on the number of van dwellers there are in Cornwall is not available and we hope to gain a greater insight from the information you are able to provide about any van dweller sites in your area. This will help us to assess current levels of van dwelling in Cornwall and to determine if any further action is required.

Historically, van dwellers chose this life for cultural reasons but more recently, numbers have increased due to the local unaffordability and lack of housing. Being a 'van dweller' can be a positive choice for some but more negative or born from necessity for others.

Living in a van is legal. 'Vans' that are mobile, like camper or converted vans must be roadworthy, MOT'd, taxed and insured. Caravans don't, which is why they are becoming increasingly popular.

If you would like to know more about this topic we have prepared a briefing note.

Questions

1. Has your Council been made aware of any van dwellers in your Council's area over the last year?

Yes/No (skip to Q8)

2. Your Town or Parish Council area is _____

3. Please use the space below to list the location/street address where van dwellers have stayed, and indicate if you can, the frequency, numbers and if there have been any concerns raised? *(Example: 1. High Street, Somewhere. Usually 1 van with 2 occupants that stay a couple of weeks. The local community think they work in the area occasionally and stay in the van when they do. No real concerns as don't cause a nuisance and very friendly when using local shops and cafes. 2. Beach Road, Elsewhere. Lots of different vans all the time in the summer which stay from a night to a week. Generally thought of as holiday makers. Most OK but some leave a lot of litter, and we have had some reports of noise/partying late at night.)*

[free text]

4. Has your Council had any contact with van dwellers in your area? (tick as many as apply):

No (skip to Q4)

Yes – asked how long they are staying.

Yes – asked them to move on.

Yes – asked them to move on and pointed them towards a more suitable parking spot.

Yes – asked them if there is anything your Council can do to help or pointed them towards agencies that can support them.

Other [free text]

5. What is the effect or impact on the local community? Is this impact minor, moderate or significant? Impacts can be both positive (van dwellers buy food from local shop) or negative (more difficult to park in a certain place).

[free text]

6. Are you aware if any van dwellers have contacted local services? What is the effect or impact on local services, if any? Is this impact minor, moderate or significant?

[free text]

7. Bearing in mind there are different types of van dwellers, and some may be local residents who can't afford to rent a home, do you have a view on what action your Council or other agencies could take? For example, if they only plan to stay a short time in your area, you let them.... or you make a report so that a welfare, health and educational needs assessment can be made by Cornwall Council especially if there are children involved? Would your view on what action to take be different if the van dweller was on holiday/lifestyle choice and not living permanently in their van because they have to?

[free text]

8. Is there anything else you would like to add?

[free text]

Many thanks for completing this survey. A response report will be added to the website after the closing date.