

Copy of email sent to Primrose Trail Group on 19th March 2021

To: info@primrosetrail.org Cc: Cllr Richard Hosking, Cllr Guy Pannell, Cllr Peter Smerdon, Anthony Mangnall MP, South Brent Parish Council, North Huish Parish Clerk, Woodleigh Parish Council, Loddiswell Parish Clerk, Churchstow Parish Clerk, Kingsbridge Town Clerk

Fri, 19 Mar at 15:12

To The Primrose Trail Group

I am writing to inform you that The Primrose Trail Feasibility Study/ Proposal Outline was discussed at the Diptford Parish Council Meeting on 9th March 2021. The council has significant concerns about the environmental impact of creating a trail along the River Avon. Whilst an in-principle agreement was given in 2018, there was no mention then of the anticipated usage numbers or of green travel routes and, in the light of the Feasibility Study, the Parish Council now withdraws its previously indicated support.

The disturbance caused by building the trail and the subsequent increase in cyclists, dog walkers and groups of ramblers, together with the necessary infrastructure to support the trail, will inevitably be a detriment to the delicate riverside ecology. Its natural beauty and low level of human interference serve to attract and protect its special wildlife, which will be lost if the trail is developed.

Other local cycle trails, such as the River Exe, Camel and Tarka trails are essentially located within large flat river estuaries whereas the River Avon sits in a narrow, deep-sided valley. The Avon valley, however, has narrow lanes and bridges that simply cannot accommodate more traffic and the proposal to encourage walking groups, cyclists, and runners to use stretches of busy country lanes is potentially hazardous.

There is a fragmented network of public footpaths, unsurfaced County Roads and a very small section of Bridleway in the Parish of Diptford and, whilst some of our parishioners would welcome some extension of this network, the Parish Council feels that there is no need to develop a trail of this magnitude in the sensitive Avon Valley, with the anticipated usage numbers quoted in the Feasibility Study. Furthermore, any diversions on to local roads where the proposed trail cannot be agreed with landowners would result in an unacceptable increase in risk to all users of the narrow and steep lanes in the area.

For these reasons, the Diptford Parish Council asks the Group to note that we no longer support this proposal. DPC has also, to date, received 10 objections to this proposal which I will forward on to you for reference.

Copy to:

South Brent, North Huish, Woodleigh, Loddiswell and Churchstow Parish Councils

Kingsbridge Town Council Anthony Mangnall MP DCC fao Cllr Richard Hoskings

SHDC fao Cllrs Peter Smeardon and Guy Pannell

Sally Smale

Diptford Parish Clerk