

Rave crackdown plan

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Mico

HOME Secretary Mr Kenneth Clarke is considering proposals to crackdown on music raves in Leicestershire.

by Staff Reporter

Exclusion zones around potential sites, greater police powers and changes to the current law are among the schemes being looked at.

enough to stamp out the problem.

It could have an effect on plans to stage any future events like the massive Fantazia event at Castle Donington last July which attracted more than 25,000 people.

Among the plans Mr Clarke is to consider is amending the law on trespass making it a criminal offence to damage land with tyre tracks, bonfires, or to foul it with human waste.

The move could also tighten restrictions for New Age Travellers, who set up a number of illegal campsites across Britain last summer.

At present trespass becomes criminal if more than 12 vehicles are involved — Mr Clarke suggests lowering that limit to six.

About 200 Travellers were at the centre of a big police operation at Bardon and Breedon near Coalville last July.

Police could be allowed to turn back party goers or convoys of travellers within five miles of a suspected site.

Last year the Government announced measures making camping without permission a criminal offence and powers to confiscate any vehicles involved.

In the bud

And only 10 or more people refusing to leave a piece of land could constitute a new offence which would help police nip the problem in the bud as soon as a group of rave or campsite organisers arrived.

But there are fears that the restrictions may not be

The offences would be backed with the threat of a three-month jail term or fines as well as the confiscation of equipment and vehicles.

A Home Office spokesman stressed that the proposals are still at an early stage.

But he confirmed it was hoped plans could go out to consultation with police, local authorities and other interested parties within weeks.