

RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 10

COUNCIL – 14 JUNE 2023

QUESTION C

Councillor Sandison to ask the Leader of the Council in his capacity as Regulation and Safety Portfolio Holder, Councillor Poole:

“Members have frequently asked over recent years for enhancements to pedestrian safety in the pedestrian area in High Street, Sheep Street and Market Place. Rugby First is no longer responsible for the on-street market and the opening and closing of the two safety gates is purely voluntary. Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) are the responsibility of the Warwickshire County Council (WCC) enforcement team.

Family footfall on Sundays has significantly increased but Rugby First Rangers do not work on a Sunday. Community safety is a key issue at this location.

Can the Portfolio Holder investigate and report back if the “duty” to open and close the gates can be switched to WCC enforcement officers to regularise who is responsible to ensure both gates are closed and opened in line with the TROs for the locality and enforcement action taken where appropriate?”

Councillor Poole, Leader of the Council and Regulation and Safety Portfolio Holder, to reply as follows:

“Thank you to Cllr Sandison for raising this issue. As you are aware the improvement of the town centre is a council priority and safety of visitors is a key part of that.

Our officers are already working with Warwickshire County Council on improving safety in the pedestrianised area, therefore, I will direct officers to contact Warwickshire County Council to ask them about opening and closing of the gates and will report back in writing to Members.

The Council’s Town Centre Regeneration Strategy seeks to improve the public realm across the town centre and to create pleasant and safe environments which visitors can enjoy. Work on a public realm masterplan is currently being undertaken which will identify and design individual schemes which will be considered by the Town Centre Regeneration Working Group. An option which is in the early stages of discussion is the potential use of UKSPF or other funding for rising bollards that can be remotely controlled, and which can also be used for additional safety and protection.”