

Divisions affected: *Grove & Wantage*

CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT – 23 MARCH 2023

WANTAGE: MARKET PLACE (WESTERN END) – PROPOSED PERMANENT PROHIBITION OF VEHICLES & REMOVAL OF PARKING PLACES

Report by Corporate Director, Environment and Place

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Cabinet Member for Highway Management is **RECOMMENDED** to approve the permanent prohibition of vehicles and removal of parking places from the western end of the Market Place, continuing to utilise temporary planters and barriers, pending technical approval by the County Council of Wantage Town Council's consultant's permanent scheme design and subsequent construction works.

Executive summary

2. This report presents responses received to a consultation on an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order which came into effect on 03 January 2022 that continued on an experimental basis the provisions of a Covid related Temporary Traffic Regulation Order which suspended waiting & parking places (disabled persons' parking places, general time limited parking places and motorcycle parking places) at the western end of Market Place, the southern end of Alfred Street, and the northern end of Church Street in Wantage. The Order also prohibited the use of these parts of the above roads by all vehicles.
3. The aim of the Wantage Town Council promoted scheme is to provide outdoor seating and an environmental improvement for the benefit of pedestrians, including customers of adjacent businesses. The temporary closure has been implemented with planters and barriers. A draft Plan of the permanent scheme has been included at **Annex 1** for context.

Financial Implications

4. Funding for the proposal, including consultation and permanent implementation if approved will be met by Wantage Town Council.

Equality and Inclusion Implications

5. Objections and concerns have been received that relate to the loss of parking and access to the western end of the Market Place for the elderly and infirm. Also, a concern has been received from an adjacent business who have elderly patients that need to be picked up and dropped off for their appointments.

Sustainability Implications

6. The proposal reallocates road space to provide outdoor seating and an environmental improvement for the benefits of pedestrians, including customers of the adjacent businesses. Prohibiting vehicles from the western end of the Market Place removes vehicle / pedestrian conflict, therefore improving road safety.

Formal consultation

7. Formal consultation was carried out between 03 January 2022 and 01 July 2022. A notice was published in the Oxford Times newspaper on the 23 December 2021, and an email sent to statutory consultees, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, Bus operators, countywide transport, access & disabled peoples user groups, Vale of White Horse District Council, and the local County Councillors representing the Grove & Wantage divisions. Street notices were also placed on site in the immediate vicinity of the proposals.
8. 193 responses were received during the statutory consultation, comprising of: 43 (22%) objections, 44 (23%) raising concerns, 102 (53%) in support, and four submitting a non-objection / no opinion.
9. The responses are shown at **Annex 2**, and copies of the original responses are available for inspection by County Councillors.

Officer response to objections / concerns

10. Thames Valley Police & Oxford Bus Company raised no objections to the proposals.
11. 43 objections and 44 concerns were received from members of the public, broadly relating to seven main issues. These are, loss of parking / access, loss of disabled persons' parking places (DPPP), loss of taxi rank spaces, detrimental effect on adjacent businesses including deliveries, lack of use of the pedestrian space, negative effect of traffic changes, and people shopping elsewhere. Responses to these issues are listed below.

12. Loss of parking / access – eight parking spaces have been removed by the experimental Order. Wantage Town Council have stated that there are adequate alternative parking options within a short walk from the closed area. These are the Town Council's own car parks by the statue in the Market Square which accommodate 34 vehicles, and the on / off street car parking around the town centre which provides a further 787 spaces. They do not consider the loss of spaces to be significant in the total number of spaces available.
13. The temporary and experimental Order has been in place for two years and eight months. Wantage Town Council state that no major issues have arisen regarding lack of access. There is a pull in area off Church Street that enables vehicles to get within a very short distance of the few premises requiring front access. Others have access to the rear. The Market Square car parking is in close proximity. It should be noted that after the consultation, the Barclays Bank was closed, and the cashpoint removed which was a significant attractor for vehicles visiting.
14. Loss of disabled persons' parking places (DPPP) – due to the large number of objections and concerns received on this issue Wantage Town Council have agreed to retain the two existing DPPP at the western end of the Market Place. Also, the Town Council has recently created two further DPPP within the Market Square car park.
15. Loss of taxi rank spaces - the changes do involve the reduction of the taxi rank from seven to four spaces. Wantage Town Council state that the use of the rank has diminished in recent years due to customers calling taxis by mobile telephones. There is the possibility of locating three taxi rank spaces to Newbury Street, if it is found necessary, but currently this would appear not to be required.
16. Detrimental effect on adjacent businesses including deliveries – the responses highlighted are mixed with some hospitality businesses elsewhere in the town complaining that they were disadvantaged because they were unable to place tables and seating on the highway. Wantage Town Council state that there is no evidence that businesses have been significantly adversely affected. The only business close to the area that has closed is Barclays Bank, which was not to do with the pedestrianisation. An empty shop within the closed area has recently been occupied.
17. Regarding deliveries, Wantage Town Council state that the licensed properties in the western end of the Market Place can be, and normally are, accessed from the rear in Church Street. They also point out that there is a pull in from Church Street by The Swan Public House that is also available for deliveries.
18. Lack of use of the pedestrian space – Wantage Town Council state that the pedestrian space has proved popular, which is why it has been supported by 102 respondents. The tables and chairs that are on the public highway are well used and create a pleasant environment away from the traffic.

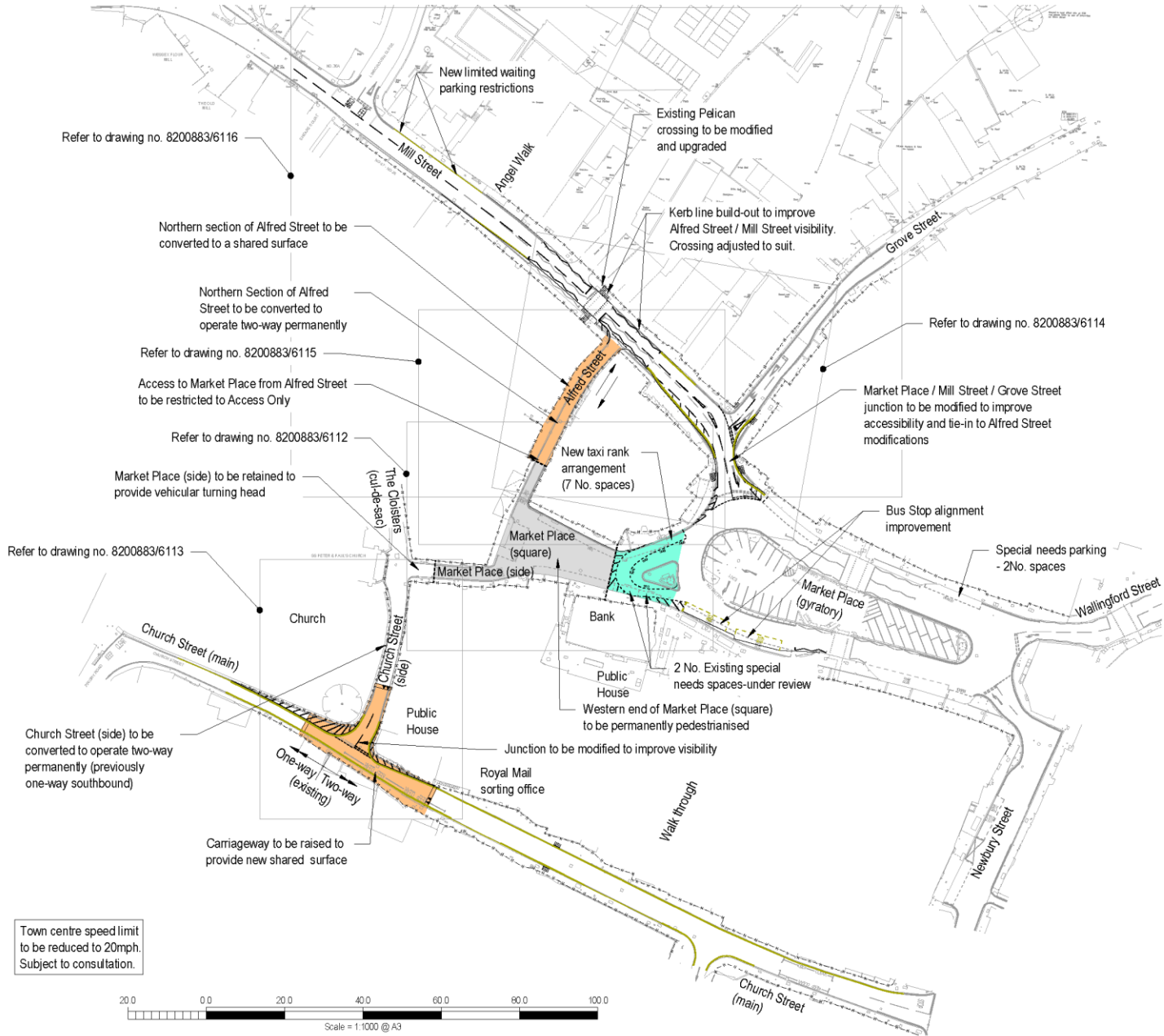
19. Negative effect of traffic changes – this issue relates to changing Alfred Street and Church Street (side) from one-way roads to two-way roads because of closing the western end of the Market Place. These roads are narrow, with reduced visibility at their respective junctions with Mill Street and Church Street (main). However, vehicle movements are minimal and in the two years and eight months that the closure has been in place, these roads appear to have been operating satisfactorily as two-way, with no complaints being received by the County Council's Traffic & Road Safety Team.
20. Notwithstanding the above, changing Alfred Street and Church Street (side) to two-way roads forms part of Wantage Town Council's consultant's permanent scheme design which is subject to road safety audit, and technical approval by the County Council.
21. People shopping elsewhere – Wantage Town Council state that Wantage cannot offer the variety of shopping opportunities offered elsewhere and therefore undoubtedly residents are attracted to shop elsewhere for certain items. The pedestrianisation of the western end of the Market Place is unlikely to dissuade visitors to the town and may in fact be an attractor. Our Town Centre Manager monitors the situation regarding empty shops in the town and currently none are empty due to local trading conditions. Some are under offer awaiting completion. Others are affected by specific issues relating to the premises. The car parks in the town get reasonably full and the weekly markets are thriving. The high cost of fuel is a disincentive to shopping elsewhere.

