

~~Warwick Council~~
~~Station Road~~
~~Kenilworth~~
~~Warwickshire~~
~~CV34 4SX~~
~~Phone 01926 411320~~
~~www.warwick.gov.uk~~

Dane Loxley
Communities Directorate
PO Box 43
Shire Hall
Warwick
CV34 4SX

12.5.22

Dear Sir

Re: Station Road, Kenilworth

I see from the sign on Station Road that I have until 29.5.22 to register my objection to the continued "temporary" closure to vehicles of the Warwick Road end of Station Road, as a Covid 19 precaution.

I was appalled to see this morning that two Council employees were installing several substantial (and expensive) wooden benches in the "closed" part, presumably on the assumption that the permanent closure will go through on the "nod"! Well, it shouldn't be a little park, as they told me – it should be a road!

Given that the Government is telling us that we have to learn to live with Covid I can see no reason why access to Warwick Road should remain blocked.

I have thought from the outset that the current diversion through the "live" car park at the rear of Abbey End is highly unsafe, particularly for larger vehicles delivering to Waitrose. There are too many conflicting movements to take into account, apart from pedestrians.

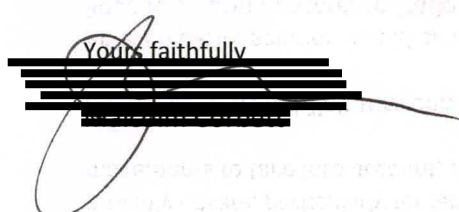
Reverting to the old "left turn only" from Station Road into Warwick Road will be beneficial to many.

An even better solution would be to move the existing pedestrian controlled crossing to the North of Station Road to a position nearer to Station Road – this would facilitate easy exit from Station Road and also achieve better "traffic calming" at this end of Warwick Road, rather than the current (also "temporary") 20 mph speed limit which is ignored and virtually unenforceable anyway!

In fact the 20 mph speed limit for the whole of Warwick Road is farcical anyway – not enforceable and universally ignored!

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully


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~~_____ (1111) _____~~

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~~_____ Kenilworth _____~~

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~~_____ CV34 4SX _____~~

Dana Loxley
Communities Directorate
PO Box 43
Shire Hall
Warwick
CV34 4SX
13th May 2022

Dear Ms Loxley

Re : Closure Proposal, Station Road Kenilworth

I would like to raise an objection to the permanent closure of Station Road. Whilst I support the development of parklets and seating areas in Kenilworth and would welcome benches in Talisman Square I think there are safety concerns about closing Station Road at the Warwick Road Junction.

Yesterday I was pushing my elderly Father, in a wheelchair, across the road at the crossing point towards Abbey End from the car park there as I regularly do. There is a lot of housing there for elderly people. A white van, driving at excessive speed struggled to stop coming round the corner at that point. It is not really a clear crossing point, and I couldn't push my dad out of the way quickly enough. This is meant to be a car park service road and with the closure of Station Road, has become a fast moving, through road, often for commercial vehicles. My father had a fright and it felt like a near miss.

Station road closure means a lot of vehicles are sent off into the car park and also commercial vehicles are regularly parked and then reverse out of what has become a cul-de-sac in Station Road when previously they could have driven on to Warwick Road. Again, this raises safety issues.



This was today (13th May 2022) and this vehicle did some significant manoeuvre to exit this road where simply driving forward would have been safer.

I fear if Station Road is permanently closed, it is only a matter of time before a serious accident occurs either at Station Road or in the Car Park Road at Abbey End.

I am also concerned a consultation period is taking place and does not finish until 29th May 2022 yet permanent seating has been installed in concrete in the road area and it feels like a decision has been made prior to the consultation ending.

I would ask the council to reconsider the permanent closure of Station Road and provide the seating and amenities at Talisman Square instead which is safer for the public and children and Talisman Square needs additional seating there, where it is much safer.

Yours Sincerely

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted contact information]
[Redacted contact information]
[Redacted contact information]

Dear Sirs

Closure of Station Road in Kenilworth

Firstly may I make my objection which I understand should be made in writing to Dana Loxley but there does not appear to be any facility to make this objection online . Why not ? I only discovered that there was an on going consultation by a posting on Kenilworth Vibes on Facebook . It seems that this consultation is being kept secret or certainly making it as difficult as possible to make a comment. I would suggest that this consultation is properly advertised so that a true indication of public feeling may be obtained. What is the WCC approved procedure for advertising a consultation?

I am sending this email and I would be grateful for confirmation that my objection which is in writing has been received and logged . I would also like to know where I may view other objections or comments of support .

