# Ealing Common blighted again as large traveller convoy fuels row over removals and costs



A large convoy of travellers pitched up beside Ealing Common in west London, and the episode has sparked renewed fury among local residents who say the encampment has turned a leafy thoroughfare into a litter-strewn temporary campsite. The scene comes as the capital adjusts to a new political reality after the July 2024 general election, which saw Labour make gains and install Kier Starker as prime minister, with Rishi Sunak’s resignation signaling a shaken Conservative framework. Critics argue the change in government has done little to halt recurring encampments that disrupt public spaces and squeeze council resources.

Photographs and local testimony describe waste piled on the grass adjoining the common and refuse scattered along the pavement. Neighbours complained that park bins were too small to cope with the volume of rubbish and accused the occupants of failing to clear up after themselves, a grievance that has been voiced repeatedly in previous incursions.

This is not an isolated episode. Reporting from local outlets and council briefings records a pattern of summer‑time encampments on Ealing Common going back years, including a notable arrival in June 2019 when several caravans were seen across the park. Councillors and residents have repeatedly petitioned for stronger protections for public open spaces after similar incursions, and parks officers have in the past attended sites to identify occupants and carry out statutory welfare assessments.

Ealing Council has sought legal remedies. The authority obtained a borough‑wide High Court injunction intended to prevent unauthorised traveller encampments and the depositing of waste across more than 300 sites, and says the order is backed by the Metropolitan Police. The council has also allocated funds for physical measures — such as bunds and railings — around vulnerable commons to deter vehicle entry, describing the injunction as a tool to allow a quicker response to unauthorised camping on council land.

Where removals have been considered, council and police action has followed statutory steps. Local reporting describes the serving of notices under Section 77 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act and the potential use of Section 61 police powers, with eviction and fines possible for non‑compliance. At the same time, authorities emphasise the need to carry out welfare checks on occupants before any forcible removal, a statutory duty intended to safeguard vulnerable people.

Councillors and campaigners also point to the recurrent financial toll. Local reports have estimated that the borough spent in excess of £600,000 across a two‑year period on evictions, clean‑ups and repairs arising from unauthorised encampments — a cost that fuels residents’ anger, particularly among those who fund services through council tax.

The pattern of unauthorised camping in Ealing sits against a wider policy backdrop. Official counts recorded in local reporting show dozens of caravans recorded across the borough at recent tallies, and commentators have highlighted chronic shortages of authorised stopping places for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities. Campaign groups and charities argue that more permanent, managed provision would reduce roadside camping, and there has been some central government funding earmarked in recent years for site improvements.

The dispute plays out in an affluent setting. Property listings for the W5 postcode around Ealing Common show multi‑million‑pound homes, underlining why nearby residents — who point to property damage, litter and the cost of clean‑ups — are especially agitated when open spaces are occupied without permission.

What emerges is a familiar tension between the immediate task of protecting public parks and the longer‑term question of provision for travelling communities. Councillors have urged legal changes to make removals easier, and some residents want physical barriers and swifter enforcement. The reform‑minded opposition argues for a tougher, faster approach to unauthorised encampments, with a push for permanent stopping places funded centrally to reduce recurring disruption and the drain on council tax. Critics say the current framework relies too heavily on welfare checks and court processes, slowing action and letting neighbourhoods bear the ongoing costs. Campaigners and housing analysts insist that the problem will not be solved without a substantial increase in authorised stopping places and investment in permanent sites — a debate that shows no sign of abating as summer approaches and the borough braces for further incursions.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15006555/Travellers-road-leafy-common-surrounded-5million-homes-infuriating-families-living-nearby.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.ealing.gov.uk/downloads/download/5271/borough-wide_injunction_order> - This Ealing Council page provides the council’s formal documentation and downloads relating to a borough‑wide High Court injunction obtained to prevent illegal traveller encampments and depositing of waste across more than 300 sites. It summarises the intention behind the order, explains that the injunction is backed by the Metropolitan Police, and lists the sealed interim order, claim form, witness statements and related court documents. The council states the measure is intended to protect parks, sports fields, car parks and other public land, and to give authorities powers to act quickly to remove unauthorised encampments and tackle fly‑tipping.
3. <https://www.ealingtoday.co.uk/shared/contravellersnov001.htm> - This EalingToday report documents yet another unauthorised traveller encampment on Ealing Common and the local response. It records that parks officers attended to identify occupants and carry out statutory welfare assessments, and it highlights the recurring cost to the borough from evictions, clean‑ups and repairs—estimated in the article at over £600,000 across two years. Councillor Joanna Camadoo is quoted urging legal change to make removals easier, and the piece notes public anger, repeated incursions during summer months and a petition calling for a borough‑wide injunction to protect public open spaces from future unauthorised camping.
4. <https://www.actonw3.com/info/acttravellers013.htm> - This ActonW3 news item reports that Ealing Council applied for and was granted a borough‑wide injunction to prohibit illegal traveller encampments following a surge in incursions. The piece explains the injunction forbids caravans, mobile homes, vans and lorries from occupying council‑owned public land or depositing waste, and that police powers would be used to remove those who ignore it. Councillors’ statements are included, noting the council’s allocation of funds for physical defences such as bunds and railings around vulnerable commons, and describes the injunction as a measure to reduce the burdens and costs of recurring unauthorised camps.
5. <https://www.wimbledonsw19.com/page/ealingtoday/info/eatravellersaug002.htm> - This local bulletin reproduces reporting about a notable encampment on Ealing Common and the council and police actions taken. It describes notices served under Section 77 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act, the potential for Section 61 police powers, and the prospect of eviction and fines for non‑compliance. The article details residents’ complaints about damage, fly‑tipping and fires on the common, mentions quad‑bike activity, and reports calls from local councillors for stronger action, as well as the council’s insistence on statutory welfare checks prior to forcible removals and ongoing clean‑up operations.
6. <https://www.londonworld.com/your-london/ealing/dozens-of-traveller-caravans-in-ealing-4195118> - This LondonWorld piece summarises official figures showing dozens of traveller caravans recorded in Ealing during a recent count. It cites Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities data indicating the number of caravans in the borough, distinguishes authorised from unauthorised sites, and quotes campaign groups and charities about the chronic shortage of authorised stopping places for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities. The article places encampment activity in a broader policy context, noting government funding for Traveller site improvements and commentators’ calls for more permanent provision to reduce unauthorised roadside camping.
7. <https://www.rightmove.co.uk/property-for-sale/Ealing.html> - This Rightmove search results page for properties in Ealing (W5) demonstrates the local housing market and shows multiple listings with multi‑million pound asking prices for streets around Ealing Common and elsewhere in the W5 postcode. The page lists current properties for sale with guide prices up to and above several millions of pounds, reflecting that homes neighbouring the common or in the borough can command values in the multi‑million range. The listings support the claim that nearby properties are high‑value and emphasise the desirability of the area despite periodic issues with unauthorised encampments on public open spaces.