Bill Cotton
 Corporate Director, Environment and Place

Annexes Annex 1: Draft Plan of permanent scheme
 Annex 2: Consultation responses

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March 2023




NOTES
 This drawing is to be read in conjunction with all relevant documents and specifications.
 Based upon Glanville Consultants topographical survey drawing no. 8200883/4101-4104.

- KEY**
- - - - - Existing public highway extent
 - New Shared surface
 - Temporary pedestrianisation to be made permanent
 - New taxi rank arrangement



P3	Market Place / Mill Street jct amended in accordance with OCC comments: Parking restrictions updated in accordance with OCC proposals.	03/10/2022	MF
P2	Amended following preliminary OCC comments	17/06/2022	MF
P1	Preliminary issue.	27/04/2022	MF

Rev.	Description	Date	Chkd
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Client :
Wantage Town Council

Project :
Market Place Pedestrianisation Scheme
Wantage Town Centre

Title :
Overall General Arrangement

Project Engineer : T Hart Scale : 1:1000 @ A3
 Project Director : M Ford Date : February 2022
 Status : CONSULTATION

Drawing No. 8200883/6110 Rev. P3

ANNEX 2

RESPONDENT	COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	No objection
(2) Oxford Bus Company	No objection
(3) As an individual, (Grove, Catmore close)	<p>Object - Increase of carbon emissions.</p> <p>The cutting off of access to the square from 2 roads, increases traffic congestion in the surrounding roads. To get from Church street to Waitrose requires a 2 mile detour down Locks lane, Ickleton road, through traffic lights, Priory road, Wallingford st and more.</p> <p>Also at a time when lots of business are struggling, why does 1 business (Marmalade) get to put tables and chairs outside their Cafe, when other businesses don't.</p>
(4) As an individual, (Grove, Farmstead Close)	<p>Object - The plan seems to be simply to improve trade for catering businesses. This improvement can only be in good weather. Therefore in bad weather the town centre will have lots of empty space.</p>
(5) As an individual, (Grove, Membury Way)	<p>Object - You are taking away disabled parking and not thinking of disabled or elderly people.</p>
(6) As an individual, (Grove, North Drive)	<p>Object - As a disabled person the experiment will affect me by the loss of disabled parking spaces at that end of town and in town as a whole when we already have so few. When you're unable to walk very far it makes a huge difference !!</p>
(7) As an individual, (Grove, Oxford lane)	<p>Object - Need to keep disabled access parking there</p>

<p>(8) As an individual, (Grove, St Ives)</p>	<p>Object - The proposal does not work well for Wantage in its present state. The only real beneficery is the owner of the marmalade cafe [I happen to like Nick the owner], the other businesses in this area as well as all the rate paying businesses in the town and the taxi drivers are being disadvantaged by the continuation of the scheme. The funeral directors are only able to offer a limited service for the dead without the traditional slow walk around the square for those deserving of the honour this is due to the closure of the road through into the town centre. The market is being fractured by those stall owners setting out in the proposed pedestrianised area. I would like to think that those of the same opinion as myself will be taken into account but i suspect this survey is merely a box ticking exercise and that the proposal is already a "done deal".</p>
<p>(9) As an individual, (Grove, St Ives Road)</p>	<p>Object - I am disabled and as such cannot walk far at all. What is being proposed will effectively stop all bar three disabled people/vehicles from being in town at any one time. What would the planners do, I wonder, if only three able bodied people could bring their cars into town at the same time?</p>
<p>(10) Rather not say, (Grove, Station road)</p>	<p>Object - Apart from helping marmalade it is total disregard for all other businesses and has caused chaos with the restrictions of the one way streets.</p>
<p>(11) As an individual, (Grove, Westbrook)</p>	<p>Object - The plan on paper seems alright but doing away with two disabled parking by Barclays Bank but keeping the Taxi's there is totally unfair. 1 There's not enough disabled parking in the square as it is and half the time they're used by people "just popping in", just dropping off or just plain lazy Answer: Make all of remaining car spaces in the square to disabled Or are all car going spaces 2 Able people can walk any distance for a taxi, Answer: make a new taxi rank to where cars park along the road called little lane. It would be nice to see a drawing plan as what I may have written is no good for an argument.</p>
<p>(12) As a business, (Grove, DeVitre Place)</p>	<p>Object - As a taxi driver our rank has been almost totally removed, before lockdown we had 7 spaces on the rank . Now we are told we have 7 but lucky to get 3 or 4 cars on the rank. It's used by delivery vehicles not even parked well. Also the general public park there to visit the local shops. The council did put signs up but they are useless no one adheres to them. The police can't enforce them because they are not legitimate Highway Code signs. Have</p>

	complained to the council rep nothing is done. Also due to this layout we have to reverse to get on the rank which is dangerous as pedestrians and cyclists go through this area it's a a miracle no one has been injured.
(13) As an individual, (Wantage, Adkin way)	Object - My husband has MS and finds it incredibly difficult to walk. Removing the disabled spaces around the market square makes it near impossible for him to access certain areas e.g bank, cafe, shops. It is just too far to walk for people with certain disabilities. The reason they are given Blue Badges is so that can be part of and use the facilities of the community. By restricting access you are pushing these people away from the very town they want to be part of. It is hard enough to live with disabilities why is the council considering making it even harder?
(14) As an individual, (Wantage, Badgers Drive)	Object - I havent seen anything regarding the bus stops. What will happen to them? In general, i don't like the idea of restrictions broader than the ones on right now.
(15) As an individual, (Wantage, Badgers Drive)	Object - I don't see problems associated with traffic around the market place today. In addition to it, the market place is a central point of access to other roads around Wantage. Consequences of restricting access would be troublesome for well established routes.
(16) As an individual, (Wantage, Belmont)	Object - As much as I love the pedestrianised area as it exists I would NOT like it extended to remove the 2 disabled parking spaces outside Barclays Bank. It is the nearest elderly, disabled people such as myself can park to take my husband who has Alzheimer's to the dementia day centre behind the church. I am not the only disabled person who needs that space. Please consider we have already lost a number of disabled parking spaces in the market square and now you want to remove 2 more! Please do NOT do it.
(17) As an individual, (Wantage, Blackthorn Road)	Object - Restriction of access to businesses. Loss of parking leading to taxi drivers taking over the area. Unfair to businesses away from that area where a sudden new outdoor dining area was created. Space taken was too large.
(18) As an individual, (Wantage, Chain Hill)	Object - I strongly object to the loss of the disabled bays outside Barclays Bank. There has been a steady erosion of disabled spaces in the Marketplace, which began with the 4 spaces outside the Nationwide and the Mind Charity shop. This Experimental Traffic Order will now continue the loss of two more vital disabled spaces. It is not acceptable to try to replace these disabled spaces with provision elsewhere as has happened with the establishment

	of spaces in Newbury Street. The spaces are prohibitively (for disabled people) far away. What might seem like a short distance for an able-bodied person is not for a disabled person.
(19) As an individual, (Wantage, Charlton Village Road)	Object - The majority of our journeys into the town centre are done on foot. However, when we occasionally have a purpose to drive into town, for example, a collection from the sorting office, using a cash machine, collecting a take-away, we've noticed that the town seems very much against the motorist. In years gone by, it was very convenient to be able to park in the square, or drop someone off in the west end of the town centre. We've noticed confusion and gridlock around the square from non-sensical signage, and have been discouraged from meeting friends or recommending visiting the town centre due to the inconsistencies of parking provisions, length of stay and charging. The town centre square, in our opinion, used to work better for passing trade when there were less restrictions. Experience in European towns and cities has demonstrated to us that people are far more likely to spend time and money using local services when the motorist isn't penalised or prohibited from parking. In most French towns we visit, parking in a central square, the hub of a community, is encouraged, and means we don't hesitate to venture further afield. Maybe it's an attitude thing - I'm not sure why we're so centred on finalising access and restrictions, rather than taking a deep breath and saying something isn't ideal, but change isn't always for the best...
(20) As an individual, (Wantage, Coates Close)	Object - This proposal will effect the business and our daily life in the town. Wantage has limited shops and it is essential that we have right to access these shops with our vehicles. The current active system allows us to stop by and conduct quick purchase. If the proposal plan implemented, we will be forced to park our cars to supermarkets parking areas. Also, Wantage has limited parking space and your proposal will force people to go and shop in other towns.
(21) As an individual, (Wantage, Collinsmith Drive)	Object - Restricting cars will kill the town centre.
(22) As an individual, (Wantage, Foliat Close)	Object - I used to drop my very old and infirm mother and father in that area to access the bank and other shops in that area. They have not been able to make these visits since the pedestrianisation.
(23) As an individual, (Wantage, Goodlake ave)	Object - Small town no need for anymore traffic

