

RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 10

COUNCIL – 12 JULY 2023

QUESTION E

Councillor Slinger to ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor Poole:

“Will the Leader of the Council write to his colleagues at Warwickshire County Council for an update on its £23m plan for significant road improvement works at Avon Mill/Hunter's Lane, given media reports that its March 2025 start date and associated funding may be at risk after Warwickshire County Council's community scrutiny committee flagged the project as "red" with "high" risks relating to delays in the Department for Transport responding to prerequisite work?”

Councillor Poole, Leader of the Council, to reply as follows:

“The Council recognises the importance of the road improvement works at Avon Mill/Hunter’s Lane and how this upgrade will improve the Borough’s transport infrastructure and importantly have a positive impact on the residents of the Borough.

I asked officers to informally contact Warwickshire County Council.

Further to a WCC Cabinet resolution on 27th January 2023, WCC are progressing work on the Outline Business Case for the scheme for submission to DfT later this year. The scheme is very much still within the County’s capital programme.

Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee did query the Major Road Network (MRN) prioritisation process in June 2019 (but did not challenge Avon Mill as their initial MRN priority scheme). These concerns were addressed in February 2021 via a report and presentation to O&S followed by a Q&A. They were not aware of any further concerns being raised by O&S since then.

I would be pleased to write to the County Council for an official update on this project and, as key stakeholder, engage positively to ensure its successful delivery.”