

FORM FOR PROPOSALS FOR DAPTC AGM

To be submitted by 12 noon Friday 30th September 2021

NAME OF COUNCIL Piddle Valley Parish Council

Please note that the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) requests this information and careful completion of the form will increase the chances of a proposal being accepted by NALC

1. Please give the motion your Council would like considered at the DAPTC AGM

Piddle Valley Parish Council requests that DAPTC lobby the Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner to support better enforcement, and the Government for stronger penalties, for the illegal use of public Rights of Way by motor vehicles (Footpaths, Bridleways and Restricted Byways)

If approved, the resulting actions:

DAPTC to write to the Police & Crime Commissioner for Dorset in support of the motion.

2. Please give the reason (as thoroughly as possible) why your Council is submitting this motion.

The Piddle Valley is fortunate enough to have a comprehensive network of Public Rights of Way including Footpaths, Bridleways, Restricted Byways.

In recent years a number of Orders have been made under Section 53 (2) (b) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, known as the Dorset Council Definitive Map and Statement Modification Orders, to upgrade some of existing Bridleways in the area to Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATs). As a result of these Orders the Planning Inspectorate has decided to change the status of 2 routes from bridleway to BOAT, and one from Bridleway to Restricted Byway.

Whilst the newly defined BOATs can be accessed from public highways, both terminate at junctions with other public Rights of Way on which motor vehicles are not permitted. As a Parish Council we have had many reports and evidence of motor bikes riding illegally on bridleways which link up with the BOATs to the detriment of other users. Despite appropriate signage being supplied by Dorset Council, and a number of existing laws listed below, the practice of riding off-road vehicles on bridleways continues.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 - states that it is an offence to drive a 'mechanically powered vehicle' on a footpath, bridleway or restricted bridleway.

Contrary to section 34 (1) (b) of the Road Traffic Act 1988 and Schedule 2 to the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988. Home Office Classification 819/02 This offence carries a fine of £50 and no penalty points.

Environmental Protection Act 1990 - Section 79 of this Act is designed to prevent noise disturbance from off-road vehicles. Breach of this Act is punishable by a fine.

3. Please state how this issue is affecting parish and town councils in Dorset (with case study evidence please) and try not to duplicate answers from previous questions please.

- In 2004, Friends of Dorset's Rights of Way applied to have five routes recorded as "byways open to all traffic" They were: Bailey Drove in Batcombe, bridleways at Cheselbourne and Dewlish, a route in Tarrant Gunville and two separate tracks in Beaminster. Dorset County Council refused it in 2010 because the council said the maps used in the application were not of the required scale. The case was taken to the Supreme Court in 2015.
- Continuing objections to Dorset Council Definitive Map and Statement Modification Orders are yet to be heard

4. If you have information on how this issue is affecting parish and town councils nationally and why this is a national issue please give this and try not to duplicate answers from earlier questions please.

A Westminster Hall debate on "Anti-social behaviour and off-road bikes" was scheduled for Thursday 26 May 2022 from 1.30-3pm. The debate was been initiated by Grahame Morris MP. The debate pack is available via the link below.

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CDP-2022-0097/CDP-2022-0097.pdf>

A campaign by Devon & Cornwall Police in 2017 to crackdown on off-road motorbikers reported in 'Cornwall Live'.

<https://www.cornwalllive.com/news/cornwall-news/road-motorbikers-targeted-major-crackdown-923700>

The Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Alliance is a campaign to free green lanes from recreational vehicles.

http://www.yd gla.co.uk/Latest_News.htm

5. If relevant, please tell us exactly what aspect of national parish policy your Council would like NALC to lobby Government on (with case study evidence please).

6. If you have the information, please tell us exactly which part of primary or secondary legislation (or secondary regulation/statutory instrument) your Council would like to be changed as a result of NALC/local lobbying.

Increase the penalty for driving a 'mechanically powered vehicle' on a footpath, bridleway or restricted bridleway to include penalty points.

7. If relevant, please state what other action your Council would like NALC and its Policy Committee to take if this motion is adopted.

Lobby the Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner to support better enforcement.

8. If you have the information, please confirm the names of any other organisation or local council that formally support your Council's motion.

Other Organisations reporting issues with the illegal use of off-road vehicles with relevant links are provided below but none have been approached by PVPC in support of our motion.

St Day Parish Council <https://stday.org.uk/reporting-incidents-of-illegal-use-of-bridleways-footpaths-and-trails/>

If you have any supporting documents to be jointly considered with your Council's motion – please e-mail them with this form to DAPTC.