

Please ask for: Cllr Alison Spicer
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Cllr Mark Winnington
Cabinet Member for Economy & Infrastructure
Staffordshire County Council
Cabinet Office
Wedgewood Building
Tipping Street
Stafford
ST16 2DH

29 May 2014

Dear Cllr Winnington

TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
RUGELEY PUBLIC REALM

I am writing to you at the request of the above Committee in response to concerns raised by Members regarding the ongoing works centred on Horse Fair in Rugeley.

The Committee have previously been advised of the proposals and the potential benefits that will be achieved in this part of Rugeley by your officers, but at the Committee's most recent meeting some Members expressed concern that the implementation of the works appears to be having a detrimental effect upon the trading position of many businesses located in the Town Centre. Members have also been informed by Rugeley Traders Association that turnover in the majority of shops in the Town Centre is markedly lower than for the corresponding period in previous years, largely because the resultant congestion on the local road network is encouraging people to shop elsewhere.

I should also add that the Committee were concerned to hear that the works are unlikely to be completed until July at the earliest, which simply compounds the issues outlined above. You will be aware that the original programme indicated that the improvements should have been completed by now.

The Committee would be grateful if you could explain what the County Council are able to do in response to the problems associated with the ongoing works and its effect upon trade in the Town Centre, and why the programme for the completion of the works has slipped so significantly.

Finally, I understand that Rugeley Traders Association have previously invited you to attend one of their regular meetings to respond to their concerns. In view of the issues raised on their behalf by Members of this Committee, and the greatly extended timescale for the completion of the works, I would encourage you to respond positively to their invitation.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Alison Spicer
Chairman, Town Centre Regeneration Policy Development Committee

cc. Rugeley Traders Association