



A picture taken to-day of May's Market, Belfast.

# Gipsies' site —a new row

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A NEW ROW IS brewing over a proposal to move gipsies in Belfast to a new temporary site at May's Market—where traders have now left for their new market on Boucher Road.

The suggestion that a temporary itinerants' site should be laid out at May's Market has come from the city council's community services committee.

But now the handful of traders who still carry out work in the area—

mostly those in the meat and fish business — are objecting to the plan.

Tomorrow night the council will again consider whether they should go ahead with the scheme, several months after a majority of members decided not to allow water and other facilities to be put into the present gipsies' encampment at Great George's Street.

But traders in the market are seeking a meeting with councillors

to oppose the scheme.

A spokesman for livestock auctioneers R. J. Allam and Co., said today: "We have been tenants here since 1923, and we rely on the market as car parking for the farmers who come in to the sales.

"If we don't have parking we don't have any sales, and we might as well close down, because there is nowhere else to park."

Mr. Paddy Devlin, the

SDLP councillor who has spent months trying to have the council provide a temporary site for the itinerants, said: "There has been every effort to fit them into the area, because the markets have been run down and most of them taken away to another area."

He added: "It is now a most appropriate area to put them while we go ahead with our plan to build a permanent site on the Springfield Road."

Mr. Devlin admitted, though, that it would be "a bit of time" before any new move to locate the itinerants could take place."

## Winter weather losing its grip

THE icy grip on Ulster will lose its hold tonight, if weather men said today.

Temperatures should start above freezing and this means most roads will be back to normal for tonight when many people will be back to work after their New Year break.

And news of the thaw also came as a relief to the Department of the Environment who have been trying to save dwindling supplies. Ulster's only summer mine is out of action because of a strike.

A Met Office spokesman said today that temperatures are on the way up.

"The cold weather is coming to an end and it will be cloudy with outbreaks of rain. Temperatures should rise to around 10 degrees Centigrade tomorrow.