

LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF AN ECONOMY & PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD
ON
19 MAY 2022**

PRESENT: Councillors Bannister, Howells, Hughes and Morris

ALSO PRESENT: Angela Price – Town Clerk
Amy Howells – Minute Taker

PUBLIC PRESENT: There were 14 members of the public present.

P574 ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR THE 2022/23 MUNICIPAL YEAR

Members were asked to nominate a Chair for the 2022/23 municipal year; Councillor Bannister nominated Councillor Morris who declined the nomination. Councillor Howells nominated Councillor Bradford, but he was not in attendance to be able to accept or decline. It was decided that Councillor Morris act as temporary Chair for the purpose of this meeting and that the nomination of Chair would be postponed to the next meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the nomination of Chair of the Economy & Planning Committee be deferred to the meeting scheduled for 16 June 2022.

P575 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Bradford, Harvey, Knight and Manns.

P576 TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WRITTEN REQUESTS FOR DISPENTION

Councillor Howells declared a pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 20.

P577 NOLAN PRINCIPLES

RESOLVED:

That the Nolan Principles be received and noted.

P578 TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members raised the following amendments in respect of the Terms of Reference:

a. Under delegated powers:

- Paragraph 1 should read “Neighbourhood Development Plan”.
- Paragraph 8 should read “alleged development conditions”.

b. Establishment of Terms of Reference and review

- Paragraph 1 amend to read “Economy & Planning”

c. Appendix 2 – Retail Areas and Provision

- To take into account the change of planning codes A2 and A5, which were amended in September 2022.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the Terms of Reference be approved, subject to the amendments listed above.**
- 2. That the setting up of Working Parties be deferred to be considered at the meeting of the committee scheduled for 16 June 2022, due to only four Committee members being present.**

P579 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR FOR THE 2022/23 MUNICIPAL YEAR

It was proposed by Councillor Howells that this item be deferred to the next meeting for election of Vice-Chair for the 2022/23 municipal year.

RESOLVED:

That this item was deferred to the next meeting of Economy & Planning.

P580 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

RESOLVED:

- 1. To suspend standing orders to allow more than the stated time for members of the public to speak at meetings, due to the nature of the items being discussed.**
- 2. That items 15 and 20 be brought forward to address the matters the public were here to speak about.**

Four members of public were present regarding Item 15, they expressed their concern in respect of the proposed removal of the trees and bund on the

development of land as this will affect the noise of the bypass and air pollution on Spring Grove Road.

Members thanked the residents for bringing this issue to the attention of the Committee and advised that they would address this in their response in respect of the application, and with Vistry Homes should they meet with them in the future to discuss this application.

Councillor Howells left the meeting at 7:28pm

There were several members of the public present for Item 20, Mr David Thomas and his brother read out two statements which will be attached to these minutes once received.

The Chair thank Mr Thomas and his brother for their statements and advised that they should write to the Chief Executive of Herefordshire Council to bring the issues to his attention for further consideration. He explained that the Town Council had little influence in these matters, but wished them well in their endeavours.

Councillor Howells re-joined the meeting at 8:00pm

P581 TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 14 APRIL 2022

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 14 April 2022 be approved and signed as a correct record.

P582 TO REVIEW THE ACTION SHEET

RESOLVED:

That the Action sheet be received and noted.

P583 TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE ECONOMY & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 3 MARCH 2022

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 14 April 2022 be approved and signed as a correct record.

P584 TO REVIEW THE ACTION SHEET

RESOLVED:

That the Action Sheet be received and noted.

P585 RURAL MARKET TOWN GROUP – AREA PROFILES AND FAIR FUNDING SUMMARY

RESOLVED:

That members received and noted the information provided.

P586 PLANNING CONSULTATION

13.1 Application No. 221183 – 101 Robinsons Meadow, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 1SX

RESOLVED:

No objection.

13.2 Application No. 221285 – Upper Hall Lodge, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 1JA

RESOLVED:

No objection

13.3 Application No.221306 – Ledbury Hand Car Wash, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 1LG

Councillor Hughes advised that there were concerns in respect of drainage, noting that Herefordshire Council flood officers have suggested they need more information regarding this before they could comment, and that they needed more information on how they will be able to drain the site. Councillor Hughes proposed that committee wait until further information has been received in respect of this before providing a comment on this application.

