

RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 10

COUNCIL – 26 APRIL 2022

QUESTION A

**Councillor Mrs Allanach to ask the Growth and Investment Portfolio Holder,
Councillor Mrs Simpson-Vince:**

“At the September and December meetings of the Council I asked about public access to advice from planning officers. In your absence both of these questions were answered by the Leader of the Council. In England the UK government has abandoned all specific Covid regulations. On 14th April we were again informed that members of the public could not consult with Rugby planning officers in person because of Covid restrictions. In England the UK government has abandoned all specific Covid regulations. What specific risks are associated with giving planning advice in person which are not present with other council services?”

Councillor Mrs Simpson-Vince, Growth and Investment Portfolio Holder, to reply as follows:

“There are no restrictions in place to prevent planning officers meeting with the public. Planning officers and technical support officers are in the office every day during office opening hours to answer simple general planning questions. However, if a member of the public wishes to speak to the case officer in person about a specific planning application then they can do so on an appointment basis and are advised to contact the case officer directly to arrange an appointment. The contact centre has been advised of this and neighbour consultation letters on applications have recently been changed to reflect this.

If the query relates to pre-application advice, the Council now has a chargeable pre-application advice service. The website provides details of how advice can be obtained, the information required and the cost of requesting advice which varies depending on the size of the development.”