
Wetton Hills Site Visit – 6 September 2018

Purpose

A site visit took place on 6 September 2018 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 Authority was not present.

Procedure

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 and viewed alternative access routes in the area using minor metalled roads.

The Authority Officers explained the proposal and summarised the background. This included the reasons for the proposal, the management history of the site, the legal status, and discussion of management options.

Officers answered questions from Members which included:

- The character of the route
- The recreational opportunities in the area including the bridleway to Wetton Mill
- The legal status of the route
- The ruts along the route and the attempts at repair
- The accessibility of the route
- The tranquility and solitude of the area
- The level of use and consideration of the appropriateness of use
- The effectiveness of voluntary restraint
- The impact of electric motorbikes
- The location and extent of designated areas

Officers were asked to provide information on the patterns of motorised vehicle use:

Officers have concluded from detailed interpretation of the vehicle logging data, that there is very little solo vehicle use as the averaged figures suggest. The predominant use is by motorcycles. Generally vehicle use is occurring twice a week with more occurring at weekends. The most frequent motorcycle group size is 2 but groups can be larger and range in size. There is evidence of more frequent use over the Summer and holiday periods. There is little use by 4x4s especially over the winter periods.

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