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Public Guidance Note 22

Dealing with Crime and Antisocial Behaviour on Public Rights of Way

Introduction

If you have a problem with antisocial or criminal behaviour on a public right of way, then you should contact the police or other relevant agency to try and deal with the problem directly.

If all other reasonable means to reduce these problems have been exhausted, then there are provisions whereby public access to problem routes can be restricted although stringent tests will need to be met before such action can be taken.

National legislation allows two options to restrict public access in response to criminal behaviour.

1. Crime Prevention Orders

Within the provisions of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW) Councils have the powers to divert/stop up rights of way under sections 118B and 119B of the Highways Act 1980 for the purpose of crime prevention. However, this enables the Highway Authority to close and divert Rights of Way only within areas designated by the Secretary of State as high crime areas of which there are currently none in Shropshire.

2. Gating Orders

The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 - Public spaces protection orders (PSPO's) - gating of highways, introduced new tools and powers for use by Council's and their partners to address anti-social behaviour which became law on 20th October 2014.

PSPOs are made under Section 59 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and they have replaced Gating Order which previously fulfilled a similar function. In the first instance, crime and anti-social behaviour should be reported to the police and PSPOs should only be considered once all other options have been exhausted.

For further information on PSPO's please visit the Council's webpage at www.shropshire.gov.uk

[Public space protection orders | Shropshire Council](#)

