

Barnstaple Town Centre Pedestrianisation of Cross Street, High Street and Butchers Row

Report of the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste

Please note that the following recommendation is subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.

Recommendation: Subject to confirmed continued support by North Devon Council, a consultation is undertaken to gauge support for the principle of introducing pedestrianisation of the Cross Street/High Street/Butchers Row route 10am – 4pm daily.

1. Introduction

A walking tour of Barnstaple with a representative from the Royal National Institute for the Blind took place on 2 November 2017. As reported to this committee on 17 June 2018 this raised concerns regarding conflict within the High Street, as vehicles could still be present on a section of the carriageway between Cross Street and Butchers Row. The remainder of High Street is pedestrianised 10am – 4pm daily.

2. Background

There is traffic order in place at Cross Street that prohibits all vehicles Monday – Friday at any time, with exemptions for blue badge holders, taxis and for loading. Observations have identified that authorised vehicles enter Cross Street daily however, an equal number of vehicles are illegally using this route. Cross Street is pedestrianised on a Saturday in line with the High Street with no apparent adverse effects on business.

A fatal incident occurred on 15 September 2016 between a pedestrian and vehicle on the corner of High Street and Butchers Row with the driver being found guilty of death by careless driving, there are two further recorded incidents along this route. The incidents occurred May 2013 in Cross Street and January 2013 in Butchers Row, both recorded as slight.

There has been previous consultation regarding pedestrianisation of the Cross Street/Butchers Row route, between 10am – 4pm in line with the current High Street traffic order, which have received objections from North Devon Council regarding access/deliveries to the Panier Market and Butchers Row.

3. Actions

Contravention of the prohibition of vehicles traffic order is enforced by Devon and Cornwall Police. Concerns have been raised with the Police.

No further incidents have been recorded since 2016.

North Devon Council has been contacted regarding the proposal, as previous objectors, to establish any change in view as the dynamics of the Pannier Market and Butchers Row have changed in recent years.

4. Summary

The (then) Leader of the North Devon Council responded with support for the proposal, confirming that support includes the Pannier Market Committee. However, the recent local elections have resulted in a change of political leadership, therefore, it is considered prudent to seek views of new multi-party leadership, and if appropriate ask them to seek the views of their Committees with responsibility for Taxi Licensing and Car Parking.

Barnstaple Town Centre Management have been contacted and are in full support of proposal and have offered assistance as part of any consultation.

Businesses in Cross Street do not have any other facility for deliveries and may be apprehensive to the proposal, however there are businesses in the High Street that have successfully adapted their trading pattern to accommodate loading/unloading outside of the 10am – 4pm pedestrianisation.

The Parish Church occasionally has the need for access for weddings and funerals and consideration will have to be given on how to manage this, although very infrequently.

With the continued support of the North Devon Council it is considered that it would be beneficial to carry out consultation on the principle of extending the pedestrianisation.

5. Financial Considerations

No Local Transport Plan budget is identified in the 2019/20 transport capital programme. If it is decided to progress a scheme following the consultation exercise, funding from the capital programme in future years will need to be identified.

6. Sustainability Considerations

To be assessed as part of the proposed consultation process.

7. Carbon Impact Considerations

To be assessed as part of the proposed consultation process.

8. Equality Considerations

The concerns regarding conflict between pedestrians and vehicles were raised through the Royal National Institute for the Blind.

If pedestrianisation is progressed properties and businesses in Cross Street and Butchers Row will lose existing loading, taxi and disabled parking facilities between the hours of 10am and 4pm. The County and North Devon Councils would need to work together to review management of parking in the surrounding area to make alternative provision, and an Impact Assessment will be necessary.

9. Legal Considerations

Any proposal if taken forward following consultation would be statutorily advertised in accordance with traffic regulation procedures.

10. Reasons for Recommendation

A consultation is recommended to gauge support for the principle of introducing pedestrianisation of the Cross Street/High Street/Butchers Row route 10am – 4pm daily, to alleviate conflict between pedestrians and vehicles in the short section of High Street between Cross Street and Butchers Row,

Meg Booth
Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste

Electoral Division: Barnstaple North

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

Contact for enquiries: Steve Short

Room No: Pathfields Business Park, South Molton, EX36 3LH

Tel No: 0345 155 1004

Background Paper	Date	File Ref.
None		

ss230519ndh
sc/cr/ Barnstaple Town Centre Pedestrianisation of Cross Street, High Street and Butchers Row
05 190619