<p>(24) As an individual, (Wantage, Grove Road)</p>	<p>Object - I am a carer for a disabled partner</p>
<p>(25) As an individual, (Wantage, Haywards Close)</p>	<p>Object - This will restrict disabled parking to the east end of the Market Place (Newbury Street). Disabled persons may not be capable of walking to the west end of the square to use the retail and banking facilities. Why should priority be given to taxi ranks? The only business to benefit are the cafes. One bar has already closed and we await to see what retail unit replaces it. In addition the conversion of the upper floors of the building into residential flats with no car parking presents another problem. The idea that new residents will rely on public transport and not own cars is not accepting the realities of modern life. Return the market place back into its original state.</p>
<p>(26) As an individual, (Wantage, Larkhill)</p>	<p>Object - There is not enough parking in Wantage as it is, even with The Beacon parking there is not enough, lots taken away with electric charging point and Sainsburys Waitrose etc limit time. If you want people to visit the town to do their shopping, socialising it would be catastrophic to pedestrianise more of the town. With business rates being increased a lack of passing trade due to no parking facilities will kill off what is left. Also where would disabled parking go? The buses queue round the town now to park up taking up spaces outside Nationwide. If you had more parking then closing off the town to traffic wouldn't be a problem but with more new houses being agreed to be built no one goes into the town as it is too much of a problem to get anywhere. People like easy quick access and you are not providing this. If you were to do your research you would find probably 80% or more of local Wantage / Grove and surrounding villages go to other towns to do their shopping as Wantage has nothing to offer. Those benefitting from the town being closed off and being able to have outside seating etc will also agravate other businesses that cannot offer this service, just like in lock down when 30 Something and Marmalade were allowed outside seating yet others couldn't i.e The Blue Boar, Cafe down Wallingford Street etc. You need to listen to the folk that live here not just what a few locals want as they practically live in the town centre anyway so wouldn't need a car to travel there anyway. More congestion for surrounding roads causing more traffic jams !!</p>
<p>(27) As an individual, (Wantage, Larkhill)</p>	<p>Object - I have serious concerns about the removal of disabled parking especially outside of amenities such as the bank. This will completely prevent my father from accessing the town centre, and the bank, unless he is accompanied. As I work full time and the bank is not open when I am not at work he would effectively be unable to be independent. I would question if removing all disabled parking is actually discrimination. It is a lovely thought to have people sitting</p>

	<p>outside local businesses enjoying food and drink but money needs to be injected into the local infrastructure before that becomes a reality. Increased housing, increased anti-social behaviour, no school spaces (forcing schools over numbers), loss of shops...I would imagine that needs some thought before we get excited about how amazing it will be if cars cannot access the main part of town.</p>
<p>(28) As an individual, (Wantage, Lydsee Gate)</p>	<p>Object - No to closing of parking bays for disabled</p>
<p>(29) As a business, (Wantage, Market place)</p>	<p>Object - Only favours certain businesses and Taxi rank constantly used by members of public to park in. A lot of the area is wasted space and not used</p>
<p>(30) As part of a group/organisation, (Wantage, Market Place)</p>	<p>Object - We do like the idea of pedestrian only areas but we feel the need for a Blue Badge bay around the site of Barclays Bank. VCI have a number of volunteers and clients that are disabled and cannot walk the length of the Town.</p>
<p>(31) As a business, (Wantage, Market place)</p>	<p>Object - Only supports certain businesses while the rest are forgotten about. Giving them extra trading space free of charge while others can't even put tables outside, fully object, also lost half of the taxi rank that they have to pay to use, same old wantage town council</p>
<p>(32) As an individual, (Wantage, Meadow Close)</p>	<p>Object - There are very few disabled spaces in the town without losing another two, and when non disabled drivers park in the ones that are available, without any recourse. Having disabled spaces in Newbury street is out of the way from many shops. Having those spaces makes a huge difference to disabled people</p>
<p>(33) As an individual, (Wantage, Mill Street)</p>	<p>Object - I am a Blue Disabled parking Badge user who relies very heavy on her car to get around. I have concerns about the removal of these disabled parking bays in the marketplace for this reason. This would be a particular problem for me personally when I would like to make purchases from the market, ie. heavy bags, as the alternative parking is too far for me to walk back to my vehicle. At times the availability of disabled and non-disabled parking is already limited and I have been known to have to go back home without doing any shopping at all as there was nowhere for me to park. Therefore if these further restrictions are put in place it would be very likely that I would no longer use the market for my fruit and vegetables and possibly other purchases from the marketplace. I feel very strongly about making the most of our market and independent business' therefore I feel it is very unfair that disabled</p>

	<p>people should be excluded due to a lack of suitable parking. Please can you confirm whether or not disabled parking will be made available in other areas close to the marketplace? I also have concerns about the increase in traffic and traffic noise on Mill Street where I live.</p>
<p>(34) As an individual, (Wantage, Newbury St)</p>	<p>Object - Reduction of disabled parking spaces in the centre. Wantage has more than its fair share of disabled (national average some 10%) which includes me - I cannot walk - and this significantly hampers my ability to access the centre.</p> <p>Why should the pubs cafes etc be given (presumably) free extra seating at the cost of the council and taxpayer ? If they want to expand they should buy real estate and pay to configure it like everyone else.</p> <p>The proposal creates a dead end in Market Place big enough for one car between Sylheti Spice and a jewellers. If persisting with this scheme at least turn that into a disabled bay. Also look for ways to add disabled bays to The Cloisters without reducing access. Furthermore, the pedestrian patch between the sorting office, hair boutique and Vale community impact is used only for pedestrian access. Why that ready space has not been improved for leisure and pleasure instead is beyond me. If you are not prepared to do that, then find a way to turn it into a few disabled parking paces with roadway access around Barclays Bank.</p>
<p>(35) As an individual, (Wantage, North Drive)</p>	<p>Object - As someone that is disabled (not that I look it) I feel it would discriminate against disabled people. There is not much in Wantage now and I think pedestrianising one end will stop people coming here</p>
<p>(36) As an individual, (Wantage, Roman way)</p>	<p>Object - We have few facilities, restricting the traffic in the town center will kill it further. We have little parking, and the centre of town will just be left to rot and drinking. We have 1000s of new houses and people, no infrastructure, no proper cycle ways or footpaths, little outdoor facilities, look at Didcot, lots of open sandy paths to walk, outdoor exercise equipment, open facilities we have nothing except an old no longer fit for purpose leisure centre which you have to pay for.</p>
<p>(37) As an individual, (Wantage, Tanners Row)</p>	<p>Object - It has brought no benefit to the town. The space isn't being used. It's increased parking issues as 4 spaces are now gone.</p>
<p>(38) As an individual, (Wantage, Trinder road)</p>	

