



ST CUTHBERT (OUT) PARISH COUNCIL GUIDANCE ON SITE VISITS

Introduction

Site visits by the Parish Council are not mandatory. Furthermore, in its capacity as consultees, site visits can only help Councillors understand the application in its context and incorporate this into their recommendations.

A formal site visit is appropriate if

- The application is 'live', it has been recorded by Somerset Council and has an application number.
- the impact of the proposed development is difficult to visualise from the plans and any supporting material,
- the comments of the applicant and objectors cannot be expressed adequately in writing,
- the proposal is particularly contentious.

Site visit practicalities

- The purpose, format and impartiality should be clear at the outset
- An invitation should be circulated to all Planning Committee Councillors
- Keep a record of the reasons why, & dates of, a site visit is called

There must be no attempt to lobby visiting councillors by an applicant. Councillors should remain impartial throughout the visit.

Approved by the Planning Committee 04Oct23