RESOLVED:

That members wait for more information to be provided in respect of flood and drainage issues before submitting a comment on this application.

13.4 Application No. 221468 – Arknell Farm, Horse Road, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 1LS

Councillor Bannister noted Horse Road is not Ledbury Parish.

RESOLVED:

No objection. However, the Clerk to ask a question of Herefordshire Council regarding whether this application is in the Ledbury parish.

- 13.5 Application No. 235782 – Hall House Farm, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 2JE

Councillor Hughes noted that the application does not come up on the website with the number given.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk re check the number given and members to revisit at the next meeting.

- 13.6 Application No. 221507 – Abbey House, 37 The Homend, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 1BP

Councillor Howells questioned if this building was listed due to being in a conservation area.

RESOLVED:

No objection but the Clerk to establish whether there is a Listed Building application in respect of this due to it being in the conservation area.

- 13.7 Application No.220857 – 17-19 The Homend, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 1BN

RESOLVED:

To note that this application has been withdrawn.

P587 PLANNING DECISIONS

RESOLVED:

That the Planning Decisions be received and noted.

P588 OUTCOME OF MEETING WITH VISTRY HOMES – PLANNING APPLICATION NO. 220855 RESERVED MATTERS

Four members of the public were present at the meeting and expressed their views in relation to the plans by Vistry Homes to interrupt the bund adjacent to Spring Grove Road. Councillor Howells believed representation should be made to Herefordshire Council regarding the matter of air pollution and noise from the bypass if the trees and bund are removed.

Councillor Howells gave an update on a meeting with Vistry Homes regarding application no. 220855, he noted that the breach of the bund and removal of trees was not discussed and thanked the members of the public who attended for bringing this to the committees attention. Councillor Morris added that members understood the issue and were supportive towards the public, he

added that the Council would include these points in their response to Herefordshire planning.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the Clerk investigates to establish whether there is a preservation order on the Oak tree in the field next to the bypass concerned.**
- 2. That representation be made to Herefordshire Council regarding the removal of the trees and breach of the bund.**

P589. a. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT WORKING PARTY HELD ON 29 MARCH AND 3 MAY 2022

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the minutes of the Traffic Management Working Party meetings held on 29 March and 3 May 2022 be approved and signed as a correct record.**
- 2. That the Clerk write to Herefordshire Council for Twenty's Plenty to be considered in Ledbury on the High Street and surrounding areas.**
- 3. That the Clerk contact Gareth Davis to offer support from Ledbury Town Council in respect of "A Community Station Partnership for Ledbury/Colwall".**

b. NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NDP)

Councillor Howells provided Members with an update on the current status of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Regulation 14. He also asked Members to give consideration to a quote received from Bill Bloxsome in relation to some additional work to prepare a Basic Condition Statement and Consultation Statement at a cost of £800.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. That members received and noted the update.**
- 2. That a recommendation be submitted to the Finance, Policy & General Purposes Committee that the quotation received from Bill Bloxsome in respect of the provision of Basic Conditions Statement and Consultations Statement at a cost of £800.**

c. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE MARKETS WORKING PARTY HELD ON 22 APRIL 2022

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Markets Working Party meeting held on 22 April 2022 be received and noted as a correct record.

P590 NOTES OF A LOCAL PLAN POLICY OPTIONS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the notes of a Local Plan Policy options meeting be received and noted, noting that these would provide useful information in respect of the Spatial Plan Consultation response.

P591 SPATIAL PLAN CONSULTATION – DRAFT RESPONSE

Members were reminded that Councillors Bannister and Howells had offered to draft a response, and whilst it was noted that the council had been given an extension to the deadline for the return of their response, this had yet to be completed.

RESOLVED:

That the Spatial Plan Consultation draft response be differed to a meeting of Full Council on 9 June 2022.

P592 NOTIFICATION OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER

RESOLVED:

That the notification of tree preservation order be received and noted.