	Object - The road that has been cornered off for a while now never seems busy at all. It seems a waste of space would be much better to be able to have a bigger taxi rank with the disabled car parking back or even more car parking spaces. This town is in desperate need of them.
(39) As an individual, (Wantage, Charlton park)	Object - I don't agree with tables and chairs being put in the road. If people can't drive freely around the town they will go somewhere else to shop . I feel if this current experiment is seen as successful then it may expand to half the market place as previously suggested. I think that would any chance having a successful business in the market place. Just look at the lack of retail shops now
(40) As an individual, (Wantage, Haywards close)	Object - Unfair to other businesses in the town. One has already closed/moved since closure was implemented.
(41) As an individual, (Wantage, Kent Mews)	Object - Lack of access and parking
(42) As an individual, (Wantage, Priory Orchard)	Object - It restricts a historic part of Wantage that for years has had access and helped the general flow of the town for the benefit of a few specific businesses and to the detriment of other businesses. Wantage functioned perfectly fine for decades without this restriction and allowing it will clog up the arteries of the centre of town even for more for no overall benefit
(43) As an individual, (Bath, John St)	Object - I like the idea of more pedestrian space (we have lots in Bath), but why should two or three businesses benefit to the detrement of others not so lucky as to be given free open space outside their front door?
(44) As an individual, (Brightwalton, Berkshire, Spray Lane)	Object - Wantage is my nearest town. I frequently shop there, attend events, restaurants, and pubs. I have quite a few friends who live there. I have known and loved this well preserved market town for almost 60 yrs. I am now aged 79, live by myself, and am applying for a disabled badge, due to severe osteo-arthritis in both my knees (you are aware that any operation which might be approved will at the moment be delayed by at least 3 yrs, and they only do one knee at a time). But recently I already find it more difficult to visit the town. The main car park has had the free time reduced from 2 to 1 hour, the number of places reduced by installing charging spaces, and more double yellow lines added on peripheral roads. There are no bus services from where I live, 6 miles away, just because of "county lines" ! (There is only one bus a day too and from Newbury). So I rely on my small 2-seat car. I am still an active and

	<p>intelligent man, and enjoy the occasional visit to Oxford, to attend public lectures at the University, and visit museums, concerts, and restaurants. To do this, I need to drive to Wantage, park my vehicle, and catch the bus. The same thing happens when I have to attend the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, which I have had to do several times, and my next visit is scheduled for July. But recently there are less and less parking places, including those for the disabled. There is no reason at all to make the west end of the Market Place pedestrian only; there are adequate controlled crossing points for pedestrians, and the parking places (in particular for those disabled) are essential. And the narrow pavements in Wantage are unsuitable for tables (except perhaps in the area behind the bus stops). Pavements are intended for pedestrians, not for commerce, and the weather in this country is not (yet) comparable with that of the Mediterranean countries ! I understand that (traditionally) the square has to be closed for the market; but that does not mean the Council has the right to impose any more restrictions on the general populace. Whom exactly are these changes designed to help? Certainly not me.</p>
<p>(45) As an individual, (Childrey, Lawrence Close)</p>	<p>Object - I do not think that you should get rid of the disabled bays outside Barclays bank they are essential for people with access needs and their rights need to be supported. Make the taxi rank smaller and keep the disabled bays</p>
<p>(46) As an individual, (East Challow, Hedge Hill Road)</p>	<p>Concerns - My only issue is the impact it will have on those with disabilities being able to make the most of shopping and general access to the area.</p>
<p>(47) As an individual, (Grove, Meadow Cl)</p>	<p>Concerns - 1. The area that has been set aside is too large. It benefits the cafe owners only in the near vicinity which is not fair to the other cafe owners such as the museum (& will stop/deter people shopping in the market place. I am one of these. I used to regularly visit Barclays bank then maybe call into another shop. Now parking is so bad for short visits I very rarely use the market place. 2. Because elderly & disabled people need more access/parking not less to the market square. There are too many large work vans at break/lunchtimes that fill the spaces and non-blue badge holders park in disabled bays because there isn't enough parking in the town for people wanting a quick visit to a shop. My elderly uncle can't manage to walk from the public car parks (Beacon, Sainsburys, etc) and as there aren't often blue badge bays available, my mum drops him in town then has to keep driving around until he is ready to be picked up. 3. Not being able to use the little cut through road by the church/Swan is a pain in the proverbial when you have visited somewhere down Church street & need to get back into town that you have to go around the one way system of Priory Rd.</p>

	<p>4. The fact that there are always cars, vans & trucks parked on the double yellow lines shows that drivers will still park in the town making the whole place even more congested & dangerous therefore reducing the parking spaces has increased the problem.</p>
<p>(48) As an individual, (Grove, Meadow close)</p>	<p>Concerns - Disabled parking</p>
<p>(49) As an individual, (Grove, Vale Avenue)</p>	<p>Concerns - In general i support it as it's a good community space, but I'm concerned about the loss of disabled parking spaces. These need to still be by barclays bank to ensure disabled people can access that area.</p>
<p>(50) As an individual, (Grove, Woodhill)</p>	<p>Concerns - The issue I have is that at certain times of the day the alternative roads to get through/around Wantage are inaccessible (school pickup. Buses park outside centre site all on one side of the main road making th road unusable as they stretch hundreds of yards so you can't get past. So traffic goes through the town. Now all that traffic will have to through the traffic lights at A338 and Harcourt road causing massive queues. So it will still be quicker going through town. Sort out the buses, stop them blocking the road up and then stop vehicles in town, otherwise it won't work</p>
<p>(51) As an individual, (Grove, Woodhill Drive)</p>	<p>Concerns - I do not like to see more and more roads closed to car users with no replacement</p>
<p>(52) As an individual, (Letcombe Regis, Anvil Lane)</p>	<p>Concerns - The disabled parking spaces need to remain outside Barclay's Bank. There are services at this end of the market place disabled people need to access - optician, bank, post, advice centre as well as pub, cafe etc. Some disabled parking spaces have been moved out of the market place in favour of a bus stop. To have a blue badge. this means a person has significant restricted mobility. It should be possible to have part of the space for pedestrians but still keep the disabled parking at this end of Wantage Market Place.</p>
<p>(53) As an individual, (Letcombe Regis, Anvil Paddock)</p>	<p>Concerns - Disabled parking spaces have been removed Half the disabled parking spaces at the other end if Market Place also gone. This is very difficult for the disabled.</p>

<p>(54) As an individual, (Stanford in the Vale, Van Diemens)</p>	<p>Concerns - I am objecting because prior to covid this area worked very well for taxi and car parking - I can see no reason why this should not be returned as it was normally. I am also concerned that there was some talk about further pedestrianisation around the market square which is not needed and I feel that if the closure is continued then further restrictions may be made later which again are not needed as Wantage is a small market town. It will drive people away to shop elsewhere if this happens.</p>
<p>(55) As an individual, (Stanford in the Vale, Horsecroft)</p>	<p>Concerns - I like the idea of the scheme but am very concerned, as a disabled driver, that the disabled parking spaces are being removed. There are very few disabled parking spaces in the town centre and I think this will be a disaster to this group of drivers. We need and expect the councils help in allowing our independence and social needs of these spaces is integral to our involvement in life. Please do not remove these disabled parking spaces.</p>
<p>(56) As an individual, (Wantage, A417)</p>	<p>Concerns - It seems to be very good for 2-3 businesses who can expand their premises to use public space but doesn't actually give much space to the wider community.</p>
<p>(57) As an individual, (Wantage, Adkin Way)</p>	<p>Concerns - I am disabled and with so few disabled parking space on the Market square anyway, the loss of these will negatively impact me and other disabled people.</p>
<p>(58) As an individual, (Wantage, Chapel close)</p>	<p>Concerns - I am concerned about the removal of disabled parking spaces from Market Place</p>
<p>(59) As an individual, (Wantage, Charlton Village Road)</p>	<p>Concerns - To facilitate cycling, the arrangements should permit cycle (in either direction) along Alfred Street, the Western end of Market Place and Church Street. This would provide a good route for cyclists travelling from Grove the northern end of Wantage, via Mill Street, via Priory Road to KAs, keeping some of this traffic away from the main Market Place and busier roads (Wallingford St, Ormond Road).</p>
<p>(60) As an individual, (Wantage, Charlton village road)</p>	<p>Concerns - Great concern that the number of disabled parking spaces will be reduced in the centre making it inaccessible for many of our patients with mobility issues (local Physiotherapy practice).</p>

(61) As a business, (Wantage, Church Street)	Concerns - Looks shabby and unfair to many businesses
(62) As an individual, (Wantage, Coates close)	Concerns - Leave Market place as it was and stop messing around with it. Businesses will be affected and leave, and it worked just fine before. Are you determined to destroy every town centre? It isn't bad enough you've screwed up the 2 hours parking?
(63) As an individual, (Wantage, Courtenay Rd)	Concerns - Generally supportive, but I have concerns about the reduction in disabled parking. For people with limited mobility having to walk from one end of the market square to the other in order to reach a particular shop/bank is difficult. Having disabled parking in several locations around the market square means they can use the closest parking space to their destination.
(64) As an individual, (Wantage, Courtenay Road)	Concerns - It concerns me that the number of disabled parking spaces is being further reduced in the market square. Whilst I am broadly supportive of traffic reduction measures, they must not be made to the detriment of those with additional mobility needs.
(65) As an individual, (Wantage, Denchworth Rd)	Concerns - Whilst I like the pedestrian /taxi rank area at that end of the market place, I am very concerned for disabled car users. If they park outside the old HSBC bank, they are not able to get out quickly enough. I would prefer the disabled car park to stay outside Barclays Bank, and just slightly reduce the area for taxis.
(66) As an individual, (Wantage, De-Vitre Place)	Concerns - I worry it would discourage people from using marketplace businesses and amenities due to the lack of parking facilities in the surrounding area.
(67) As an individual, (Wantage, Elder Way)	Concerns - I like the way things are, not sure why we need to change it.
(68) As an individual, (Wantage, Ham Road)	Concerns - It should be only April to September

