

## **Information re the Illegal Encampment at the Great Notley Country Park – 29<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

Following the arrival of an illegal encampment at Great Notley Country Park on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May, the Essex Country Parks management team informed the Essex Countywide Traveller Unit who have begun proceedings to remove the encampment from the park. The Park Manager is now awaiting a further update on timescales and will keep the Parish Council informed of Court progress. Both County and District Councillors for the area are also aware of the ongoing matter. We are aware that the encampment gained access to the park from a locked access gate from the dual carriageway. Essex County Council will no doubt be reviewing whether there is anything that can viably be done to mitigate the risk of further illegal access via this gate once the encampment has been moved on.

*Update from the District Council:*

*'We are aware that travellers have appeared at Great Notley Country Park. Essex County Travellers Unit have undertaken welfare checks on site and have served the Direction to Leave Notice that begins the legal eviction process. ECTU will now apply to the Courts for a Hearing date. The legal process can take 7 to 10 days depending on the Courts' availability and how long the Courts will determine that the encampment should be given to leave the site (usually this is 24 hours).*

*The ECTU provides a daily update to Essex County Council's switchboard on progress of legal proceedings being enacted so that any member of the public can receive the latest update direct. Should you wish to get an update direct, the number is 0345 743 0430.'*