P593 Further to the discussion held under “Public Participation” Members considered whether there was anything the council could do to support Mr Thomas.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the Clerk investigate whether the Barn are breaching any of the licencing conditions placed upon the Barn and report back to a future meeting of the committee.**
- 2. The Clerk to write a letter to Mr Thomas and inform him that the council are gathering information from Herefordshire Council.**

EP21 CORPORATE PLAN

The Clerk advised that she would be organising a workshop with Councillors and staff regarding the Corporate Plan after to take place in June.

EP22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

To note that the next meeting of the Economy & Planning Committee was scheduled for 16 June 2022 at 7:00PM.

The meeting ended at 8.35 pm.

Signed Dated
(Chair)

STATEMENT READ AT PLANNING MEETING WITH LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL, MAY 19TH.

My name is David Thomas.

I have lived in Ledbury since 1976 and spent all of my adult life living in various flats within the town centre. I have never had any reason to complain about anything.

I now live at 27b The High Street. This is rented accommodation and I have lived here for 17 years. I chose to live here because it is a very quiet location.

The Barn is situated directly outside my flat.

I said the very same words in a statement that I read at a planning meeting here in September 2019. In that statement I made it very clear to Ledbury Town Council what I was having to put up with since The Barn opened as a venue.

For instance:

1. An unbearable level of volume from music, be it from a live band or a sound system.
2. An unbearable level of noise created from people attending the venue – right outside my window.
3. Terms and conditions of the licence agreement not being adhered to at every event.
4. The owners of The Barn (Mr Oakey and Ms Jones) demonstrating an arrogant attitude, a complete lack of consideration for others, as well as a total lack of responsibility as business owners.

All of this along with a complete lack of communication between all relevant parties involved in this case, was having a detrimental effect on my health and well-being – making my life a misery and forcing me to leave my home just to escape the noise. Furthermore, I have had to seek help from my GP.

The council said at that meeting *'Whilst Ledbury Town Council see The Barn as an asset to the town, they can not support the disturbance and breach of licence'*.

I am here now two and a half years later because NOTHING HAS CHANGED.

On October 18th 2019 at a licence review The Barn had their licence suspended for three months.

Sound clips were played to the sub-committee which illustrated the level of noise emanating from The Barn. It was said that warning letters had been sent to the premises licence holder which stated that the issues with regard to noise control needed to be addressed. Officers had advised the licence holder Ms Jones about improvements which would help prevent the nuisance, but none had been forthcoming.

It was also said, *'Due to the location, physicality of the area, structure of the building, and frequency, times and nature of events being held at the premises, it is our opinion the noise is causing a noise disturbance to the surrounding locality'*. Licencing Officer, Mr Fred Spriggs said *'To put this in to perspective, I would not want to live in the vicinity of these premises, as the noise would be excessive for the area and cause me considerable nuisance'*. Ms Jones's response to this was to ask if she could read out a poem.

The committee chairman Mr Alan Seldon said they decided to suspend the licence for a period of three months. He said *'This is to allow time for consultation with the neighbours and time for noise attenuation measures to be put in place'*. THIS HAS NEVER HAPPENED.

In January 2020, I was informed by Planning Officer Steve Davies that the freight container situated in the outside area of The Barn was unlawful. Furthermore, he said in his final email to me, *'Planning application 190253 has been withdrawn (it was due for refusal) and the applicant is intending to re-submit in the near future with revised proposals. He intends to remove the freight container and has been advised that the use of the bar is unacceptable without adequate measures to mitigate noise nuisance. He intends to address this issue in his revised proposal for which he has been advised to provide the following.....'*

1. A revised planning statement which sets out more realistically the actual use of the premises.
2. A noise assessment which examines the impact of amplified music at the nearest closest sensitive receptors.
3. A detailed noise management plan as to how noise will be managed at the site.
4. Proposed structural upgrading to ensure that there is no noise breakout from inside of the premises through poor structure, doors and windows. THIS HAS NEVER HAPPENED.

However, what did happen is this....

On August 18th 2020 I arrived home from work, but I was unable to access my front door because there was a crane obstructing the entrance to my property. Having been informed about the freight container, I just assumed that the crane was there to remove it, as instructed by planning officers.

The freight container is still there. It was merely re-positioned. I have since been informed by a member of Ledbury Town Council that the owners of The Barn intend to use the container as a 'sound barrier'.

