



Unauthorised Encampment Report 2018/19

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 The total number of Unauthorised Encampments in East Sussex between 1st April 2018 and 31st March 2019 was 46. This shows an increase of 22 encampments on 2017/18
- 1.2 Out of those 46 Encampments on 7 occasions S62a police powers were used in order to redirect the encampment to the designated transit site, Bridies Tan. On 4 occasions S61 Police powers were used due to anti-social behavior and/or the encampment having a significant community impact. Private land owners used bailiffs on 4 occasions and parish councils used Notices to quit on 2 occasions which moved the encampments on. The remaining 25 encampments left of their own accord.
- 1.3 Out of the 46 encampments 15 of the encampments reported to have permanent housing elsewhere. 21 were believed to be homeless and travelling and 10 were unknown. This was either due to non-disclosure or conflicting reports from within the group.
- 1.4 Out of the 46 Encampments 18 were in the Lewes District, 5 in Hastings Borough, 10 on Rother District, 4 in Eastbourne Borough, and 9 in the Wealden District Council.
- 1.5 Out of the 46 encampments 4 resulted in bailiff action. These were encampments on private land. None of the encampments had to be removed by Police after Police had issued notices

2 Introduction

- 2.1 This report presents information on the number of Unauthorised Encampments in East Sussex. This report does not include information where East Sussex County Council (ESCC) Gypsy and Traveller team have attended and recorded Non-Gypsy Traveller persons who are homeless living and sleeping in caravans/campervans or converted vehicles
- 2.2 The information compiled in this report is data captured through ESCC Gypsy and Traveller Team and is based on a variety of agencies and the public. It is noted that the data is not definitive and is only representative of Unauthorised Encampments recorded by ESCC Gypsy and Traveller Team. Other services may record Unauthorised Encampment data that is not contained in this report.
- 2.3 Information is also recorded in this report where Unauthorised Encampments have formed on Private Land. ESCC Gypsy and Traveller team aim to support Private Land Owners in an advisory capacity and in certain circumstances supporting the landowner with the use of Police Enforcement powers.
- 2.4 Data does not include the number of occupants residing in these encampments or the number of caravans that make up the encampments. It does also not contain any personal data in accordance with GDPR

3 Data Process

3.1 The data recorded by ESCC Gypsy and Traveller team is captured through email, telephone or by person. Information is recorded by ESCC Gypsy and Traveller Team and recorded electronically through the fiscal year

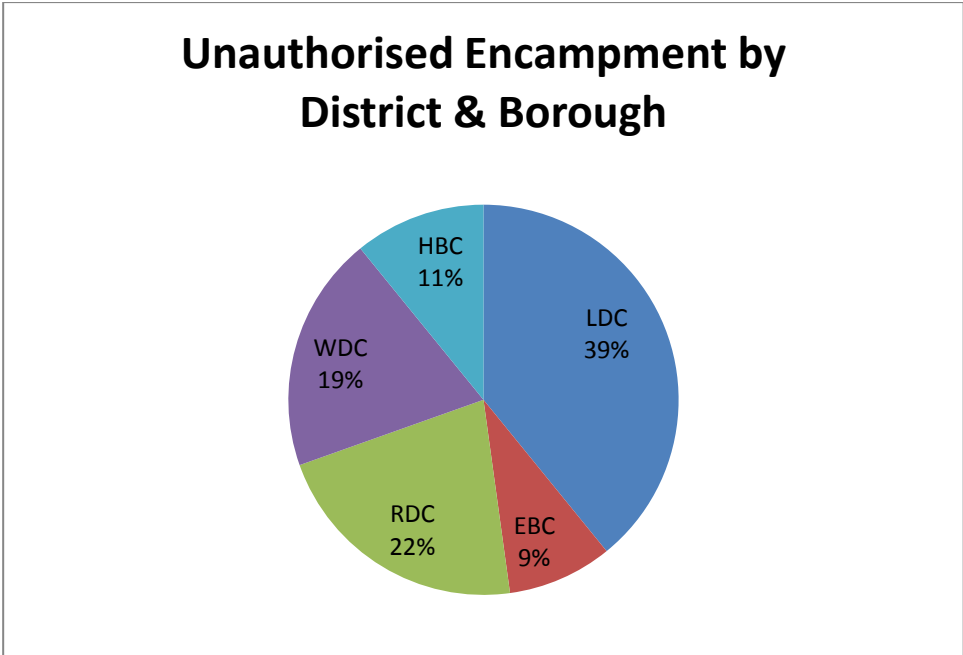
3.2 Analysis carried out has included checking that data recorded has not been duplicated. Validation checks ensure that the data collected by ESCC Gypsy and Traveller team is as accurate as possible