<p>(69) As an individual, (Wantage, Larkdown)</p>	<p>Concerns - I am very concerned about the loss of the disabled parking bays in creating this pedestrianised area. It is far too far for disabled people to get to that part of town from the other disabled parking spaces and I seriously hope you will reconsider this position. Maybe the taxi rank could be moved somewhere else?</p>
<p>(70) As a business, (Wantage, Market Place)</p>	<p>Concerns - I am a business in the affected area (Dolphin Gallery), and the loss of parking access has cost me a lot of business. I support the hospitality use of the square, however the rest is rarely used and its loss of parking significantly affects business prospects in Market Place. So very little useage, no benefit, and cost to local business. You cannot cut businesses off from their customers and suppliers. What is more you have not published any proposals. I support partial pedestrianisation for the cafe and bars who utilise, however the pedestrianisation should end there. Wantage Town Council do noy use the rest of the space effectively enough, and could always close it for one off events such as markets. It does not require permanent closure (apart from the cafe useage).</p>
<p>(71) As a business, (Wantage, Market Place (West End))</p>	<p>Concerns - We are wondering if the short length of road between the Cloisters and the West end of the Market Place will be levelled as the current raised pavement on each side causes disabled 'scooters' and people with prams considerable difficulty in passing the large raised flower bed that stops vehicle access. We also would like to know if the pedestrian area will remain as large as it is currently. I gather from other businesses here that when recent activities have been staged in the square, this area has not been used at all which would seem to be a waste, especially if businesses open in order to try to benefit from such activities. Perhaps a smaller area would be better but still roomy enough for the Marmalade Cafe and bar while allowing an open space for stalls or an entertainment area. Thirdly, and finally, it is important that businesses, and indeed customers, are able to have delivered and deliver sometimes quite large items, so easy and short access is essential. A smaller pedestrian area would mean more room for the Taxis and the disabled parking, but also some space for deliveries and pick ups.</p>
<p>(72) As an individual, (Wantage, Mary Shunn Way)</p>	<p>Concerns - Looking at the age profile of many of the people I see around Wantage and the number of mobility scooters, walking sticks etc I am concerned that accessibility to the town's facilities will be made more difficult. My husband has been advised to apply for a blue badge as he has mobility issues and as I am over 70 no doubt my mobility will decrease over time. Many of the cars parked in the Market Place display blue badges so there is obviously a need for many people.</p>

<p>(73) As an individual, (Wantage, Membury Way, Grove)</p>	<p>Concerns - I support the pedestrianization of the West End BUT it is imperative that the disabled parking spaces must be protected.</p>
<p>(74) As an individual, (Wantage, Priory Orchard)</p>	<p>Concerns - With the building work and scaffolding currently in place, it does not provide the best conditions for assessing the experiment. The inconsiderate Parking of cars at the junction of Church Street, the Cloisters and Market Place and the footpath from SS Peter & Paul's Church needs to be prohibited.</p>
<p>(75) As an individual, (Wantage, Priory rd)</p>	<p>Concerns - Parking provisions for the new apartments under construction next to King Alfred's pub</p>
<p>(76) As an individual, (Wantage, Rolls Court)</p>	<p>Concerns - My concern is that reduced access to parking in particular for disabled visitors will have a detrimental impact on their ability to visit and access the town centre.</p>
<p>(77) As an individual, (Wantage, Smiths Wharf)</p>	<p>Concerns - Disabled parking and taxi rank always seems to have "others" parked there. In general no respect for parking restrictions.</p>
<p>(78) As an individual, (Wantage, The Cloisters)</p>	<p>Concerns - My wife and I live to the North of the temporary closure to the Market Square. The properties here are occupied by the Vicarage of SS Peter and Paul, the Delivery access to the King Alfred's Head, The October Club, which caters for people needing dementia day care, and six private dwellings, three of which are occupied by householders over 70. Once the new flats at 30 Market Place are occupied, the utilities access to these properties will add to the traffic. In addition, the Vicarage has been unoccupied most of the time the temporary arrangements have been in place, so a normally high traffic flow to the Vicarage has not been tested. The current temporary arrangements cause significantly more access problems than the previous circulatory route. Arriving vehicles often have to back all the way out of The Cloisters onto Church Street (by the museum) to allow vehicles to exit, whereas these vehicles would previously have exited via the market square. Parking on the Keep Clear area outside of the museum at the top of The Cloisters is at best sporadically enforced, and cars are often parked in this area, even in the evening when other parts of Church Street are legally available. This has a two-fold effect. The first is an inconvenience, the second potentially lethal. First, it can be difficult to turn out of The Cloisters with anything larger than a small car; and Second, vehicles driving West along Church Street towards Priory Road are</p>

	<p>forced to the right-hand side of the road to pass the parked cars. It is almost inevitable that at some stage one of these vehicles will collide at quite high speed with a vehicle nosing out, or reversing out, of the Cloisters.</p> <p>I appreciate the transformative effect the closure has had on the market square, but it is imperative that the safety issues at the junction by the museum are addressed, possibly by a change of traffic priorities, and certainly by rigorous enforcement of the parking restrictions.</p>
(79) As an individual, (Wantage, Truelocks Way)	<p>Concerns - I am concerned re the lack of parking in the square. Particularly for elderly people who struggle to walk from a car park but don't have blue badges. Plus the footfall to the shops!</p>
(80) As an individual, (Wantage, Upthorpe Drive)	<p>Concerns - Reduction in disabled parking as a result of this</p>
(81) As an individual, (Wantage, Blackcroft)	<p>Concerns - I am concerned about the lack of disabled parking in the market place. While I don't mind the pedestrian area it is very hard for disabled people in Wantage to get access to the market place. There needs to be a way to provide more parking for disabled. It is very difficult to park sometimes I have had to give up and not shop. It would be good if disabled could also get to access the new outdoor facilities provided. It seems very unfair to only cater for the able bodied and taxis.</p>
(82) As an individual, (Wantage, Chain Hill)	<p>Concerns -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the reduction in accessible disabled bays means already some members of the Wantage community will no longer be able to access the facilities of the market square. Disabled bays need to be closer to the facilities to be of use to the intended user - the current "pedestrian area" isn't really that pleasant an area in which to sit due to the high volume of taxis close by - overcrowding of traffic on one side of the market square and too many buses - pollution concerns with stationary buses and the potential for an increase in stationary traffic - pedestrian risk with too much traffic on one side - limited access for businesses - will this mean they will go elsewhere - if there is too much congestion people will go elsewhere and what used to be a thriving market square will lose out to places with easier access. - overall I think a two way traffic system is a better option in a relatively small space - in the current cost of living crisis is this the best use of council money?

<p>(83) As an individual, (Wantage, Elizabeth Drive)</p>	<p>Concerns - As a disabled person, I am horrified about the way the disabled parking places are being moved/removed around the Market Place. How can it be easier to walk into the centre of town from outside the Blue Boar? It is NECESSARY to park close to places you need to visit. Suppose you need to eat at The Bear, visit Barclays Bank or Vale Community Impact: a charity that you support with a generous grant ref. The latest town newsletter?</p>
<p>(84) As an individual, (Wantage, Hampden)</p>	<p>Concerns - It only supports a few businesses. And I do not see what it is achieving. It isolates that end of town.</p>
<p>(85) As a business, (Wantage, Market place)</p>	<p>Concerns - Reduced taxi setting down area meaning not enough taxis for my customers People still parking in the area marked as taxis only Taxis have to reverse into taxi area on busy days/nights an accident waiting to happen The area used not very often Do those businesses adjacent pay extra to use this area in rates being there square feet area has enlarged</p>
<p>(86) As part of a group/organisation, (Wantage, Maryfield)</p>	<p>Concerns - To ensure good accessibility in the town centre.</p>
<p>(87) As an individual, (Wantage, Paddock close)</p>	<p>Concerns - As someone who requires to use disabled parking. The centre has become very hard to use. There is now only 3 disabled bays that are within an appropriate distance to the majority of the shops and 2 which are slightly further away, with the 2 being taken away you have reduced the available parking to probably those with the most need for parking closely to the shops. Most of the time delivery vehicles occupy the one behind the bus stop or by people getting cash from the cash point and the other two are usually also full by other shoppers, Or vans on market days. I think a couple more disabled bays would help greatly and encourage those who can walk further to park slightly further away in the nearby car parks. I encourage the closure of that end of the market and see the boom in those shops which is great but please can i encourage you to implement a few more disabled bays to greatly help those in need.</p>

