

**County Council Meeting – 20 July 2023****Question to Councillor David Williams  
Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport****By Councillor Nigel Yates**

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**Question**

Up until Autumn 2022, Staffordshire Moorlands District Council (SMDC) managed, under contract, the County section of NCR55 Biddulph Valley Way. When SMDC returned the contract due to transferring their countryside officer and associated country parks to the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, routine maintenance reverted to County, there is no evidence that any routine maintenance has been undertaken since. What is the County's position with conducting routine maintenance on this route, as I am aware of three interested and competent parties who would like to consider taking over this contract to manage this important national cycle route?

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**Reply**

The highways team have continued to inspect the sections of the Biddulph Valley Way that are the responsibility of the County Council throughout the period and where required have been arranging repairs.

Following the surrender of the lease by SMDC the county council's highways team have been in contact with the Wildlife Trust and are awaiting information on what they are able to offer in future.

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