3.3 The information is collected to inform relevant policy, the delivery of the services provided to Gypsy and Travellers including Site Provision and managing Unauthorised Encampments

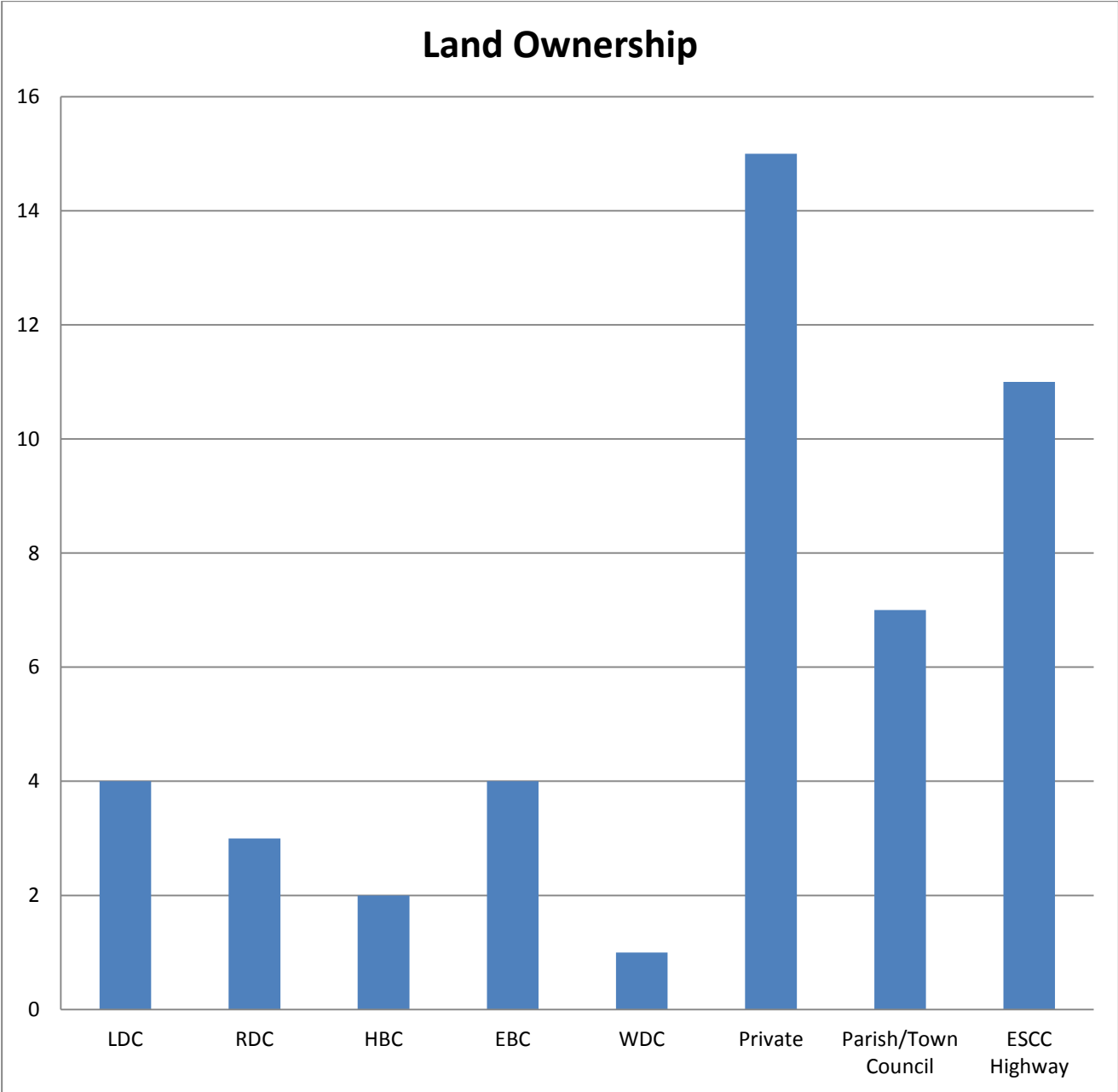
4 Unauthorised Encampments

4.1 There have been 46 Unauthorised Encampments in East Sussex for the period 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019. Below identifies the District and Borough Council area in which these encampments have formed.