<p>(88) As an individual, (Wantage, Warmans Close)</p>	<p>Concerns - I'm very concerned that two disabled parking places will be lost in this scheme. Especially as spaces have already been lost on the south side to make space for the bus stop. This will make it very difficult for those struggling with mobility to access the square.</p>
<p>(89) As a business, (Wantage, Oxfordshire, Market Place)</p>	<p>Concerns - 'Hello to those putting forward the the plans for the West end of Wantage Market Place. I'm not one for complaining nor an I one for pouring cold water on projects that could help someone or something, I have kept my ideas and concerns to myself, but sadly I feel that the suggestions that have been circling around for the future of our market town concerns me. Although the idea of pedestrianising the West end sounds like a good idea it has its flaws, and we see these daily from our premises.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the taxi set up isn't practical and certainly not safe, the idea of having a taxi rank is exactly that, 'it's a rank', it should not be a so called parking lot! Having cars/cabs shunt back and forth is I believe illegal and also unsafe, it is only a matter of time before a person gets hit, and who will get the blame, the driver for starters and then the council for not putting a safe plan together. - the other concerns are those that need deliveries to their premises, for us we have elderly patients that need to be picked up and dropped off for their appointments, this would also apply to the Wantage Natural Therapy Centre that is above us at No.34. - we also have the matter of the disabled parking outside Barclay's Bank, unfortunately these are abused on a regular basis, this is affecting those with disabilities etc. there is a limited amount of parking as it is, the town has lost I think it's 6 or 7 spaces already due the West End and now the electric points have now been installed another 10 slots in the Beacon have in theory got a restricted use, ie not all vehicles can use them..... <p>I am not from the Wantage area, but have a had a business in the town for over 27 years, this pedestrianising I am sorry to say will only assist in Wantage town dying on its feet, we have lost 2 banks with a third now going in September, Fat Face is showing signs of going, M & Co closed its doors as well. We need to allow easy access to the town as a whole, not have restricted access. On a more positive note we do have what was called Shush re -opening soon, have you giving any thought to the amount of people that may need cabs after that venue closes? Where are these cabs going to pitch up moving forward!!!</p> <p>Having the West End is a good idea but needs to be more user friendly and maybe reduced in its size. So please just think of the practical issues and the effect on businesses before any more money is thrown at this venture, it sounds good, but is it practical!</p>

<p>(90) As an individual, (Childrey, Dog Lane)</p>	<p>Support - Think it is useful for local people to have a voice</p>
<p>(91) As an individual, (Denchworth, Hyde Road)</p>	<p>Support - Great for businesses, much nicer area, safer. All in all I think this has been a fantastic thing for Wantage - long may it continue.</p>
<p>(92) As an individual, (East Challow, The Park)</p>	<p>Support - I think that having that part of the town square as a pedestrianised area means that the 'cafe culture' area can continue. I think that this is a great addition to the town and makes the square feel more like a place to hang around in rather than a place to travel through.</p>
<p>(93) As an individual, (Grove, Barbury Drive)</p>	<p>Support - I've said for 40 years we should pedestrianise the market square. This is a step in the right direction.</p>
<p>(94) As an individual, (Grove, Broadmarsh)</p>	<p>Support - Gives a great area for people to socialize. People just parked there before and stopped and blocked traffic anyway</p>
<p>(95) As an individual, (Grove, Caudwell Close)</p>	<p>Support - The market place area would be wonderful as a pedestrian area and allow much more space for outdoor seating and pedestrian gathering. It would be nice to foster a more al fresco environment with reduced traffic sound and pollution.</p>
<p>(96) As an individual, (Grove, Evenlode Close)</p>	<p>Support - To be involved in decisions on Wantage.</p>
<p>(97) As an individual, (Grove, Glebe Gardens)</p>	<p>Support - I support the continuation of the closure to traffic of the west end of Wantage Market Place as has been done on an experimental basis. This section of the market place is now much more pleasant and it is possible to sit out and enjoy a coffee etc. The whole atmosphere of the place has changed for the better. I have seen some concerns over the loss of disabled parking because of this measure. I do not know how many disabled parking places are lost - and how many others remain - in Wantage market place. However, consideration should be given to make sure there are an adequate number. If necessary by making some elsewhere in the market square.</p>

(98) As an individual, (Grove, Main Street)	Support - I support the pedestrianisation of the town centre 1as it helps to create a space for the community that can be enjoyed socially. Market towns such as wantage can benefit from such pleasant environments, free from noisy traffic, as it will encourage increased footfall from both locals and visitors to the town. In an age when almost anything can be purchased online it is paramount that town centres offer an 'experience' if they are to survive. Wantage has good transport links by bus and ample parking outside of the main marketplace area meaning accessibility will be unimpacted.
(99) As an individual, (Grove, Main Street)	Support - Wantage Market is a beautiful public space which has long been blighted by far too much though traffic and parking. It simply needs less cars in it in order to thrive and to provide a decent public space for all to enjoy. The pedestrianisation of the West End is a small but good start.
(100) As an individual, (Grove, Minns Road)	Support - In many towns all across the UK and abroad, creating pedestrianised zones has lead to improved foot traffic for businesses (something which many opponents argue will decrease, contrary to evidence elsewhere), better air quality and a cleaner environment for all those sharing the space.
(101) As an individual, (Grove, Shepherds Close)	Support - I fully support the proposal to make this permanent, It's lovely to have part of the Market Place traffic free. Being able to sit outside to enjoy food & drink is a much needed facility in town. The more that is done to make our town centre pleasant to be in the more trade will come into the town
(102) As an individual, (Grove, The Maples)	Support - The only reason to go to Wantage now is the cafe culture this oasis provides. The taxis are a nuisance but otherwise this is the only worthwhile feature of the town.
(103) As an individual, (Grove, Vale Avenue)	Support - The closure of parts of Wantage Market Place is a valuable step in making this a modern market-place - one where businesses can provide services that require personal interactions and also that people can wait whilst others are using services. Most obvious is the provision of outdoor catering both as a direct service, and as a facility for those waiting whilst family and/or friends are using services. We need to prioritise space for people if we want

	<p>market places to be successful in the coming decades. Too much of Wantage Market Place is given over to through traffic. The buses and taxis belong there as part of personal services, also vans delivering to businesses - but there's much less need for private cars, especially using it as a through route. On recent visits I've been struck by the comparison between how Millbrook Square in Grove is thriving with businesses offering personal services and cars better controlled than in Wantage (but with scope for further controls) - compared to Wantage Market Place with less such businesses. It would be good to see both places thrive - the potential is there, it just needs some action to retain and expand space for people in the Market Place.</p>
(104) As an individual, (Grove, Vale Avenue)	<p>Support - It creates a safer traffic free space where people can enjoy a cafe style atmosphere. Much better than when people used to attempt parking and then turn in a tight space.</p>
(105) As an individual, (Grove, Wolage Drive)	<p>Support - Wantage Market Place has the prospect to become much more tourist friendly if these traffic restrictions are implemented. Already the Marmalade cafe is making use of the street to put out additional tables. I support this change in order to reduce the amount of cars in the Market Place and give pedestrians more space.</p>
(106) As an individual, (Grove, Woodhill)	<p>Support - I believe safer for pedestrians and its good to see outside dining from cafe, wine bar and pub. That area was full of parked cars or taxis. Although nowaday because of the lack of business in the square you can't get a taxi on a Saturday night</p>
(107) As an individual, (Grove, Meadow Close)	<p>Support - Safer for all.</p>
(108) As an individual, (Kingston Lisle, Fawler Road)	<p>Support - I think its a great idea</p>
(109) As an individual, (Letcombe Bassett, Gramp's Hill)	<p>Support - Ambience, safety, parking improvement</p>
(110) As an individual, (Letcombe Bassett, Holborn Hill)	<p>Support - The temporary restrictions have worked well. It makes the town centre more attractive to visit, adding the amenity of having refreshments al fresco.</p>

(111) As an individual, (Letcombe Bassett, Holborn)	Support - It will make the area more pleasant and safer
(112) As an individual, (Letcombe Regis, Kings Close)	Support - Increasing pedestrian access to the town centre, and potential for outdoor tables at local cafes and eateries, will benefit the town. For those of us travelling from outside Wantage, there is plenty of parking close to the town centre that we can use to access the market place.
(113) As an individual, (Letcombe Regis, South Street)	Support - Improves environment in town. Good to have outside eating. Safer for pedestrians
(114) As an individual, (Southmoor, Cherry Tree Close)	Support - Often shop in Wantage and find the reduction of traffic in and around the Market Square a real plus.
(115) As an individual, (Stanford in the Vale, Hunters Field)	Support - It is much safer to have that area pedestrianised.
(116) As an individual, (Wantage, Coates Close)	Support - It helps a little with traffic, so much more to do, I generally avoid the town centre as there are so many cars going everywhere, it could be such a nice place for people and is falling short. I support the current measures at it's a start at least!
(117) As an individual, (Wantage, Adkin Way)	Support - Lock down had such a negative impact on our business and our lives, this proposal flourished out of the negativity and has made that end of town delightful. It's no longer rammed with double parking or taxis turning. Deliveries can still be made and managed from the back roads but this delightful Spot leads us to the church and the park and altogether makes a more civilised but bustling environment.
(118) As an individual, (Wantage, Angel Walk)	Support - It's providing a nice space for meet up in (supporting community feel and all associated health benefits of maintaining your social connections), plus it's supporting local businesses with the outdoor seating. Also it brings a nicer feel to the market place - instead of just an area you pass through to get somewhere else, it becomes an area you go to so you can spend time there. My only minor concern would be the removal of the disabled parking space, as access for those less able should be supported.

