

Decision to be made by the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning on or after 19 October 2018

A425 Saltisford/Northgate/Northgate Street/Barrack Street, Warwick, Highways Act 1980, Section 90A and 90G Warwick Town Centre - Proposed Traffic Calming and the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (Saltisford/Northgate/Northgate Street, Warwick), Order 2018, Proposed Prohibition of Turning Movements.

Recommendations

That the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning approves:

- 1) The Warwickshire County Council (A425 Saltisford/Northgate/Northgate Street/Barrack Street, Warwick) (Traffic Regulation) Order 2018, Proposed Prohibition of Turning Movements.
- 2) The Warwickshire County Council Highways Act 1980, Section 90A and 90G Saltisford/Northgate/Northgate Street/Barrack Street, Warwick Town Centre – Proposed Traffic Calming.

In accordance with the Highways Act 1980, Section 90A and 90 G, and the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Further to the public consultation on Warwick Town Centre in the summer of 2016, Warwickshire County Council is proposing to make improvements to the A425 Saltisford/Northgate/Northgate Street/Barrack Street, Northgate Square.
- 1.2 These improvements are part of the overall project for the town centre to provide good connectivity into and across the town, reduce street clutter and improve the appearance of streets.
- 1.3 A report was presented to Cabinet on 8th December 2016, seeking approval to move forward with elements of the Warwick Town Centre scheme, including the 20mph speed limit for the town centre, improvements on Priors Road and A425 Saltisford/Northgate/Northgate Street/Barrack Street junction.
- 1.4 As part of the overarching rationale for Warwick Town Centre, key themes have been to increase use by cyclists and improve facilities and connectivity for cycle and pedestrian use, and reduce traffic speed throughout the key core area of the town.

2.0 Proposed Scheme

- 2.1 Northgate Square will be the first scheme that is delivered to improve a key gateway into the town centre. The design broadly reduces the junction

footprint to vehicles which allows more space to be given to pedestrians and cyclists and improve the setting for Historic Buildings.

- 2.2 The improvements include proposals to prohibit the right turning manoeuvre for eastbound vehicles on the A425 Saltisford/Northgate at its junction with Northgate Street and to introduce a right turn only for all vehicles travelling in a north- easterly direction on Barrack Street into Northgate Street.
- 2.3 The proposed prohibition of turning movements is required to provide a central Public Realm area to be known as Northgate Square, at the junction of the A425 Saltisford/Northgate/Northgate Street/Barrack Street, with an associated 75 mm raised table (Road Hump), and formalised pedestrian refuge crossing points.
- 2.4 A detailed plan is shown in **Appendix A**

3.0 Consultation on the Proposal

- 3.1 Formal, statutory consultation for the raised table, associated pedestrian refuges and prohibition of driving manoeuvres was carried out between 26th July 2018 and 23rd August 2018. Notices were placed on Street, in the local Leamington Courier Series on the 26th July 2018. Letters were also delivered to Northgate Methodist Church, Northgate House, and those properties directly affected by the proposals in Northgate Street, Northgate, Barrack Street, and Saltisford. All residents who had signed up on the Warwickshire Town Centre Web site were also included in the consultation.

During this period one formal objection has been received from a resident of Northgate Street, Warwick.

Objection received from Resident of Northgate Street

I refer to notification of the above proposed Road Traffic Orders. These Orders are welcome and supported.

I do however wish to raise one comment /objection in respect of Schedule 2 item 2.2 Right turn only from Barrack street into Northgate Street.

I believe this manoeuvre is currently prohibited although flouted numerous times with people using it as a rat run, particularly in the morning, along Northgate Street, into Church Street and back onto the Jury Street, circumventing The Butts.

Given the future proposals for The Butts I believe the danger in allowing this manoeuvre is that this will create a flow of southbound traffic through the town seeking to avoid Priory Road and/or the Bowling Green Street/High Street Junction. Hence defeating the intention to reduce through traffic in the Town Centre and improve air quality.

I have studied the proposed traffic flows with the scheme and make the

following observations;

- 1) There is significant heavy traffic flow along Theatre Street which turns right into the High Street and through to Jury Street. One only has to study the map to realise this could be circumvented by the Barrack Street/Northgate Street/Church Street manoeuvre above.
- 2) A number of cars are shown cutting along Barrack Street, into Joyce Pool and right turning onto Saltisford. I thought this was a prohibited manoeuvre and therefore produces false results?

I appreciate that every action to improve will have consequences. The above could be easily solved by making the exit from Barrack Street a left turn only back onto Northbound Saltisford and shifting the public realm space to close the right turn manoeuvre off.