This demonstrates that Mr Oakey will do whatever he likes, whenever he likes, regardless of what he has been told to do by the relevant authorities.

After the lockdown which began in March 2020, which was absolute bliss for me, The Barn re-opened with a new revised licence. The conditions being...

1. All activities will be from 10am – 10pm Monday to Sunday.
2. Customers must leave the premises by 10.30pm.
3. The existing condition regarding noise and vibration will remain in place on the licence.

The licence holder also had to agree a dispersal policy with environmental protection prior to the lifting of their suspension. THIS HAS NEVER HAPPENED.

Also, Section 177 of the Live Music Act 2012 was disapplied.

As I have said before, the owners of The Barn have never had the courtesy to inform or consult me about any building work due to take place there.

In July 2020, without warning Mr Oakey dug up the area outside my home, leaving me with very limited access to my front door. At times, no access at all. Mr Oakey's behaviour at this time could easily be regarded as intimidation. I reported this to the police.

Councillor Liz Harvey informed me in an email that *'The owners of The Barn have very limited planning permission in place. They have managed to do most of the work to date by 'repairing' The*

Barn rather than by altering it'. She went on to say that, 'It is clear to anyone visiting the premises that the work has gone beyond repair and there are retrospective applications that relate to this work'.

Planning Officer Susanna Burrage said in October 2019 *'We object to the proposed change of use on noise and nuisance grounds as we are of the opinion that as a retrospective planning proposal, what is there is almost certain to adversely impact on the amenity of neighbouring residents. This is in terms of amplified music emanating from a poorly insulated and structurally defective barn'.*

So, I was alarmed when during the second lockdown that began in January 2021, the owners of The Barn began building work directly outside my home. Work that was so noisy, I was forced to leave my flat nearly every day – during lockdown.

I complained about this to Herefordshire Council. I had no response. I complained about this to Councillor Liz Harvey. Her response was to inform me that the council have 'bigger fish to fry and that I would just have to put up with it'.

She also said, *'The use class approval for the building remained as a café and art gallery and that there is no planning permission for it to be used for other purposes. Change of use permission will be needed in order to operate into the evenings and to serve alcohol and play music'.*

So again, I was alarmed when in July 2021 a post appeared on The Barn's social media page saying *'Good news, The Barn in Ledbury is holding an open mic outside every Saturday. Anyone can go along and play to their hearts content. You may even be offered a paid gig in The Barn on a Saturday evening'.*

Furthermore, I had to suffer disturbance from large noisy crowds of people gathering outside of The Barn, outside my window, unannounced on land that does not belong to them.

Again, I complained about this to Herefordshire Council. Again, I had no response. On September 9th last year I asked Ms Jones who had given her permission to use this land. She replied, 'Liz Harvey'.

As I have said before, I do not enjoy complaining. I am sick to death of it. It is mentally exhausting and extremely boring. Believe me I have far better things to be doing with my time. Due to the poor response from Herefordshire Council I was advised by PC Nick Ashby in July 2021 to complain to the police. He assured me that all disturbances would be logged and all relevant information would be passed on to licencing. I made 14 complaints to the police until I was finally contacted by Environmental Health in December, five months later.

I was appalled to learn that a live music event that was due to take place on December 18th had been granted a Temporary Events Notice, despite my previous 14 complaints.

I was also told that a meeting was going to be arranged involving all relevant parties to discuss the situation at The Barn. I then heard nothing from the council for three months, despite continuing to complain about further disturbances. Eventually, I was contacted by Environmental Health at the end of March this year. I was told that a meeting had taken place with the owners back in January. I should have been informed of this. I have no idea of the outcome of that meeting. The only information I was given is as follows.

There was a dispute over the exact usage of the premises. The owners regard the freight container as adequate noise attenuation. They were also IN COMPLETE DENIAL OF EVER BEING A PUBLIC NUISANCE.

I have been told by Environmental Health that they see no point in sending letters of warning to The Barn because they firmly believe that they are being ignored. The owners have never taken this situation seriously at all.