(119) As an individual, (Wantage, Barnards way)	Support - Nice to have an outside space to eat, drink and listen to music
(120) As an individual, (Wantage, Belmont)	Support - Considerable Improvement to Historic marketplace by reducing parked vehicles and creating a safe pedestrian area for socialising and walking. Totally fitting for a market town. All positive - no negatives
(121) As an individual, (Wantage, Belmont)	Support - I think the car free area created provides a new type of space for Wantage which helps people to connect and to support local businesses
(122) As an individual, (Wantage, Bluebell lane)	Support - The experimental area has opened up the town and creates more trade for local businesses. This benefits the local economy and will lead to further trade in the town.
(123) As an individual, (wantage, Broadwater place)	Support - Greatly add to the amenity of the square with only minor inconvenience to some businesses while enhancing others .. particularly the cafe and wine bar and giving a space for other temporary stalls
(124) As an individual, (Wantage, Challow Road)	Support - I have found the temporary changes a great improvement, improving the market square for pedestrian users and helping to make it more of a social hub. I would support further pedestrianisation of the square.
(125) As an individual, (Wantage, Chandlers Close)	Support - Gives a lovely atmosphere to the town and extra business to the businesses that can have tables outside.
(126) As an individual, (Wantage, Chapel Close)	Support - Wantage should take more advantage of the entire market place to make it a traffic free area where people can relax, shop, eat and drink without busses and cars. This will encourage a cafe culture and support outdoors eating drinking and provide room for entertainment and market stalls and pop up events in a safe way. The limited closures have shown how this can work well and for our family we have really enjoyed using those businesses with

	<p>outdoor seating, in nice weather it makes us feel like we are on holiday and encourages us to visit town, spend money and look in galleries and shops.</p> <p>Towns should concentrate on ways to separate traffic and pedestrians.</p>
<p>(127) As an individual, (Wantage, Charlton Village Road)</p>	<p>Support - I think it is a great idea to keep the pedestrian zone - and would support extending it so the market place is a one way street so the southern section of road and southern half of central zone all pedestrianised and the northern road 2 way and northern 1/2 of central zone for buses and disabled parking. Would make the whole market place much more attractive - a place to stay and browse rather than pop in and out with only 1/2 hour central parking allowed. Currently situation does not encourage small interesting shops. We manage well without central parking on market days. Market could be in the newly fully pedestrianised southern half.</p>
<p>(128) As an individual, (Wantage, Crown Close)</p>	<p>Support - I believe the pedestrian area adds to the town and gives it a much better atmosphere. I would support more of the tow centre being pedestrianised. Obviously parking needs considering, possibly making the Beacon multistorey or official parking in Newbury Street if it was no longer a main route into town . Thanks.</p>
<p>(129) As an individual, (Wantage, Elizabeth Drive)</p>	<p>Support - It's made the centre a more lovely place to visit, child and pedestrian friendly. I would keep the parking in the centre but the west end really works as it is</p>
<p>(130) As an individual, (Wantage, Elm road)</p>	<p>Support - Car free spaces like this are absolutely necessary these days for a public space to be a desirable destination. Wantage needs to improve and needs to make the most of market square.</p>
<p>(131) As an individual, (Wantage, Elm Road)</p>	<p>Support - It will give more pedestrian friendly area which everyone can access, helping businesses to thrive and if theres wantage event, it will make me looking forward to visiting it. It will generally make Wantage more welcoming, so i support this. A brilliant idea!</p>
<p>(132) As an individual, (Wantage, Fyfield Close)</p>	<p>Support - The town centre is small and busy with traffic. Any reduction allowing for pedestrian only zones will make it safer for families with young children and the elderly.</p> <p>I have also enjoyed the outside seating at the cafes in this area/end of town. It's a really nice, relaxing vibe which is great for the community to enjoy.</p>

(133) As an individual, (Wantage, Garston lane)	Support - I feel this would promote and encourage larger footfall in the market square
(134) As an individual, (Wantage, Grove Road)	Support - I am generally in favour of more pedestrian space in town centres
(135) As an individual, (Wantage, Grove St)	Support - *
(136) As an individual, (Wantage, Ham Road)	Support - Strongly support any pedestrianisation of towns. Wantage Market area should be fully pedestrianised as it would make it far safer and attractive. A nice green area with seating and meeting places.
(137) As an individual, (Wantage, Ham Road)	Support - It's great having less traffic and the outdoor seating means the atmosphere in the centre is much improved. I regularly go into the centre for coffee now, and I didn't bother before. I think you should pedestrianise the whole of the market square! It would be so much better!
(138) As an individual, (Wantage, Ham road)	Support - The cafe culture it enables brings Wantage in line with other parts of Oxfordshire and makes me want to spend more time and money in the marketplace
(139) As an individual, (Wantage, Hazel close)	Support - Too many illegally parked vehicles.
(140) As an individual, (Wantage, Highclere Gardens)	Support - Love the continental feel of the west end now. Lots of markets, entertainment and places to eat and drink. It used to feel like a car park but now it has a real buzz. Please keep it free from cars and prioritise the residents who mostly support the pedestrianisation.

(141) As an individual, (Wantage, Highclere Gardens)	Support - The proposals seem sensible. Open to review always a good idea.
(142) As an individual, (Wantage, Hiskins)	Support - I much prefer shopping areas which are pedestrianised, Wantage market Square is small with a lot of vehicles passing through.
(143) As an individual, (wantage, larkdown)	Support - road safety, air and noise pollution improved liveability of the town centre, studies show pedestrian traffic increases with fewer vehicles ... should encourage cyclists too and thereby improve CO2 emissions and climate targets.
(144) As an individual, (Wantage, Larkdown)	Support - It is really important for the vitality of the town to pedestrianise town centres - studies show that more money is spent in town centres that have been pedestrainised - see https://content.tfl.gov.uk/walking-cycling-economic-benefits-summary-pack.pdf in addition the improvement to health is obvious and everything we can do to help decarbonise our environment has to be a good thing.
(145) As an individual, (Wantage, Locks Lane)	Support - Brings business into town (people coming to eat/drink at cafes) The planters with the flowers in improve the appearance of the area, better than bollards Less traffic/pollution Safer for more vulnerable road users ie pedestrians cyclists due to less traffic in surrounding areas It would be good if the parking was better enforced in the affected areas as well as the surrounding roads. I also think you go further with pedestrianisation of the top of the market place on the South side (towards Newbury Street) and make the North side two way, or make the whole of market place pedestrianised once link roads/bypass to the North of the town are built
(146) As an individual, (Wantage, Locks Lane)	Support - It adds a favourable atmosphere to the Market Square and has helped support the businesses in this part of the Market Square
(147) As an individual, (Wantage, Manor Road)	Support - It makes a happy and safe environment. I would like to see more of the market square pedestrianised.

<p>(148) As an individual, (Wantage, Market Place, Wantage)</p>	<p>Support - The pedestrianised area in front of Marmalade and the new bar shortly to open, provides a delightful area with a peaceful ambience for people of all ages, being wheelchair and pushchair friendly, to be seated outside as is popular in Europe. The tourists and locals alike can enjoy the character and atmosphere of Wantage.</p>
<p>(149) As an individual, (Wantage, Market Square)</p>	<p>Support - Its a good idea and will support the businesses get back on their feet by providing more custom after the pandemic</p>
<p>(150) As an individual, (Wantage, Mill Street)</p>	<p>Support - Too many near miss car accidents . And less people parking in a clearly marked no parking zone with it being closed off.</p>
<p>(151) As an individual, (Wantage, Naldertown)</p>	<p>Support - Wantage market place has become so busy with traffic and the bus stops are sometimes difficult to navigate passed with people waiting. It would prove a much nicer and safer area for pedestrians to enjoy the town/shops/cafes</p>
<p>(152) As an individual, (Wantage, Ormond Road)</p>	<p>Support - It provides a safe area to relax and enjoy a coffee etc, along with the variety of entertainment that is provided over the year</p>
<p>(153) Local/County Cllr, (Wantage, Ormond Road)</p>	<p>Support - The pedestrianisation has enhanced the town centre and increased its attractiveness to residents and visitors. It facilitates outdoor cafes and events.</p>
<p>(154) As an individual, (Wantage, Portway)</p>	<p>Support - Provides a quiet place to sit for a coffee or beer and areas for entertainment away from the main square</p>
<p>(155) As an individual, (Wantage, Portway)</p>	<p>Support - The pedestrianised area protects the Wantage high street, and makes the area attractive to locals and supports local businesses. It creates a sought-after recreational space in the town centre, which is well-used by cyclists and pedestrians. It also makes using public transport more attractive, as it extends the waiting area.</p>

