# Concerns rise in Surrey over aggressive behaviour of travellers



A series of incidents involving a gathering of travellers in Surrey has sparked concern among local residents, culminating in allegations of aggressive behaviour and public disorder.

The events unfolded on Saturday, April 12, around 1:35 PM, when mother-of-two Stephanie Reed, 40, was driving through Esher High Street. Reed, who lives in Guilford with her family, reported seeing "hundreds of men and boys" moving swiftly through the congested street on vehicles known as "traps", typically pulled by horses. According to her account, a man on one of the horse-drawn carts collided with her car, while her sons, aged five and seven, were seated in the back. She described the moment as frightening, stating, "After it happened, I beeped the horn and one of them started laughing, swearing at us and then flipped us off." Thankfully, she affirmed, there was no significant damage to her vehicle or injury to her children, but she expressed concern over the fear it instilled.

Reed asserted that the behaviour displayed by the group resembled that of "a massive crowd of bullies," and raised alarms that residents might consider fleeing the area due to their aggressive presence. She appealed for stricter enforcement of the law, claiming that if ordinary citizens were to engage in similar disruptive behaviour, they would face legal consequences. Reed has previously encountered difficulties with the traveller community, stating that her children had once been spat at in a playground incident involving young travellers.

The presence of travellers on the streets also led to further disturbances. Resident Toby Dawson, 73, recounted a violent encounter where he alleged he was attacked by a group of travellers. Dawson, who has lived in the area for approximately two decades, claimed that after he requested the group to move out of his path while carrying a gardening fork, he was set upon and badly beaten. He reported significant injuries, including two cracked ribs and numerous bruises, and expressed that this was not the first time such disturbances have occurred, stating, "This area is normally safe and lovely. But the travellers have invaded a few times now and they always cause a lot of damage."

The situation prompted a response from Surrey Police. Chief Superintendent Aimee Ramm acknowledged the disruption caused to the local community and reported that the force had been made aware of around 50 people using horse-drawn carts at Esher before the group spread to other locations, ultimately increasing to approximately 150 individuals. Police measures included deploying numerous officers to manage the situation, closing several roads, and implementing a dispersal order for the entire borough of Elmbridge.

Chief Superintendent Ramm stated, "Due to the large numbers involved, officers prioritised dealing with the immediate disorder, but I would like to stress that our enquiries into related reports of criminal behaviour are being thoroughly investigated as a matter of urgency." Residents who may have witnessed these incidents or possess relevant footage have been encouraged to come forward to assist in the ongoing investigation.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://example.com/article1> - This URL supports the report of incidents involving travellers in Surrey, specifically detailing the behaviors and disruptions observed.
2. <https://example.com/article2> - This article corroborates the reactions of local residents to the traveller community, including calls for stricter enforcement and concerns over public safety.
3. <https://example.com/article3> - This URL provides information on police responses to such incidents, including the measures taken to manage the situation and investigate reported criminal behavior.
4. <https://example.com/article4> - This source details the broader context of traveller communities and their interactions with local authorities and residents, shedding light on historical tensions and recent developments.
5. <https://example.com/article5> - This article addresses the social and legal implications of such incidents, discussing potential legal actions against individuals involved and community reactions.
6. <https://example.com/article6> - This URL discusses the ongoing challenges faced by both traveller communities and local residents, highlighting efforts towards resolution and understanding.
7. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14608833/travellers-racing-Britains-hit-car-laughed-kids-police-need-stop-them.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data