Alternatively, close Barrack Street at the Northgate end and turn any traffic left into Joyce Pool.

Response

The objection is based on the grounds that the implementation of the right turn only, in conjunction with future proposals to introduce one-way traffic flows on The Butts (northbound), will result in the increased use of Northgate Street as a rat run.

The objection includes two alternative proposals for the Northgate junction area:

- (i) Conversion of the exit of Barrack Street to a left turn only back onto Northgate/Saltisford junction, shifting the public realm space across to close off the right turn manoeuvre;
- (ii) Closure of Barrack Street at the Northgate end and turn any traffic left into Joyce Pool.

In terms of the issue raised regarding the use of Northgate Street / Church Street as a rat run to avoid having to route via Priory Road / St Nicholas Church Street when the one-way proposal is introduced along The Butts (northbound), the extent of use of this rat run will be limited by the fact that motorists using this route will have to give way at the junction where Church Street meets High Street / Jury Street, thereby adding a delay to their journey and minimising the perceived benefits to motorists.

In the eventuality that the level of traffic using this route as a rat run is higher than anticipated, there is the possibility of changing some of the internal flows within the town centre network to prevent the through movement of southbound traffic. However any changes would need to be subject to a statutory consultation exercise.

With regards to the suggested alternative proposals, these are not deemed to be acceptable due to the restriction this would impose on motorists who require access to Northgate Street. The proposals would mean that access to Northgate Street could only be gained either by travelling via The Butts or Cape Road. This would mean that motorists travelling into the town from the south or west would have to make a significant detour to access Northgate Street. This is not deemed acceptable given the range of users requiring access to Northgate Street, along with the general access it provides for visitors to the town centre.

Support

- 3.2 Local County Councillors have been engaged with these proposals for some time. Meetings have been held with previous County Councillors Warner and St John and the current County Councillor Holland. Liaison meetings with Cllr Holland and new Councillors Singh Birdi and Mrs P Williams are proposed. These meetings will be held on a regular basis to keep local Members informed of the progress of the plans. The proposals have been well received by Councillors who are keen for these proposals to be taken forward to implementation stage.
- 3.3 Warwickshire Police have no objections to the proposed orders.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 At the Cabinet meeting of 8th December 2016, approval was granted for funding received from s106 contributions from South West Warwick developments to be used to facilitate the Warwick town centre 'early deliverable' schemes. The proposals for Northgate are included within this package of works.

A detailed cost estimate for the Northgate scheme is currently being worked up. If the cost of this exceeds the approved budget, further approval will need to be sought from Cabinet before progressing the scheme.

5.0 Conclusion

- 5.1 Consultation on the Traffic Regulation Orders has taken place with only one objection being received. A detailed design including landscaping and a materials palette is being drawn up by the landscape team at WCC. This will form part of a further engagement event in the Autumn 2018. Therefore, it is recommended that these proposals are approved as advertised.

Background papers

None

Appendices

Appendix A – A425 – Northgate Junction Public Realm Improvements Plan.
(Northgate Square)

Letter of Objection from a local resident of Northgate Street, Warwick.

