

**Member Questions**

Question from Cllr Beryl Ezzard to the Cabinet Member for Natural and Built Environment regarding Wareham Railway Station

1. In the interest of the public, would the Dorset County Council/Dorset Council consider penalising the STM Contractors who supply gatekeepers at Wareham Station Pedestrian Crossing for the appalling lack of opening times during the past 3 months?
2. Also how would the Council would avoid this unacceptable situation occurring again?
3. This has caused much inconvenience and stress for local folk and particularly those less able people, cyclists, and mum's with buggies, living north of the town, unable to access the main town facilities; ie Drs. surgery and schools.

Answer:

1. Cllr Ezzard has been fully briefed on the matter regarding Wareham Pedestrian Level Crossing since the near miss incident of 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

STM who are the contractor have operated the gated crossing for over 8 years. We are aware of the incident of the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019 and we have been making sure that the contractor is compliant in its operations with track side trained personnel.

Officers have thoroughly investigated alternative provision with Network Rail.

The emergency time table was well publicised from late January to cover the crossing given the constraints in resources.

2. We continue to liaise with the contractor and Network Rail. Unfortunately this was not a foreseen issue as this is a specialist service. The current provision is continuously monitored.
3. We are obviously sorry for the inconvenience caused, but my Officers have been working tirelessly to try and resolve this matter, but it has not been easy task, with very limited choices