

Oral Questions from Councillors

1) Question from Cllr Sam Webber:

Residents have raised questions of public safety using the Love Lane walkway between Kentish Way and Rafford Way and the underpass adjacent to it linking Palace View & Rafford Way with Elmfield Road.

Could the Portfolio Holder advise on how the Council can work with the Police to reduce the safety risks here for residents and other users of our town centre and commuters.

Could lighting and CCTV be improved for this site and would the Portfolio Holder consider temporarily blocking off the Love Lane walkway to see if this reduced crime and antisocial behaviour?

Response to Question 1:

This location receives intermittent reports for alleged anti-social behaviour, however it is not at levels showing a need for urgent attention. Love Lane has been updated to LED lights which is the current standard for locations such as this. This does not dissipate that, as an underpass, it may not feel safe. It is considered that there would be significant pushback from the community if these pedestrian access routes were blocked resulting in much longer pedestrian journeys. When such reports are received there is a multi-agency assessment of the matter so enable effective action. Unfortunately, based on data, this location does not meet the criteria for any closures or CCTV interventions.

2) Question from Cllr Sam Webber:

Residents similarly have concerns about the area of grassland off Palace View by the Kentish Way underpass, which is affected by crime and antisocial behaviour. A low level fence has been suggested here but ruled out by our Parks Team as "costly in terms of installation and maintenance".

How best would the Portfolio Holder advise we can protect this green space and work with Police to reduce antisocial behaviour and drug related crime in this area?

Response to Question 2:

This public open space has been reported for alleged ASB and is a location recently identified for inclusion on regular Police patrols and micro-beats to identify the scale

of the reported issue. This is part of a multi-agency approach that focuses on areas, where data shows, ongoing or severe ASB.