

Washgate Site Visit - 16 September 2015

Purpose

A site visit took place on 16 September 2015 to enable the Members of the Audit, Resources and Performance Committee to be better informed of the relevant issues and facts about the proposal.

Attendance

Members of the Audit, Resources and Performance Committee attended the site visit. The Highway Authorities were not present.

Procedure

The Chair of the Committee presided at the site visit. Members did not make a decision or recommendation on the proposal during the site visit.

The Site Visit

Members walked the full length of the route. The Authority Officers explained the proposal and summarised the background. This included the reasons for the proposal, the management history of the site, the clarification of motorised vehicle rights over the section of the route that is a public footpath, and discussion of management options.

Officers answered questions from Members which included:

- The on-site signage identifying a 1.3 m limited width
- The location and placement of boulders by Derbyshire County Council
- The access required to the farmhouse on the route and to farmland
- The width, gradient and surfacing of the route
- The location of designated areas
- Effect of vehicle use on the river and the listed bridge
- The barrier restricting 4-wheeled access through the River Dove
- The conservation interest of the River Dove
- The effect of the existing signage on the setting of the bridge and area
- The extent of the public footpath along the Staffordshire section of the route
- Other rights of way and access land adjacent to the route
- The character of the route and its setting

Officers were asked to provide further information on the number of motorised vehicle users:

During 2007: 4-wheeled – average of 0.8 per day (0.08 Mon-Fri and 0.7 at weekends)

2-wheeled – average of 5.9 per day (0.6 Mon-Fri and 5.3 at weekends)

During 2007: 4-wheeled – average of 0.6 per day (0.07 Mon-Fri and 0.5 at weekends)

2-wheeled – average of 2.7 per day (0.5 Mon-Fri and 2.2 at weekends)

During 2010: 4-wheeled – Nil

2-wheeled – average of 3.5 per day (0.2 Mon-Fri and 3.3 at weekends)

During 2010: 4-wheeled – Nil

2-wheeled – average of 2.4 per day (0.8 Mon-Fri and 1.6 at weekends)

During 2012: 4-wheeled – Nil

2-wheeled – average of 5.7 per day (0.8 Mon-Fri and 4.9 at weekends)

During 2014: 4-wheeled – Nil

2-wheeled – average of 2.3 per day (0.4 Mon-Fri and 1.9 at weekends)

Officers were also asked to provide details of the extent of the work by volunteers to reinstate the pitching:

From 2011 to 2015: 47 project days and 348 volunteer days.

Members did not ask Officers to undertake further work prior to the consideration of the item at the formal Committee meeting.