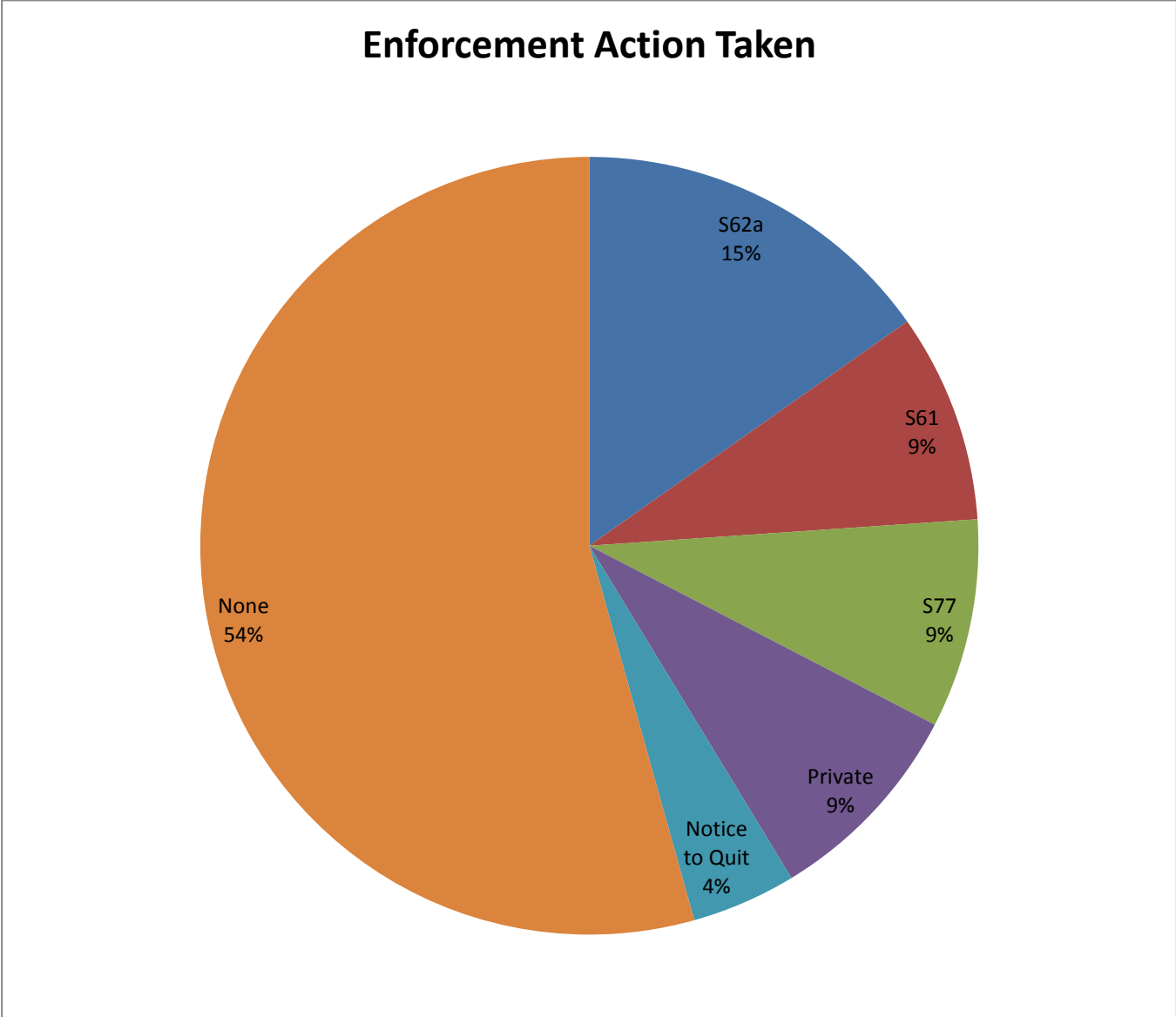
- Lewes District (LDC) - 18
- Eastbourne Borough Council (EBC) – 4
- Rother District Council (RDC) – 10
- Hastings Borough Council (HBC) – 5
- Wealden District Council (WDC) – 9



4.2 Reports received by ESCC Gypsy and Traveller Team are recorded as to land ownership



4.3 Once Landownership has been confirmed the ESCC Gypsy and Traveller team will undertake a welfare check on site to gain more information about the Unauthorised Encampment and assess the need for any enforcement action to be taken. It is interesting to note that well over half of all recorded Unauthorised Encampments no enforcement action was needed to be taken. In some of these cases a negotiated stop was used, the encampment moved on or the land owner advised the encampment to move and they subsequently did.



5 Accommodation Needs

5.1 Over the fiscal year 2018-2019 ESCC Gypsy and Traveller Team have attempted to record whether the occupants of the Unauthorised Encampments have permanent homes elsewhere or are homeless and travelling. This data is hard to capture and in some cases the team get conflicting reports from within the group. In this instance the data is recorded as unknown. Some Gypsy and Travellers are also unwilling to share this data with the team. Of the data recorded 15 Unauthorised Encampments reported to have permanent homes elsewhere. 21 reported to be homeless and 10 were not known.

