

Report prepared by Angie Price – Town Clerk

LEDBURY TOWN TRAIL

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide Members of the Economic Development & Planning Committee with correspondence received in respect of the Town Trail

Detailed Information

On 3 October 2020, the following email was received from Mr Edge:

“My own enquiries like yours no doubt slowed down during the earlier part of the covid crisis. I hope LTC will think carefully about any licence to cultivate, as I believe HC and BB see this as nothing more than a way of deflecting their own short comings in accepting their statutory obligations. They can utter different words to different interested parties, but cannot escape the fact, that they have apparently chosen to ignore Statute, and redefine something as open space, when they took over responsibility from Malvern Hills District Council for the Town Trail, which at that time was covered by the Highways Act and various notes pertaining to it. There is clear anecdotal evidence that the Trail was both constructed and maintained in compliance with the said Act prior to Hereford Council involvement.

Hereford Council have refused to confirm under a freedom of Information request who authorised the change in status of the Town Trail and if council members were even consulted, let alone making a decision to ignore a statutory obligation handed to them by MHDC.

I am currently making other enquiries as to the status of the Trail both when first created and when Hereford Council/ Ledbury Urban Council took over all the responsibilities, formally undertaken by MHDC, Railtrak (formally British Rail).

I could respond to their apparent curious approach to health and Safety legislation but will leave this alone for now.

I hope you will at least bring my further comments to the attention of ‘members’ at the next scheduled council meeting.”

Recommendation

1. That Members of the Economic Development & Planning Committee receive and note the above information and agree a response to Mr Edge’s email.