

**RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**QUESTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 10**

**COUNCIL – 15 DECEMBER 2021**

**QUESTION C**

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

“At the September meeting of the Council I asked you about Council staff being able to explain complex diagrams and plans. In your absence I received a reply from the Leader of the Council. Recently one of my constituents living in Hillside had difficulty understanding the plans submitted in support of planning application R21/0904 but was denied a face to face meeting with a member of the planning team. The Leader of the council has approved safe means for the customer services team to meet with members of the public. Why cannot similar arrangements be put in place to ensure planning applications are determined fairly when residents may not be able to comment on them most effectively as a result of difficult to interpret maps and diagrams?”

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

“Following discussions with the case officer, no members of the public have asked for and subsequently been denied a face to face meeting in connection with planning application R21/0904 to help understand the submitted plans. During the application process a couple of neighbours asked for help in either opening the plans online or for points of clarification in relation to the submitted plans. On both occasions responses were given and no further requests were made. However, although the Planning Service has gone fully digital, Cllr Lewis requested a paper copy of a particular plan from the case officer in relation to this application which was duly provided for him of which Cllr Allanach is aware.

Any resident or interested party can contact the relevant planning officer about a specific planning application on either a direct email address or direct telephone number to assist them in the interpretation of maps and diagrams pertinent to the submitted planning application. We will continue to review how the planning team responds to requests from the public in line with the Council’s most up to date Health and Safety Assessments and current Government guidance.”