

Phillip Howells,  
Mayor of Ledbury,  
c/o Council Offices,  
Church Street,  
Ledbury.

5<sup>th</sup> August 2019

Dear Phillip,

As a regular user of the Town Trail I am wondering who is responsible for maintaining the sections from the park (Bye Street/Bridge Street) to Little Marcle Road and from Little Marcle Road to the roundabout at the Full Pitcher. I ask because those sections don't appear to be regularly maintained and the first of them is now so narrow that it cannot be used both by cyclists and pedestrians.

As a newcomer, relative, to Ledbury I find the New Mills Estate a nightmare to negotiate. Has it ever been suggested that signposts/ markings on the paths be introduced so that it is possible to negotiate a route, for example from the Hereford Road to Aldi? Such a move would encourage a greater use of cycling and walking as a way of getting around.

Potentially, Ledbury has an infrastructure that should encourages cycling and walking, but at this moment this resource is clearly not being used to its full potential. If it is not within the Town Council's remit/budget to manage this resource effectively has it ever been considered setting up a group similar to Ledbury in Bloom to befriend the cycling and walking routes in the town.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

290

## LedburyTC Clerk

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**From:** Nina Shields <ninashields@talktalk.net>  
**Sent:** 15 September 2019 13:42  
**To:** LedburyTC Clerk  
**Subject:** Town Trail

Hello Angie,

Good to see you on Friday – hope I didn't delay you too much.

Don't ask me why, but it dawned on me this morning that you said you were going to write to Network Rail about the Town Trail.

For info, last year, Jane Hopkins and I met with Spencer Grogan and a lady from Balfour Beatty to discuss the maintenance of the Town Trail (and other areas). Spencer's e-mail is [Spencer.Grogan@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Spencer.Grogan@herefordshire.gov.uk)

We established that the Town Trail is owned by Herefordshire Council and is classified as Open Space. This is important because if it were to be classified as a public footpath the management would be likely to be detrimental to biodiversity. On the other hand it means it's low priority on the maintenance side of things. We raised a lot of issues around maintenance and it was the usual story – no money. We asked about getting some of the work done by volunteers 'under supervision' or by agreement with HC and Balfour Beatty. Spencer said we should look at a 'Licence to Cultivate'. He also said that some years ago HC had asked Ledbury to consider an asset transfer but the Town Council wasn't interested. It's probably too much of a leap at the moment but might be something people want to consider. With all the 'stuff' around the judicial review, we never got a chance to pursue this, but I thought it might give you a head start.

If the Town Council were to go for a Licence to Cultivate, I'm sure we'd get some volunteers via Sustainable Ledbury. Most of the work would need to be done in the winter so I'd be up for it. I wouldn't have the time in the summer. I know Steve Betts who lives in the Southend would also be happy to help – and he's a professional woods person with all the right skills as far as I know.

Hope this helps.

Best wishes  
Nina

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291

292