

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO CABINET – 16 May 2024

Question 1

1. Mr Mike Willmont, Hereford

To: Councillor Bramer, Community Services and Assets

The Council's website states that the redeveloped Museum and Art Gallery is due to open in 2025.

Can the Cabinet Member perhaps give a more definite date (a month?) for this as there appears to be little evidence of construction work in progress

Are there dates when the money from the Towns Fund, Arts Council and National Lottery Heritage Funds have to be returned if not spent?

Answer: Cabinet Member, Community Services and Assets

The webpage on the museum and art gallery redevelopment was updated recently. It includes an overview of work that has been happening over the last year. The webpage is [Developments in Hereford – Herefordshire Council](#). The museum and art gallery redevelopment is due to be complete in late 2026. A final opening date is subject to a number of factors and may change as the project progresses. The grants received from funders will be used in accordance with their approved purposes to support the redevelopment.

Supplementary question:

Thankyou for the response to my question to which I have this supplementary.

“It is disappointing that there is further slow progress on this important project, so a new museum could be many years away. The second part of my question fundamental to progress of the project was not answered.

These delays seem symptomatic of so many Council developments.

Would the Cabinet Member put this delay down to bad luck or something else?”

Supplementary Response:

The redevelopment of the Museum and Art Gallery is a technically challenging and complicated process. It involves repairing and refurbishing the existing Grade 2 listed building as well as adding a new level on top of the historic structure in a way that maximizes the thermal efficiency and drastically reduces its energy consumption and heating requirements. It is the first time this approach has been used in the UK on a museum and art gallery building in this way. The progress is in line with the project plan and the complicated nature of the building.

Question 2

2. Mr Peter McKay, Leominster

To: Councillor Price, Transport and Infrastructure

Working through the anomalies in Leominster Highway and Path Records it becomes apparent that some gaps in connectivity would be filled on an Integrated Map if

streets that provide connectivity and shown with pink line on the Local Street Gazetteer as 'Neither 1, 2 nor 4' were also shown with pink line on the Street Works Register as 'Highways not maintainable at public expense', avoiding DMMOA to add as footpath, and I ask if this is reasonable logic that you would ask your team to consider, e.g. Gateway Lane Street id 23204431?

Answer: Cabinet Member, Transport and Infrastructure

Thank you for your question.

To assist other members of the public, the interactive map to which you refer can be found here: [Highways and public rights of way map – Herefordshire Council](#). The map has a number of separate layers, amongst them are the "Street Works Register" and "Local Street Gazetteer", whilst both record data relating to streets they are subtly different.

The Street Works Register is defined in Section 4(5) of The Street Works (Registers, Notices, Directions and Designations) (England) Regulations 2007 (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2007/1951/regulation/4/made>)

Under the Regulations, Local Highway Authorities are to maintain Street Works Registers, comprising a single digital Highway Record of all highways under the 1991 New Roads and Street Works Act, section 53 to include;-

1. Every street for which the local highway authority are the street authority.
2. Every street which is a prospectively maintainable highway.
3. Every street, of which the local highway authority are aware, which is a highway but for which they are not the street authority.

In order for a street to be added under category 3 above, Herefordshire Council would require an application to be submitted under the Amendments to the Highway records Protocol as outlined on its website at the following link.

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/roads-1/amendments-highway-records>

The Local Street Gazetteer (LSG) also records street data, and in this instance is maintained in accordance with BS7666. As the LSG is used to assist with the maintenance of the Local Address Gazetteer it must include for all private roads and streets (whether there are public highway rights or not) hence the difference on our mapping.

The Council is aware of the sorts of anomalies highlighted within your question, and will, as time and resource permits be adding these links as a part of the amendment process highlighted above.