

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

17 September 2019

Questions from Lou Barry

**To Councillor Toby Sturgis – Cabinet Member for Spatial Planning,
Development Management and Property**

Question 1:

Is it true that Wiltshire Council (WC) is proposing to allow yet another West Wiltshire Motor Club motor-bike event to go ahead in Becky Addy Wood on October 6th 2019, despite the evidence of damage which:

- has been photographed minutely by myself, in my capacity as WC Volunteer Tree Warden
- has been corroborated by Arboricultural and Landscape Officer David Wyatt and
- has been both predicted and witnessed on the ground by many individuals and environmental bodies (Viz. plentiful correspondence and statements from CAONB, Woodland Trust, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, CPRE and your own Councillors)?

Response:

It is the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order that “allows” this development to take place as ‘permitted development’.

Wiltshire Council can remove certain permitted development rights by Article 4 Directions. However, planning guidance states that - *“the use of Article 4 Directions to remove national permitted development rights should be limited to situations where this is necessary to protect local amenity or the wellbeing of the area. The potential harm that the direction is intended to address should be clearly identified”*. Accordingly, and at this time, officers are continuing to work to identify the potential harm, and this will include by monitoring and gathering ‘evidence’ at the scheduled, near future event.

Question 2:

and if so, given that **the whole of** Becky Addy Wood is protected by

- Defra *ANSW status and hence the NPPF (July 2018)

- TPO /07/00013/WOOD 2007, **protecting all the wood's tree seedlings however small**
- Bath and BOA Bat *SAC
- *CAONB,

I'd like to ask what Environmental Impact Screening has been done to show that WWMC events would not/do not cause damage to the woodland, its biodiversity and ultimately to the Landscape of the Avon Valley (due to the interference with natural regeneration of the woodland) - damage that Wiltshire Council has the power to prevent?

Please could I see a copy of any Environmental Impact Screening report that has been carried out in respect of any WWMC event over the past decades up to and including the proposed 6th Oct 2019 event.

Response:

The temporary use of Becky Addy Woods for motorcycling events does not involve development listed in either Schedule 1 or Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations. It follows that there is no requirement under this legislation for the development to be 'screened' to determine whether significant effects on the environment are likely and hence whether an Environmental Impact Assessment is required.