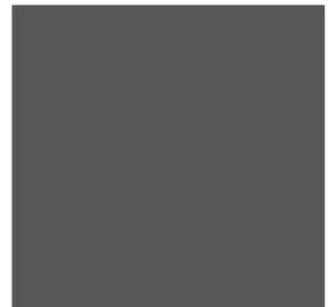


Statement of Policy for the use of Barriers on Rights of Way

June 2020



Executive Summary



Nottingham
City Council

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In Nottingham, as in many other major cities, the local rights of way network¹ suffers abuse from unauthorised vehicles (mainly off-road motorcycles and quad bikes) which disrupt the community and cause safety concerns. In order to address these issues barriers² have been installed at a number of known “hot spots”.
- 1.2 Although this approach has been reasonably successful, barriers have also compromised, and in some cases actually stopped, legitimate users using their preferred routes. The challenge for the Council is to identify a solution that deters unauthorised vehicles whilst maintaining adequate and safe access for all legitimate users.

2 PURPOSE OF THE POLICY – A CONSISTENT APPROACH

- 2.1 In 2012, the Council adopted its first Barrier Policy (“the 2012 Policy”) which continues to provide a consistent evidence based framework to consider requests for barriers which is based on principles of fairness, reasonableness and proportionality.
- 2.2 Due to changes in legislation, design standards and good practice, the 2012 Policy has been reviewed, and where appropriate, updated. The updated 2020 Policy Consultation Draft reiterates the importance of a consistent evidence based approach and that other “least restrictive” measures (including enforcement) should be tried and tested before a barrier is considered and who should be consulted. Additionally, if the decision is to install a barrier, it identifies the most appropriate design for a particular problem and location, and the need for monitoring of its effectiveness and any equality implications for legitimate users.

3 CONSULTATION, EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

- 3.1 During 2019, various local and national user groups, stakeholders and Council service areas were asked to comment on the 2012 Policy and to identify any points that should be included in the 2020 Policy that may not have been included in the 2012 Policy. All initial comments on the 2012 Policy have been incorporated into

¹ For the purpose of this Policy the definition of the local rights of way network includes footpaths, cycleways, bridleways, riverside walkways, greenways, restricted byways, byways open to all traffic and any other path, track or way that the public have used “as of right”, without force, secrecy or permission.

² Barriers include structures and other objects placed on the rights of way network.

the 2020 Barrier Policy Consultation Draft. The 2020 Policy Consultation Draft has been prepared with the benefit of an Equality Impact Assessment (<https://www.nottinghaminsight.org.uk/Document-Library/Document-Library/aAXJKIR>).

- 3.2 The consultation on the 2020 Policy Consultation Draft runs from 10th June to the 3rd August 2020. The document can be viewed and downloaded at <https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/information-for-residents/transport-parking-and-streets/transport-strategies-funding-bids-and-current-consultations/>. For further information email john.lee@nottinghamcity.gov.uk or john.bann@nottinghamcity.gov.uk.