<p>(156) As an individual, (Wantage, Priory Road)</p>	<p>Support - Makes a safe environment for al fresco eating and for the bands and various groups who use the area. It is very popular with the residents and visitors to Wantage. It does seem to make more traffic in Priory Road, I think we should have residents parking in Priory Road</p>
<p>(157) As an individual, (Wantage, Roman Way)</p>	<p>Support - Improvement to quality of experience and environment for pedestrians.</p>
<p>(158) As a business, (Wantage, Russell Craggs Lane)</p>	<p>Support - I support the pedestrianisation of the market place in Wantage. There are no need for cars in the centre, as there are car parks close by and sufficient public transport within walking distance. We should be prioritising people over cars, in order to create a thriving, European style pedestrianised centre, where residents and visitors can meet and enjoy hospitality businesses in the market square. This is the future of town centres, and would create much nicer places to meet and create a greater community atmosphere, with important social benefits.</p>
<p>(159) As an individual, (Wantage, Segsbury Road)</p>	<p>Support - I think keeping parts of the town pedestrianised is much safer and will keep traffic more free flowing at moment people are very inconsiderate with parking on paths and pelican crossings in town centre, I even think should possible have two way traffic on one side of square ie left side coming from mill street in square and pedestrianise other side much more efficient.</p>
<p>(160) As an individual, (Wantage, Springfield Road)</p>	<p>Support - I believe it will enhance the the town centre by reducing traffic and increasing public usage and enjoyment of the location: and in doing so increase footfall to local businesses. For example a wider cafe type culture in the square encouraging people linger and shop.</p>
<p>(161) As an individual, (Wantage, St Gabriel's)</p>	<p>Support - This has to be the way forward in encouraging people to use town centres safely. If it were up to me the pedestrianisation would be larger!</p>
<p>(162) As an individual, (Wantage, St Gabriel's)</p>	<p>Support - I live a couple of minutes walk from the market square. I fully support the continued closure of the area to vehicles, and would politely ask that you go further, and make market square single lane and give more space to pedestrians and businesses.</p>

<p>(163) As an individual, (Wantage, Stirlings Road)</p>	<p>Support - The area of traffic free space in the square has been fantastic. The use of the space by community groups, businesses and pedestrians has shown how valuable and much needed this is. Time to extend the scheme to the north side of the square!</p>
<p>(164) As an individual, (Wantage, Stockham Park)</p>	<p>Support - We need to encourage business to the town centre. I believe we need more areas that people can sit, relax and enjoy but we also need more free longer parking to allow people not to be restricted by limited time, when shopping etc</p>
<p>(165) As an individual, (wantage, stockham park)</p>	<p>Support - provide an open area for pedestrian use free from traffic</p>
<p>(166) As an individual, (Wantage, Wallingford street)</p>	<p>Support - It brings a communal feel to the town and a cosmopolitan vibe with all of the tables out in the sunshine. It is always nice to have live music on and would be great to have even more done with the area. Decking, permanent seating, free drinking water fountains etc</p>
<p>(167) As an individual, (Wantage, Warmans Close)</p>	<p>Support - Previously, the whole market place was dominated by motor traffic and the need to accommodate same. This was to the detriment of other users - including pedestrians who had driven there and parked in the market place themselves. I do not believe that the market place should be used for vehicle parking other than: disabled, public transport (bus and taxi), deliveries (possibly with time restrictions) and service vehicles e.g. attending market place premises for the purposes of maintenance and repair. Any moves towards making the MP pedestrian-friendly should be encouraged.</p>
<p>(168) As a business, (Wantage, West End of market Place)</p>	<p>Support - Our business is within the West End pedestrianised area and since the closure we have seen an upturn in footfall. The outside hospitality has added a great feel and atmosphere and allowed potential customers to spend more time to shop rather than race through dodging traffic. We fully support the permanent closure.</p>
<p>(169) As an individual, (Wantage, White Horse Crescent)</p>	<p>Support - A Safer, cleaner & more attractive town centre.</p>

(170) As an individual, (Wantage, Witan Way)	Support - I welcome the opportunity for Wantage to have a more welcoming outdoor cafe culture, less cars/noise/pollution
(171) As an individual, (Wantage, Badgers Drive)	Support - Important to be part of the towns decision making
(172) As an individual, (Wantage, Black Croft)	Support - Any efforts to pedestrianise the centre of the town can only be seen as a positive. Get the cars away from the centre and the chairs and tables out of the bars, restaurants and cafés onto the pavements as happens in many European cities will attract more people into the town and make it pedestrian friendly.
(173) As an individual, (Wantage, Chain Hill)	Support - It's nice to be able to have somewhere to sit
(174) As an individual, (Wantage, Chandlers Close)	Support - The town is much nicer since there was partial pedestrianisation Gives a buzzy feel, is more attractive and good for local business. The taxis it's displaced have managed the move
(175) As an individual, (Wantage, Charlton Road)	Support - It makes the town welcoming and a nice place to sit without buses
(176) As an individual, (Wantage, Charlton Road)	Support - Makes that area of the Market Square very attractive to pedestrians and allows pavement cafes. It encourages social activity there and brings life back to the market square beyond being a through traffic route and big bus stop
(177) As an individual, (Wantage, Charlton Road)	Support - I enjoy the space for coffee shops, seating, music etc.
(178) As an individual, (Wantage, Charlton Village Road)	Support - Great to have a pedestrianised area especially for sitting outside the cafe

<p>(179) As an individual, (Wantage, Fern close)</p>	<p>Support - Creates a nice atmosphere in the town, provides outdoor eating space, reduced unnecessary parking in the centre</p>
<p>(180) As an individual, (Wantage, Larkdown)</p>	<p>Support - The square is too small for the amount of vehicles The pollution levels are too high</p>
<p>(181) As an individual, (Wantage, Limborough Road)</p>	<p>Support - The current arrangement allows for peaceful, safe and attractive social interaction</p>
<p>(182) As an individual, (Wantage, Little lane)</p>	<p>Support - Reducing traffic through the town center</p>
<p>(183) As an individual, (Wantage, Mary shunn way)</p>	<p>Support - I prefer it. I like the outdoor seating it's provided. It's a nice 'vibe'</p>
<p>(184) As an individual, (Wantage, Ogbourne Close)</p>	<p>Support - I think it adds a nice big safe quiet traffic free space at one end of the square to enjoy, either on a seat, at Marmalade or the other two businesses or for kids.</p>
<p>(185) As an individual, (Wantage, Parsonage Close)</p>	<p>Support - I think the pedestrianisation gives the square a greater community feel and encourages socialisation between many different socio-economic groups.</p>
<p>(186) As an individual, (Wantage, Priory Road)</p>	<p>Support - I am supporting this measure because it has been pleasant to have a non-traffic area of town. The little square to sit and not have to worry about traffic and cars has been lovely. The area outside Marmalade is well used, calm and lovely to be free from cars. I know concerns have been raised that this impacts in the extent of disabled parking, but there are disabled bays next to the taxi rank and they are never full. I made a note yesterday to count if any disabled badge holders were parked there and there were none. The most I have ever seen parked there are two. It seems disproportionate to scrap what has been a really lovely area for everyone, disabled and ambled alike, just to allow more parking, when the parking provided seems perfectly adequate.</p>

<p>(187) As an individual, (Wantage, St Gabriel's)</p>	<p>Support - It has been really lovely to have an area of the town that you can sit in without traffic</p>
<p>(188) As an individual, (Wantage, St Mary's)</p>	<p>Support - As I feel it's a good idea since I came to Wantage it's has increased so much with homes being build it needs more structured work on the main roads</p>
<p>(189) As an individual, (Wantage, The Ives)</p>	<p>Support - It has been nice to have a pedestrianised area in the Town, to be able to sit in the cafe and pub area . I don't think the area has had a negative impact on footfall and it is good for everyone's health to reduce traffic in parts of the town.</p>
<p>(190) As an individual, (Wantage, Warmans Close)</p>	<p>Support - I like the idea of more pedestrian friendly areas</p>
<p>(191) As an individual, (Wantage, Witan way)</p>	<p>Support - It's give Market Place a very nice feel. I don't think it has an impact on the traffic. Very nice to be able to be outside to enjoy a drink.</p>
<p>(192) As an individual, (Grove, Easterfield)</p>	<p>No opinion - Doubt I can make any difference to the decision!</p>
<p>(193) As an individual, (Wantage, Manor Road)</p>	<p>No opinion - N/a</p>