Anybody who attended the planning meeting in 2019 will recall the ludicrous and frankly embarrassing response from Mr Oakey after I read my statement. He said I had no right to complain because other people living on the High Street were being woken up by tractors driving over drain covers in the middle of the night. He also said that I should just move house.

There have been so many disturbances that I have been unable to list them all in this statement. I have included a few examples.

On August 6th last year, a few days after The Barn was named as trader of the week in the Ledbury Reporter, there was a live music event held at The Barn. Loud music was played beyond the cut off point at 10pm and went on until 11pm. Customers remained on the premises until 11.30pm. When The Barn finally did shut, Mr Oakey and a group of people continued to make a disturbance outside my home past midnight.

I approached them and informed them that I was in bed trying to get some sleep and that if they didn't leave I would call the police.

On September 11th of last year, I was woken up by laughter outside of my flat. I witnessed Mr Oakey telling a female employee of Wyebidge Interiors that I had complained the previous weekend about amplified music being played outside of The Barn. 'I wish I'd been there to see that' she replied. Wyebidge Interiors is owned by Mrs Mary Pytel. She is also the previous owner of The Barn. In April 2019 Mrs Pytel lied about me to Herefordshire Council in a letter of support for The Barn. This was defamation of character.

On October 20th of last year, another private party was held at The Barn. Once again, I was forced to leave my flat to escape the noise. I was horrified at the amount of vehicles turning into the car park – all heading for The Barn. I thought about the 46 years I have lived in this town, and yet again I was being forced to leave my home – as a result of the actions of irresponsible business owners who simply couldn't care less about the noise that they were making and the impact it was having on people living nearby. People like me – **the nearest, closest, sensitive receptor**.

This year, March 12th, loud music began emanating from The Barn at 10.20pm. This continued until 11pm with what sounded like a man speaking over a PA system alongside the music. Customers remained on the premises past 11pm.

Two days later I informed Mr Oakey that the council had been made aware of this latest disturbance and breach of licence. He looked up at me with a big smirk on his face and told me that he did not need any planning permission whatsoever and that he could do whatever he liked.

On April 20th this year another private party took place outside my home – further disturbance. I complained about this to Herefordshire Council – again I had no response. A week later I arrived home from work to find a large crowd of people gathering outside my home. Not for the first time I witnessed Mr Oakey pointing me out as the one person making complaints about The Barn. However, I am not the only person making complaints.

I was aware that this was another private party because as per usual I didn't recognise anybody and there was no event advertised on The Barn's social media page. I was in disbelief at how loud the music was that night.

After singing Happy Birthday, customers left on time for a change, very noisily.

I later learned that all of this noise was clearly heard by residents of the Alms Houses.

Yet again, my night was ruined. I could feel the vibration of the bass and drums running down my neck and back as I sat on my sofa trying to watch my tv.

I thought about the first line of The Barn's licence agreement. It says '*Noise or vibration shall not emanate from the premises so as to cause a nuisance*'. I have stated this time and time again and I have been ignored time and time again.

I thought about my basic human rights. My right to privacy. My right to relax in my own home.

I thought about comments made by Councillor Phillip Howells who during his term as Mayor of Ledbury agreed to meet me in my flat to discuss the situation at The Barn. In a long conversation he informed me that Mr Oakey had a 'vendetta' against me – simply because I had complained about The Barn. His words being '*He is the problem*'.

He repeated this to me on two other separate occasions. He has since denied ever saying this.

In December of last year, Mr Howells informed me that he now regards The Barn as a great asset to the town and that the owners were acting perfectly within their rights. He went on to say that there was nothing I could do about it. But there is something I can do about it like I did before. I have continued to gather evidence of noise nuisance at The Barn as instructed by Environmental Health.

Unfortunately, I have had to involve solicitors. This will no doubt cost me money. The thought of this fills me with dread. But I find comfort in the knowledge that I have the full support of my family and friends. People who know exactly what has been happening outside my home. People who are aware of the way that I have been treated. People who actually live in this town.

Finally, I will end in the same way I did in my previous statement two and a half years ago. Would you tolerate being treated in this way – and would you honestly want all of this disturbance going on right outside your home every week? If the answer to that is no, then why am I STILL having to put up with it.