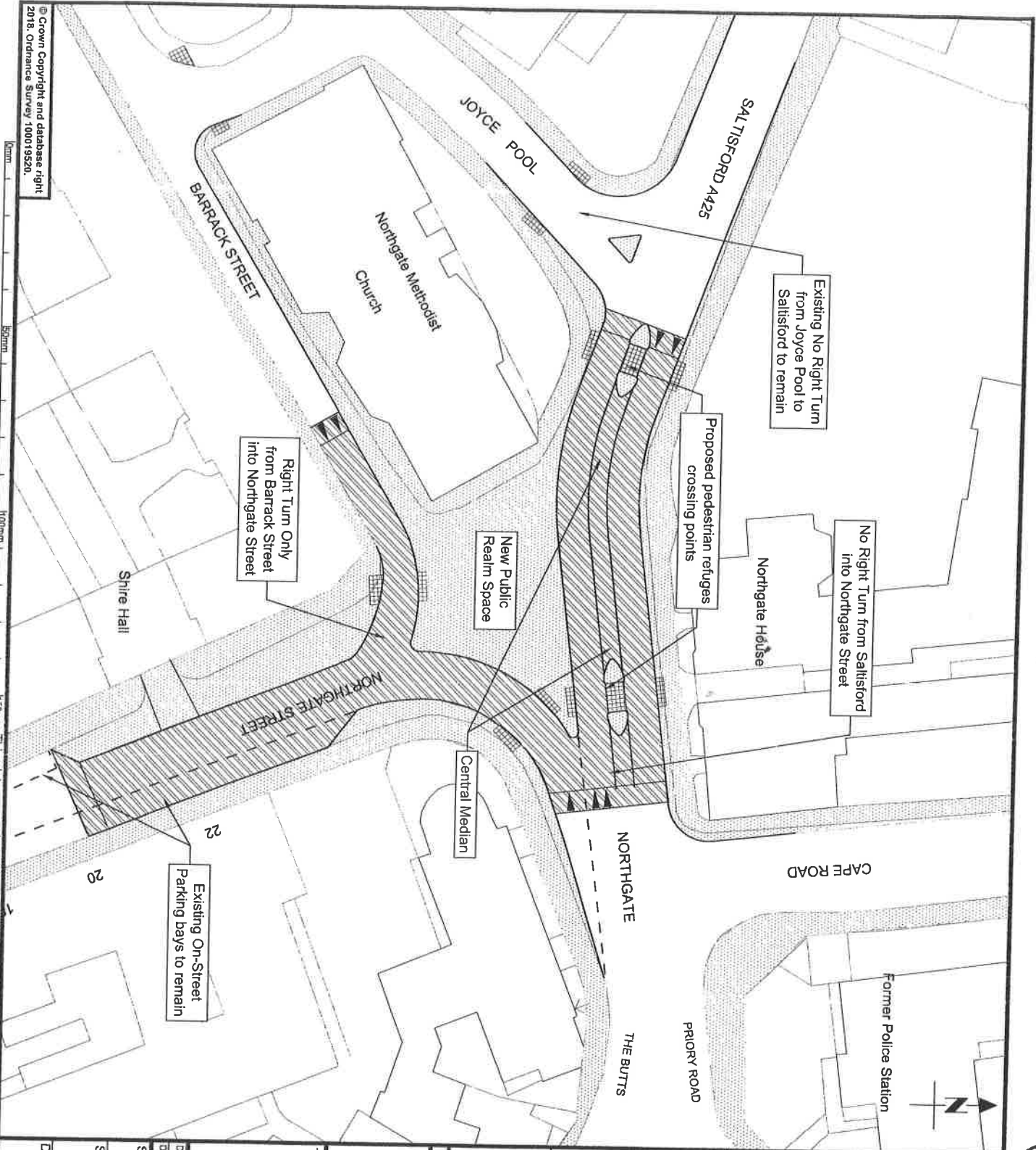
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Portfolio Holder	Cllr Jeff Clarke	cllrclarke@warwickshire.gov.uk

This report was circulated to the following elected members prior to publication.

Local Members: Councillors Holland, Singh Birdi and Mrs P Williams

Other Members: Councillors Clarke, Cockburn, Shilton, Phillips, Fradgley

APPENDIX A



- NOTES**
KEY:
- Proposed Raised Table
 - Proposed Loading Bay
 - Footway
 - Proposed Kerbline
 - Tactile Paving

REV/DRN	AMENDMENT	DATE



Design Services
 Communities
 Shire Hall Post Room
 Warwick
 CV34 4SP
 Tel: 01826 410410
 Web: www.warwickshire.gov.uk

PROJECT
 A425 - Northgate Junction
 Public Realm Improvements

TITLE
 Proposed Traffic Regulation Order

Drawn	Checked	Created	Approved
EA	CM	CM	CM
Date: 13-06-18	Date: 09-07-18	Date: 09-07-18	Date: 09-07-18

Status
 Approved (Level 3)

Scale
 Not To Scale

Sheet size
 A3

DRG. NO.
 9.2-A425--067-010

Rev.
 A

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 This plot was produced from a digital source so may not be at true scale. It is the recipient's responsibility to confirm its accuracy.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

21st August 2018

Graham Stanley,
Communities Directorate,
PO Box 43,
Shire Hall,
Warwick, CV34 4SX.

Dear Sirs

Warwick Town Centre - A425 Saltisford/Northgate/Northgate Street/Barrack Street Junction

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I have studied the proposed traffic flows with the scheme and make the following observations;

- 1) There is a significant heavy traffic flow along Theatre Street which then turns right into the High Street and through to Jury Street. One only has to study the map to realise how easily this could be circumvented by the Barrack Street/Northgate Street/Church Street manoeuvre above.
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Alternatively, close Barrack Street at the Northgate end and turn any traffic left into Joyce Pool.

I trust you will give due consideration to the above objection/comments and the spirit in which it is made.

Yours faithfully

A large, solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.