I am ccing in my County Councillor Wallace Redford and the Chief Executive of WCC

I wish to object to the continued closure of Station Road in Kenilworth. This is causing traffic to use the carport as a main transit route and it was not designed to be this so is very dangerous for pedestrians and car park users. Why do we need a "pocket park " . Talisman square is round one corner and the area by the clock in front of the Almanack is also a huge public area . Vehicles are constantly trying to turn round when they discover the road is blocked . It also impedes access to the car park there. Now speed on the main road is restricted to 20 mph there is no reason to reduce access from this point.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] christian.loxley@wccouncil.gov.uk

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

14/05/2022

Dear Dana Loxley,

Station Road , Kenilworth

I am writing to object to the proposal to close the Station Road exit into Warwick Road.

The proposal is supported by two anticipated benefits

1. An economic benefit from on street hospitality
2. A safety benefit from road safety

I requested in earlier emails to you evidence or projections of these benefits and received a reply that only stated that there were a large number of illegal right turns from Station Road into Warwick Road, with no quantification of any of the proposed economic benefits or evidence of the number of illegal right turns or of traffic incidents

I have police records of accidents at the Warwick Road junction with Station Road that show that over the five years between 2013 to 2017 there were only three slight incidents caused by cars making an illegal right turn out of Station Road into Warwick Road

The proposal is not supported by any quantification of economic benefit

There is no evidence of the number of illegal right turns being made

The traffic incidents that have occurred historically are minor and small in number

The proposal to stop up the junction permanently is a complete overreaction to the fact there were three slight incidents over five years caused by illegal right turns

The incidence of illegal right turns is, in my opinion, caused by confused signage at this junction, there are no recorded incidents at the Waverley Road junction which is much busier, where the signage is simple and clear. At the Station Road junction there are two signs which unnecessarily indicate Warwick Road is a two way road, giving drivers the

impression they can turn right or left. There is a blue sign opposite which wrongly implies Warwick Road is a one way street. There is a high level no right turn sign on the right hand corner which is probably out of sight of drivers as the pull up at the junction.

A better experiment would be to simplify and only have no right turn signage at this junction and then monitor the results , before permanently stopping up an historic junction in the town.

Yours sincerely

A redacted signature consisting of several horizontal black bars. A handwritten signature in blue ink is visible behind the bars, and a red ink flourish extends from the right side.A redacted name consisting of several horizontal black bars.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
19 May 2022

Ms Dana Loxley
Communities Directorate PO Box 43
Warwickshire County Council
Shire Hall
Warwick CV34 4SX

Dear Ms Loxley,

Proposal for Permanent Closure of Station Road, Kenilworth at its junction with Warwick Road

I wish to record a formal objection to the proposal to make the experimental order regarding closure of the above road permanent.

Before going into my detailed objections, I would like to ask whether:

- a) Any assessment has been made of the increased risk to pedestrians due to the need for delivery lorries to the premises in that locality having to reverse either to access those premises or to leave them? At least one pedestrian has been knocked down since the closure.
- b) Any assessment has been made of the additional safety risk and pollution due to the increase in the volume of traffic through the Abbey End car park which adds 500m+ to vehicles wishing to head south from Kenilworth by this route?
- c) Any consideration has been made of improving crossing safety at the Station Road/Warwick Road junction by installing pedestrian lights coupled with traffic lights permitting a far safer environment?

I would ask that responses are provided to these questions before a decision is made on whether to continue with the order or not.

In terms of the detailed objections these are as follows:

Pollution

The closure of the road results in a diversion of the majority of traffic wishing to head southbound from Station Road through the Abbey End car park. This turns a journey length of 50 - 100m into one of 500m+ with the inherent greater use of fuel and consequent pollution increasing Nitrous Oxide (NOx) and Particulates (Pm) levels in the area which are already close to the upper limit of recommended guidelines.

Safety

The diversion of traffic through a car park increases the level of vehicle/pedestrian conflict and an increasing number of 'near misses' have been recorded. Furthermore, the junction with the roadway at Abbey End now sees a big increase in multiple movements resulting in increased difficulties for

pedestrians transiting between the popular leisure site of Abbey Fields and the town centre. This has now become a real obstacle for pedestrians and little thought seems to have been given to the impact of diverting more traffic into this junction,

Rationale

The rationale for the closure was allegedly to promote social distancing during the height of the pandemic and as an adjunct to the illogical and poorly thought out proposal to pedestrianise all of Warwick Road. A crazy scheme which, fortunately, was aborted due to a number of reasons: widespread criticism and the concerns of residents with no account taken of the impact on surrounding residential roads. One struggles to understand why this hangover from a scheme which had no logic is allowed to continue. One conclusion could be that Warwickshire County Council and some Councillors wish to hang on to this closure as a vain last-ditch attempt to justify a part of the earlier scheme. The government now also wishes us to 'return to normal' so why does the Council wish to retain a scheme which never really promoted social distancing and was, effectively, a failure?

