

Ledbury Neighbourhood Development Plan

This report gives details of interviews with Operators/Managers/Owners of businesses/Organisations which are currently located and trading from the Homend Trading Estate.

The Consultation Template requests opinions and views on the following items from the NDP leaflet.....

1. The proposals for a new site for employments (The Heineken site) and in particular thoughts on the relocation of business operations to a new site.
2. Plans to create ground level access and increased car parking to the station

Consultation feedback

Crystal Carpets and Furniture

The interview was with Mr Adrian Drabble – Owner of the business

Response

1. The business has been operating from this site for 32 years. I am very sceptical about this proposal to develop a new business park. There is very little demand for new Bricks and Mortar facilities these days.
He would not consider renting a new premises and would much rather consider an existing site which would be fully compliant and ready to go. Costs would be much higher when moving to a new building.
Herefordshire Council could not be trusted to operate the site in the interests of the occupants but would simply sell it off or contract the management of it out to some company who may well change policy and conditions for business occupants ant short notice.
Mr Drabble would not be at all interested in relocating his business, especially to a site owned by Herefordshire Council.
2. Agrees that the Station access should be improved but would not be interested in any additional parking space for his own business purposes.
3. Would recommend that the council better supports existing businesses with reduced costs and just let them get on with their own business development.

Glazydayz

The interview was with Chloe Roberts – Owner of the Business

Response

1. The concept of a new business park is a good one , but the current location of this business is very important and there is a lot of walk-in business from people using the Railway station and other services in Ledbury. A location out of the town centre would be a disadvantage

2. Agreed that increased parking at the station and the business park would be beneficial to business.

Lee Motorcycles

The interview was with Mr Jason Vine – The proprietor

Response

1. 40 years on this estate and would not consider a move and would probably retire rather than move the business.
2. Agreed that much better parking was needed at the station.

Camnic Motors

The interview was with the shop front manager

1. The current site is very convenient for customers and a new, out of town location would be much less viable, however would not dismiss a move entirely as the current building has several problems. For a business relocation financial incentives would be needed particularly for the installation of facilities e.g. Inspection Pits, equipment and testing facilities etc
2. Improved Parking at the station would be beneficial to the existing business on this site.

Homend Tyres and Exhausts

The interview was with the business owner – this is a one man operation.

1. Would not consider relocation as believe that the business would go bust at an out -f town location, especially at the Heineken site.
2. Believed that improved station access and parking would be positive, but more importantly Toilets should be installed.
3. Recommended that the council should consult with the site owner

Station Nursery

The interview was with Ann Brennan – the Owner

1. The advantages of a move to the proposed new business park location would be more green space for the Children but there would be some big disadvantages as it is an out of town location. For example the children are often taken on walks on the town trail, the walled garden and other locations in the town which would be impossible at the proposed location.
2. Improvements to station access would be good especially for taking the children out on trips by train. Improved parking at the station and the business park would also be good as the nursery has very little space on the business estate.
3. Recommended that the development of business opportunities in Ledbury would need much better public transport if the use of the car was to be reduced. There is no bus service to Hereford after 5:20pm, so if a train is cancelled then one of the staff cannot get home except by taxi.

Royal Mail

The interview was conducted with the Manager

1. The Post office has invested in this site to build an efficient operation. His experience is that the Post Office does not usually move or relocate an operation like the one in Ledbury
2. The view on Station Parking was very focussed on the business. The Post office does not need any further parking space but would not want to lose space in any development. Did not express opinion on station access so long as any development does not interfere with their operations.

ScrewFix

The interview was conducted with the Manger

1. The relocation issue would not be a matter for the manager but he thought that they might consider relocation if the business continues to expand (been in operation 2 years on this site) More stock space is needed and business has increased substantially since opening.
2. On station access and parking, they have 4 staff none of whom live in Ledbury. Two drive in from Hereford and one from Malvern so they don't use public transport. If parking was increased, maybe more customer parking might be considered.

Railway Yarns

This is a new business not on the list provided and has been operating from this site for a few weeks.

The interview was with the Owner of the business.

1. Would consider a move if more office space and Parking was available. There must be incentives to move including ZERO rates as per the current situation.
2. Better access to the station is needed but in terms of car parking, the station car park is rarely full due to the charges and people park on the road. A car park to the north of the station is not needed but maybe an access road, turning circle and set-down and pick-up parking could provide disabled access to the east-bound platform.

Smith Motors Ledbury Ltd

No longer operating from this site.