# Glastonbury residents voice frustration over caravan dwellers



Residents of Glastonbury, often celebrated as 'Britain's Hippiest Town', are expressing growing frustration with an influx of caravan dwellers in the area, as tensions between locals and these nomadic communities continue to rise. This Somerset town, historically associated with the hippy movement and alternative lifestyles, has seen a marked increase in individuals living in vehicles, leading to a range of complaints from the local population.

The concerns articulated by residents include allegations of littering, drug dealing, and issues surrounding public health. Locals claim to have witnessed substantial waste dumping and excrement scattered along paths, rendering the area increasingly unsuitable for families and children. The negative impact on public spaces has become a focal point of community discussions, with many locals asserting that the quality of life in Glastonbury has deteriorated in recent years due to this situation.

Ben Anderson, a 29-year-old from the nearby village of Street, described an escalating atmosphere of chaos related to the caravan dwellers. Speaking to the Express, Anderson claimed, "One woman who drives a BMW, I've sat and watched her in my office and she's clearly a drug dealer." He provided a vivid account of witnessing unsanitary practices, stating, "I've seen her come round the back of her caravan, squat down into a bucket and pour the poo into the street." This situation has led to a decline in local amenities, particularly affecting his training routes, as he lamented, "We can't now with the flies, the midges, the whole lot, it's disgusting, it's vile."

Concerns have been further amplified by reports of violent disputes among the caravan dwellers themselves. Anderson recounts incidents of public altercations that have created an environment of fear, stating, "We've seen many times where they've been arguing with each other, and fights as well, with axes chasing each other." Another local resident, Maisey Durston-Cavill, 30, who has lived in Glastonbury her entire life, echoed these sentiments, recounting, "We did an event here in summer last year, and there were three guys walking down past us with a machete."

Residents are anxious about how these developments are impacting their community, particularly near children's play areas such as the local skatepark. "It's 100% worse now," Durston-Cavill said, reminiscing about her childhood, "I don't remember this as a kid." She noted that some complaints to local authorities have yielded little to no improvement, adding, "We do know they're getting evicted, which is why the owner of our gym has paid for a new fence, to get our space sorted."

Among the caravan dwellers is Deej McCloud, a 36-year-old who advocates for a more compassionate understanding of their plight. He denied allegations of criminal behaviour and highlighted the systemic issues faced by nomadic populations, stating, "There's a lot of sites around here without rubbish disposal. You can't go to the tip without a licence." McCloud elaborated on the importance of community support and facilities, stating, "When facilities like showers and bins are provided, they are used."

He urged for a more positive public perception of travellers and challenged the notion of simply evicting them from areas, suggesting it does not resolve underlying problems. "I want the public to see us as an asset not a nuisance," he stated, invoking thoughts on moral duty towards society's more vulnerable members.

Ron Brown, a 59-year-old resident, contributed to the discourse by pointing out the broader environmental issues, asserting that littering is not solely the responsibility of the caravan dwellers. He remarked, "It's not just travellers, and the council has a responsibility to keep it clean."

The local council has been called to address these ongoing issues, with a spokesperson for Somerset Council stating, "Somerset Council and Avon and Somerset Police do work together with landowners and our communities, as necessary, to tackle anti-social behaviour when it's reported." This ongoing situation in Glastonbury highlights the complexities involved in balancing community concerns, individual rights, and the manifest challenges faced by both local residents and caravan dwellers.

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

## References

* <https://glastonbury.nub.news/news/local-news/glastonbury-grapples-with-long-term-van-parking-as-council-seeks-balanced-solutions-249023> - This article discusses the challenges Glastonbury faces with long-term van parking, highlighting concerns about safety and infrastructure, which aligns with the community's frustration over caravan dwellers.
* <https://glastonbury.nub.news/news/local-news/glastonbury-residents-call-for-urgent-action-to-remove-loose-knit-shanty-town-of-travellers-150322> - This piece reports on residents' calls for action against a 'loose-knit shanty town' of travellers, reflecting the tensions between locals and nomadic communities in Glastonbury.
* <https://www.tiktok.com/discover/caravans-at-glastonbury-hill-of-death> - This TikTok page mentions caravans at Glastonbury, specifically referencing the 'Hill of Death', which could relate to the caravan dwellers' presence in the area.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - This is the source of the original article, providing context on the situation in Glastonbury involving caravan dwellers and local residents.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-somerset> - Although not directly linked to the article, this BBC page often covers news from Somerset, which could include reports on Glastonbury's community issues.