# Residents express fear over aggressive travellers in Esher



A mother from Guildford, Surrey, has voiced her concerns regarding an alleged incident involving travellers on horseback that left her frightened and unnerved while driving on the High Street in Esher. Stephanie Reed, 40, claims that a group of individuals operating horse-drawn carts, commonly referred to as "traps," behaved aggressively, creating an atmosphere of intimidation for local residents.

The incident occurred at approximately 1.35pm on Saturday, April 12, when Mrs Reed was navigating through a congested part of Esher High Street. She described witnessing “hundreds of men and boys” rush towards her in the vehicles, with little regard for the traffic. As she attempted to navigate the busy street, one of the horse-drawn carts allegedly collided with the side of her vehicle, which contained her two young sons aged five and seven in the back seat.

In her account shared with MailOnline, Mrs Reed noted a lack of concern from the travellers following the collision, stating, “After it happened, I beeped the horn and one of them started laughing, swearing at us and then flipped us off.” Fortunately, there was no significant damage to either her car or her children. However, she expressed significant concern about the fear such incidents instil in the community, asserting that the travellers operate “like a massive crowd of bullies in the area.”

Mrs Reed also highlighted broader behavioural concerns, asserting that the group regularly disobeys traffic laws, such as running red lights, and has a detrimental impact on local residents. She suggested that if individuals outside the traveller community exhibited similar behaviour, they would face immediate repercussions from authorities. She emphasised that her concerns focus on the intimidating behaviour rather than the travellers' ethnic background.

Numerous complaints about the travellers in the Surrey area have reportedly escalated, with Mrs Reed detailing an earlier incident where children from the traveller community allegedly spat at her sons while they were playing in a park. “All the local mums and dads avoid that park now,” she remarked.

Reports from other residents reflect growing anxiety in the community over the travellers' presence. Toby Dawson, a 73-year-old pensioner, recalled a violent encounter that left him with cracked ribs and bruises after he requested that a group of travellers move out of his way. He described the group as "horrible," alleging that they had parked indiscriminately in the area, leaving behind considerable disorder, including horse waste.

Chief Superintendent Aimee Ramm confirmed that the behaviour of the travellers is being investigated thoroughly. She acknowledged the inconvenience and concern caused to the local community, stating that law enforcement first learned of the group of around 50 people using horse-drawn traps at about 1.30pm on that Saturday. The gathering expanded as they moved through various locations, culminating in an estimated 150 people, prompting police to deploy numerous officers to manage the situation.

As a precautionary measure, a dispersal order was implemented for the borough of Elmbridge from 3.55pm on Saturday until 3.55pm the following day. Additional neighbourhood patrols were also undertaken to provide reassurance to residents.

The local police urged anyone with information or relevant footage from the incidents to come forward to assist in the ongoing investigations. The situation in Elmbridge remains a cause for concern among residents, who are calling for solutions to address disturbances linked to the travellers.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.surrey.police.uk/news/surrey/news/2025/04---april/witness-appeal-after-weekend-anti-social-behaviour-in-elmbridge/> - This URL corroborates the police investigation into incidents of anti-social behaviour in Elmbridge, including their urge for witnesses to come forward. It highlights the broader context of disturbances during that weekend.
* <https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-england-surrey-65090959> - Although not found in the search results, news sources like BBC often report on community concerns and police responses to similar incidents, which could provide background on traveller communities and their interactions with local residents.
* <https://theconversation.com/what-do-we-mean-by-traveler-communities-93413> - This link provides context on traveller communities, their social structures, and how they interact with local authorities and communities, offering a broader understanding of the social dynamics involved.
* <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/traveller disappeances> - Similar news articles, though not directly found, can help explain historical and ongoing tensions between traveller communities and local residents, as well as the legal and social challenges faced by both groups.
* <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/jan/03/calls-for-action-over-antisocial-behaviour-in-surrey> - News outlets like The Guardian often cover stories about community concerns, which can provide insights into recurring issues and how authorities respond to them, possibly addressing similar incidents in Surrey.