

**RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**QUESTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 10**

**COUNCIL – 23 NOVEMBER 2022**

**QUESTION C**

**Councillor Ellis to ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lowe and the Regulation and Safety Portfolio Holder, Councillor Poole:**

“The Rugby Suez site has a protracted history; originally envisaged to sit 200 feet below the ground in a quarry in Southam. Rejected by Councils in the south - it was located to Rugby, and it sits proud on the A4071 to the rear of two residential communities of Newbold and New Bliton along a major route for school children, walking to Avon valley school. For those unaware: The Suez plant manufactures and transports shredded plastic particles into 'Climafuel' for burning at Cemex.

Can I ask both the Environment Portfolio Holder and also the Leader of this Council if they are aware of the issue of microplastics on the A4071, if they have plans to deal with microplastics on the A4071 and if they have had any communications with the Environment agency as to their source?”

**Councillors Lowe and Poole, to reply as follows:**

“We are aware of the environmental impact this site is having on the local area. General plastic and paper litter is a problem and attempts to keep it clean by regularly litter picking is positive, but not completely effective. Micro plastics are now known to be a major health issue and so it makes safe and improved operation of the site even more important.

While we are not main regulators for the site, our officers in Environmental Health and Community Safety are local pollution experts and regulators for other sites, and have been working with the Environment Agency to try to deal with the general issues of waste being deposited on route or escaping from the site. The Environment Agency have expressed a wish to meet councillors to discuss.

In addition, the Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive are engaging with CEMEX on a number of issues including pollution.

I have asked officers to arrange meetings of interested parties including Warwickshire County Council who approved the planning permission, the Environment Agency as the regulator of the site, Suez, CEMEX, and local councillors to discuss the options for controlling these dangerous pollutants, and determine the right way forward, which I am advised may be to raise this as an issue for improved legislation with the Secretary of State.”