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Councils fear cost of parks' van invasions

TRAVELLERS who moved on to popular parks regularly used by thousands of sports people, children and walkers have been warned they will be evicted.

About 12 vans moved on to the Rotary Ground, off Hill Barn Lane, in Worthing, yesterday.

Pictures showed the fence surrounding the open space, which was gifted to Worthing Borough Council, had been apparently cut to create a space for vehicles to drive on to the land.

It comes as there were further encampments at The Gallops in Vale Drive, Findon Valley, and Beach Green in Lancing.

Writing on Twitter about the Rotary Ground, Worthing Borough Council leader Paul Yallop said: "It is not known at present where the travellers

by TIM RIDGWAY
tim.ridgway@theargus.co.uk

have come from. The council has spent money securing these grounds so I'm not pleased to hear the news."

The site was presented to the town by the local Rotary Club in 1927 and has two cricket pitches, three football pitches, a pavilion, toilets and a play area.

The council said legal proceedings for the group of 16 travellers on The Gallops had been drafted on Friday and that it was waiting for a court date.

Lancing Parish Council, which owns Beach Green, said it had a date in the county court and hoped to serve an eviction notice on an encampment of 15 travellers on its site by Thursday.

Ann Bridges, chairwoma of Lancing Parish Counc said there had been a numb of incidents of damage inclu ing ripped up fence posts ar vandalised sea defences.

She said: "We got our leg people on it immediately b this time they have caused lot of damage and spread rig across the green.

"It's cost us a lot of mon which will have to come out our funds as we have not bu geted for it."

Advice on the local autho ity's website said: "Adur a Worthing Councils will co sider each case individually.

"In all cases the site is v ited and every effort made make sure that the Gypsi and travellers keep the si clean and tidy."

It added the process to mo groups on normally to about a week.