

COUNCIL – 17 NOVEMBER 2020

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

QUESTION FROM COUNCILLORS J LEGRYS AND J GEARY TO COUNCILLOR R ASHMAN

Marlborough Square Coalville

“Council announced during summer 2018 that work would start on the reconstruction of Marlborough Square in October 2018. Following Tender returns Council found that costs exceeded allocated Budget and paused all works.

During 2019 Councillors were informed that negotiations with County Highways to agree legal and operational arrangements were “ongoing”.

Question:

“It is now November 2020 and there is no indication when the paused Marlborough Square reconstruction works will be completed. What are the reasons for this extended delay and what are the current projected start and completion dates for these works.”

RESPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR R ASHMAN TO COUNCILLORS J LEGRYS AND J GEARY

“Discussions with LCC Highways at the end of 2019 / beginning of 2020 identified that the proposed redevelopment of Marlborough Square would require A Section 278 Agreement and a Change Of Use planning consent secured sequentially in that order. No works can commence legally until these two consents are in place.

A S278 Application was submitted to Leicestershire County Highways in April 2020. Substantial comments / queries and requests for further information started to be returned to us from the end of May with the final replies received in August.

In total there are almost 100 queries that require us to either: refine our proposals, amend our drawings, provide more supporting evidence or engage in further discussion with the Highways Authority or other statutory bodies.

The comments received have been collated onto a “Tracker Document” and officers and consultants are now working to resolve and close out each issue.

The ability to close out some issues, particularly those requiring further traffic survey have been hampered by Covid restrictions (LCC Highways are not prepared to validate any traffic figures gained during lockdown as they argue that traffic levels are below the norm) and therefore progress has not been as swift as desired.

At present we are targeting making a resubmission of the S278 by the end of the year however this may be delayed if vehicle swept path analysis requires any significant redesign.

Until all the details submitted as part of the S278 have been agreed by LCC Highways we are unable to provide a clear date upon which construction works will commence.

Councillors will have the opportunity to review in detail the progress being made on this project at the Coalville Members Meeting scheduled for 30th November.”