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

I work as a mental health nurse, but you don't have to work within the field of mental health to know or understand the impact that stress can have on someone. I have seen this in my work with patients and now over recent years in my family, as we witness the impact the ongoing situation is having on my brother David - and as a result and without a doubt has changed him. Anyone who really knows David will tell you this.

We have noticed this steady deterioration over the past few years. David has become unwell. He is depressed and is prescribed medication from his GP. He has become physically and mentally exhausted from sleepless nights and anxiety.

Behind closed doors in family life we have watched David implode. We have also witnessed him explode, as he has become angry and short tempered out of sheer frustration of what he has to put up with so often right outside his home - and also how unsupported and let down he has felt by relevant parties. Losing his composure with people is completely out of character for my brother not how he would usually behave. Saying that, I challenge anybody to maintain theirs if continually faced with all the disturbances coming from The Barn right outside their own home – as well as continually not being listened to or having their concerns considered over such a lengthy period.

Naturally, this whole sorry continuing saga has spilled in to our family life as we do our best to support David and try to keep him well. I am not enjoying the effect that it's having on us and in particular our Mom – of which the stress is simply progressing her dementia. This is clear so see. David's usual ability to care for her as well as he had been is now compromised. His performance at work due to the stress and exhaustion caused is also affected.

My family have loved living in Ledbury for a very long time. My Dad was deputy headmaster of Ledbury Junior School for 30 plus years. This does not give us grounds to expect anything, of course not. However, what I would expect or at least hope for – for David and others affected is respect and fairness. I haven't seen either. The whole experience has certainly marred our love of living in Ledbury and when I think of all the complexities of the situation and its impact on David and my family, then I'm actually glad that my Dad is no longer here to witness it.

It has been said by some, 'If it's that bad then why not move'? This is easier said than done considering finances required and a lack of rental properties in the area. Besides, why should he move? He chose to live in the property because of its quiet location, 17 years ago.

When I prepared this statement, I was reminded of the alarming conversation Mr Oakey had with David's landlord Mr Miller, following his complaint against The Barn as he was concerned that he could potentially lose a tenant. Mr Oakey reassured him that he could quite happily fill Mr Miller's flat with another tenant from people he knows. This response further demonstrates a lack of care, consideration and responsibility.

Is The Barn really an asset to the community?

When I think about their actions and behaviour already mentioned such as not being responsible as business owners or people, not adhering to licencing conditions, bullying and intimidating my brother, having no consideration for people living in the area with full

knowledge of the impact they are having on them - and just generally 'ploughing' on and doing what ever they see fit, then in my opinion they are a so called 'asset' that the people of Ledbury could do without.

Where is David's right to a private and peaceful home life?

A simple thing like watching and being able to hear the tv in our homes is something that we would all expect to be able to do. More importantly, what about just being able to concentrate and simply relax in our homes - and just BE? This normal way of living has been taken away from David causing nothing but misery - and this has been the case since The Barn came about. I've lost count of how many times David's had to leave his flat to escape the noise. How can this be acceptable? How can this be right?

Simply put, and as documented, The Barn is not in the right location to do the things it wants to do and how often it wants to do them.

I typed David's statement for him which emotionally I found very difficult to do, as it just reminded me of how many challenges he has had to endure. Yes, his statement is long, but it is as I would expect from him - 100 percent truth.

It is absolutely beyond me why The Barn are still able to operate with more or less free reign, for twelve hours plus each day, seven days a week – in the way that they have been doing so for too long. The impact its had over recent years on David's time, his health (mental and physical), his finances, his home and family life should in my opinion be compensated for.

I would say it is the council's responsibility to ensure that businesses are operating fairly, within the law and without breaching licencing conditions.

In closing, I just can't find the words to express how much we feel that David is continually being let down by relevant parties and so as a family, along with his friends and people who know him, we will continue to support him protect his home life and health and well-being.

It is just not acceptable that someone should be exposed to all the issues that have been documented and mentioned. The comment from Ledbury Council stating that they have 'bigger fish to fry' I find outrageous and insulting especially considering the impact on David, my family and others affected by this ongoing situation.

This is the bigger fish – the health and well-being of the people of Ledbury.

Enough is enough.

Jonathan Thomas
19.05.22