

Decision Record – Nuneaton and Bedworth Town Centres – Pedestrian Zones: Proposed New Access Arrangements

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| Cabinet Portfolio Holder taking the decision | Cllr Peter Butlin Transport and Planning |
| Date of Decision (not before: 26 th July 2013) Please note that the Portfolio Holder has decided to defer this decision while a Working Group is convened to review the situation. The final decision will be published in due course. | |

Decision Taken

That I, as Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning, approve that the advertised proposals for changes to the access arrangements in Nuneaton and Bedworth town centres be abandoned and that no further action be taken.

Reasons for Decisions

In Nuneaton Town Centre the advertised proposal was to amend the definition in the Traffic Regulation Order of "Prescribed hours" (i.e. the period in which the rising bollards remain up) to 10am to 6pm daily. This would mean that access for vehicles to load/unload, for Blue Badge Holders, and for taxis would only be possible between 6pm and 10am the next day.

In Bedworth Town Centre the advertised proposal was that the Traffic Regulation Order be varied such that:-

- (i) Disabled persons parking be allowed in the Blue Badge Holder only parking bay in King Street between 6pm and 10am and all day Sunday
- (ii) Loading or unloading in the King Street loading bay be permitted between 7.30am and 10.00am, Monday to Saturday only.
- (iii) Access for taxis be allowed between 6pm and 10am.

Since 2005 there have been no recorded injury accidents in the Bedworth pedestrian zone. In the Nuneaton pedestrian zone the only recorded injury accidents involving pedestrians were in Coventry Street in June 2007 when a mobility scooter collided with a man withdrawing money from a cash machine and in Newdegate Street in September 2011 when a car was reversing and collided with a taxi and three drunken pedestrians in the road. The only injury accident occurring between 4pm and 6pm was in Abbey Street in March 2006. This was a slight injury accident involving a car and a pedal cycle. It would therefore also appear that the concerns about road safety are more perceived than actual.

Many of the objections received (as outlined in the proposed decision report) are considered to be valid. It does appear that if implemented the proposals would have a serious adverse effect on many town centre businesses and on people with disabilities. In view of this and the relatively good safety record in the pedestrian zones it is recommended that the proposals be withdrawn and that no further action be taken.

Background Information



With some exceptions the current restrictions in Nuneaton Town Centre prohibit access by motor vehicles between 10am and 4pm (the “prescribed hours” and prohibit parking at all times. The exceptions include:-

- (i) Blue Badge holders can park between 4pm and 10am the next day.
- (ii) Loading/unloading can take place between 4pm and 10am the next day.
- (iii) Access by taxis is permitted between 4pm and 10am the next day.

With some exceptions the current restrictions in High Street and King Street, Bedworth prohibit access by motor vehicles and prohibit parking and loading at all times. The exceptions include:-

- (i) Blue Badge holders who can park in the disabled persons parking place on King Street between 4pm and 10am and on a Sunday.
- (ii) Loading/unloading which is permitted between 7.30am and 10.00am and between 4pm and 6pm, Monday to Saturday but only in the loading bay on King Street.
- (iii) Access is permitted for taxis between 4pm and 10am the next day.
- (iv) Access is allowed to proceed to or from All Saints Church, by doctors, nurses or midwives when visiting patients and for wedding or funeral purposes.

There is an automatic rising bollard system at the entry and exit points in both town centres which operate between the hours of 10am and 4pm (i.e. they rise at 10am and are lowered at 4pm) daily in Nuneaton and Monday to Saturday in Bedworth.

Concerns have been raised that very often, prior to the bollards being lowered, queues of vehicles form on the access roads to both town centres. As soon as the bollards are lowered these vehicles enter the town centres at a time when there are still significant numbers of pedestrians in the area. It has been suggested that this presents a hazardous situation and that changes to the access arrangements are needed to improve pedestrian safety. Following discussions with local County Councillors and Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council the following proposals have been advertised.

Financial Implications

None listed.

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| Report Author | Garry Palmer |
| Head of Service | Graeme Fitton |
| Strategic Director | Monica Fogarty |
| Portfolio Holder | Councillor Peter Butlin |

Checklist

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| Urgent matter? | No |
| Confidential or Exempt? (State the category of exempt information) | N/a |
| Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework? | No |

List of Reports considered - please include link to report

Link to published proposed decision report:

<https://democratic.warwickshire.gov.uk/cm5/CalendarofMeetings/tabid/128/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/645/Meeting/2844/Committee/548/Default.aspx>

List of Background Papers - please include a contact for access to background papers

Various letters and emails.

Members and officers consulted or informed – please include any comments

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Peter Butlin
 All Strategic Directors
 Legal – Ian Marriott, Serena Cammish, Peter Oliver, John Gregory, Peter Endall
 Finance – Liz Firmstone
 Equality – Minakshee Patel
 Democratic Services – Georgina Atkinson

Communities OSC – party spokes:

Councillors Richard Cahttaway, John Holland, Chris Williams and John Whitehouse