

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

1 JULY 2014

ITEM 6 – QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR J LEGRYS TO COUNCILLOR A V SMITH MBE

“Memorial Square Coalville

Most of the land surrounding the Clock Tower at Memorial Square Coalville is owned by the County Council as ‘Highway’.

Can the Lead Member please:

- Tell me what powers NWLDC has to close the square to enable events to take place on County Council land?
- The formal process of closing the square to traffic – including a list of Consultees?
- Are event organisers required to keep a vehicular corridor free to enable Emergency Service vehicles to be driven through the square in the event of an emergency elsewhere?”

RESPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR A V SMITH MBE

“The District Council does not own any land in Memorial Square, it is all owned by the County Council.

The District Council has powers under The Town Police Clauses Act 1847 (Section 21) (TPCA) to close roads i.e. highway land to enable certain events such as public processions, rejoicings and illuminations to take place. These powers have limited application for Memorial Square in that they can be used to close the square but they cannot be used to impose or suspend waiting restrictions or any other Traffic Regulation Order which is a function of the County Highway Authority. The District Council currently only uses the TPCA in Coalville for the annual Remembrance Day parade.

In the main, when the District Council receives any requests to temporarily close or restrict access to a highway (such as Memorial Square) or to amend an existing Traffic Regulation Order applicants are directed to the County Council (roadclosures@leics.gov.uk).

As part of the County Councils procedure the Emergency Services, Public Transport, District and Parish Councils and the respective County Council Member(s) are advised of the application on initial submission and again two weeks in advance of the event/restrictions taking place.

When the traffic movements around the clock tower were consolidated to one side of the Square, Leicestershire Fire & Rescue requested that provision be incorporated into the design allowing a fire engine to travel through the square in the event of the roads being congested. Therefore a route through the Square is required to be maintained when events are held and organisers are made aware of this requirement”.