

MOTION SUBMITTED BY CLLR NICK CLARKE

Bolsover District Council notes that fox hunting, deer hunting and hare hunting with dogs has been illegal under the terms of the Hunting Act 2004, except where an exemption applies.

Most registered hunts claim to now be trail hunting, an activity 'invented' after the ban which allows hunts to claim that any chase of a wild mammal is purely accidental rather than intentional.

This has been shown to be nothing more than a smokescreen in an attempt to deflect from the real truth which is that that trail hunting is in reality illegal fox hunting. If trail hunts were genuine there would be no need for the presence of terrier men who shore up Fox Earths and Badger Setts to prevent foxes going to ground. Last summer there were a series of training webinars where senior members of the hunting fraternity openly admitted how they flout the 2004 Hunting Act. This has been suspected for many years but has now been confirmed. It has been admitted by the Hunting fraternity themselves, that trail hunting where the chase of a wild mammal occurs is deliberate, pre-planned and intentional rather than accidental as they falsely claim.

In order to prevent any "illegal" hunting on Council owned land, Bolsover District Council will ban all trail hunting, hound exercise and hunt meets in the district of Bolsover with immediate effect.

This motion calls on the leader to write to hunt masters in and around the district, neighbouring districts and Derbyshire Constabulary making clear that while investigations into trail hunting are ongoing hunts will not be permitted to cross public or council controlled land or cause a nuisance on public highways within the district of Bolsover and that we will expect any such encroachments to be investigated expeditiously and prosecuted to the fullest extent.