Users

If the 'parklet' idea was retained has any thought been given to the health impact of those using it? It is adjacent to a busy road, already high in pollution and situated in a 'gully' which concentrates the pollution for those sitting on the benches. There is little of architectural merit to view and no greenery as it is situated in a narrow roadway.

Ancillary Matters

The banned right-hand turn at the junction when open was sometimes disobeyed. A fair degree of this was due to poor signage. However, another issue, which the temporary closure has not improved or prevented, is the safety risk to pedestrians crossing Warwick Road and heading to/from the shops in Station Road. Crossing here is very high risk and there is no controlled pedestrian crossing in the immediate vicinity. Despite this, a high volume of people are prepared to take the risk, a good number with mobility impairment, rather than heading to use the crossing nearer the Clock Tower. If the Council wish to spend some money and to improve safety the installation of a combined vehicular/pedestrian crossing, controlled by lights, over both Station Road and Warwick Road would address all the safety issues encountered when the road was open beforehand. An arrow-light filter for traffic indicating left turn only would address the earlier incidence of errors in turning right by explicit clarity regarding the permitted route.

In summary, the temporary road closure and subsequent installation of this parklet did nothing to improve social distancing and merely contributed to an increased safety risk to pedestrians across a wider area and made a net contribution to increased pollution in the locality. There is little logic behind the closure and the road should be reopened, preferably with a set of traffic lights as detailed above.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature block]

[Redacted name]

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Dear Dana Loxley,

I object to the partial closure of the station Road / Warwick Road Junction on the grounds that the car park traffic now has to travel through what was never meant to be a road.

It becomes very difficult, especially when huge lorries are delivering their loads, the car park is busy and there are many people, both young and old

are trying to navigate
the constant stream of
traffic that comes from
Waitrose during the day.

It literally makes the
car park busier than
Warwick Road. Which it
was never meant to be.

I dread to think what it
will be like in the six weeks
holiday and I feel it puts
people in unnecessary
danger. Please return the
road to its former use.

Yours sincerely

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SECRET

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Dear Dona Loxley,

I object to the closure of the
Station Rd / Warwick Rd Junction

Significant traffic use the
Waitrose car park the only way out
is via Abbey End car park or Station Rd
This is made worse by the large lorries
serving Waitrose

The closure of this junction seems to
serve no benefit to anyone.

Yours sincerely

~~_____~~
~~_____~~
~~_____~~

Dana Loxley

Communities Directorate

PO Box 43

Shire Hall

Warwick

CV34 4SX


21 May 2022

Dear Ms Loxley

Ref: Station Road Kenilworth

I object to the proposal to keep the Station Road junction closed off. This junction should be reopened immediately as it helps the flow of traffic in this area greatly. At present the only way to leave Waitrose or Bertie Road is limited to either the narrow one way system at the end of Station Road or having to cut through the Abby End East car park, both can be hazardous as there are many pedestrians in both areas. Reopening this junction increases drivers options thus reducing traffic tailbacks, potential accidents and the risk to human life.

Yours sincerely



~~Debra Thomas~~

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

15 February 2022

Dear Ms Loxley

I am writing to you to object to the road closure of Station Road in Kenilworth and turn it into a "Parklet".

As my mother lives in Tannery Court in Bertie Road I use this area every day and I would like to say how dangerous the roads have become since the closure. The part of Station Road joining Waverley Road is impossible with parked cars both sides and now has cars constantly turning right which causes congestion there. The Abbey End car park is now a road used by everyone wanting to leave the area and Waitrose, with cars parking, lorries delivering to the shops at the top of the town and cars and vans parked on double yellow lines it is a nightmare. Cars looking for parking spaces are going 5 miles an hour whilst other cars are overtaking them in frustration, this is a fatal accident waiting to happen.

There is no need for this "Parklet" we have Talisman Square and not a few metres away the beautiful Abbey Fields. Station Road now is used by lorries reversing to deliver goods to the businesses there and cars using the car park in Talisman Square, to put people using the area as recreation is an accident waiting to happen.

This road is essential for ambulances and residents, it not a park it is a road and should be reinstated as such before someone either gets run over or an ambulance cannot get through.

If this is going to be changed to a recreation area you must ensure that children cannot run out on the main road. You must also make the car park road into a proper road with double yellow lines less entrances and exits to carpark facilities, restrict deliveries to the shops at the top if the town and instal proper crossings for people to cross the road, particularly near the old folks home at the top.

If the council have money to waste on this ridiculous scheme perhaps they should look around and find what is underfunded in the county and spend it there instead. This area will end up a grubby area that no one uses other than the kids at night. It is a dark dirty area with bad drainage not an area of natural beauty.

This road needs to open NOW to relieve the road madness down there and before someone is killed

Yours sincerely
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]