

## **Walton Street (Oxford)**

### **Experimental Order - Prohibition Motor Vehicles**

#### **Recommendation**

1. It is recommended:
  - To progress with the implementation and formal consultation of the experimental order

#### **Proposal Summary**

2. An experimental traffic regulation order prohibiting motor vehicle access to Walton Street from Worcester/Beaumont Street, Oxford as shown on the plan at Annex 1.

#### **Statement of Reason**

3. The reason for this action is the creation of a “Low Traffic Neighbourhood” which would bring the following benefits:
  - Improving air quality in the direct area,
  - Reducing traffic congestion in the local area by removing the signalised junction of Walton Street/Worcester Street,
  - Helping to create a safer environment for cyclists and pedestrians within the city, and
  - Reducing “rat running”.

#### **Potential impacts & risks**

4. Potential for Increased traffic on adjacent residential roads as traffic seeks an alternative route.
5. Potential for an increase in the number of vehicles attempting to make a u-turns on arrival at the restriction, which could potentially lead to safety concerns.
6. Impact on the ability of emergency services to reach call-outs.

#### **Preliminary Consultation**

7. In line with requirements, a preliminary consultation was undertaken for the minimum period of 3 weeks with key/statutory stakeholders & a period of 2 weeks for local residents to check if any material concern or objection is raised. The letter sent out to residents is at Annex 2, and the list of key stakeholders consulted at Annex 3.
8. The council received 493 individual\* (see point 9 below) responses in total which, and in summary;
  - 310 (63%) in support,
  - 160 (32%) objections, and
  - 23 non-objections or raising concerns (5%).
9. A petition was also received, signed by 65 residents of Walton Street (who may have also contributed separately to the consultation) registering their support for the decision to close Walton Street to through traffic, shown in the additional document; Annex 5

10. The main points/issues raised by the key stakeholders/groups are as follows:

Stakeholder	View	Key Points
Thames Valley Police	Object	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Emergency response times,</li> <li>* Alternative Diversions much longer.</li> </ul>
Fire & Rescue Service	Concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Emergency response times,</li> <li>* Additional traffic on diverted routes,</li> <li>* Allow for temporary removal if required.</li> </ul>
Oxford City Cllr (Carfax Ward)	Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Positive feedback from local residents,</li> <li>* Review the impacts on streets between Walton Street/Kingston Road &amp; Woodstock Road.</li> </ul>
Worcester College	Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Pedestrian crossing needs to be reinstated,</li> <li>* Barrier needs to be safe for cyclists,</li> <li>* Allow for temporary removal if required.</li> </ul>
Cycling UK	Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Will reduce motor vehicle traffic,</li> <li>* Improve conditions for walking &amp; cycling,</li> <li>* Improve air quality,</li> <li>* Good trial of 'Low Traffic Neighbourhood'.</li> </ul>
Cyclox	Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Improve conditions for walking &amp; cycling,</li> <li>* Improve air quality,</li> <li>* Good for local business.</li> </ul>
Oxford Pedestrian Assoc	Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Improved for pedestrians,</li> <li>* Reduced traffic travels at slower speeds,</li> <li>* Potential for increased traffic on side roads.</li> </ul>
Low Carbon Oxford	Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Reduce carbon emissions,</li> <li>* Improve air quality,</li> <li>* Reduce traffic congestion in area,</li> <li>* Improve conditions for walking &amp; cycling,</li> <li>* Reduce 'rat-running'.</li> </ul>
OXTRAG	No Objection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Needs of residents need to be considered,</li> <li>* Allow for temporary removal if required (i.e. St Giles Fair).</li> </ul>
Bus Users Oxford	Concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Restore some through traffic to Walton Street (i.e. 'PickMeUp', taxis &amp; private hire vehicles)</li> </ul>

11. The full consultation responses received are shown in the additional document;  
[Annex 4](#)

*Report by Paul Fermer, Assistant Director*

# ANNEX 1 – Plan of proposals



**OXFORDSHIRE  
COUNTY COUNCIL**

Walton Street - Proposed Prohibition of Motor Vehicles

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SCALE	1 : 1000
DATE	20/09/2019
DRAWING No.	
DRAWN BY	



**Reference:** WS/ETRO/PCONSULT

**Communities  
County Hall  
New Road  
Oxford  
OX1 1ND**

The Resident/Occupier

**Owen Jenkins  
Director for Community  
Operations**

**12 August 2019**

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Experimental Low Traffic Neighbourhood, Walton Street (Oxford)**

We are writing to seek your initial views on a proposed experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) to restrict access to Walton Street from Worcester/Beaumont Street, Oxford (see attached plan).

To assist the authority in deciding whether or not to undertake the experimental closure, we are carrying out a short two week 'yes' or 'no' consultation supplemented with any short comments to explain why. The consultation will close on **18<sup>th</sup> October 2019**.

If a decision is made to proceed with the trial, then this would commence in November and be in place for up to 18 months. The first 6 months would then form part of a formal consultation period.

The trial closure will be closely monitored and any comments/complaints that are received will be given due consideration with a view to deciding whether any amendments are required to what has been put in place and if the experiment should become permanent.

Access by motor vehicles to and from all premises in the Jericho and Walton Manor areas to the north of Beaumont Street and west of Woodstock Road would be via the side roads on the west side of Woodstock Road. As part of the process, the pedestrian crossing on Worcester Street will be reinstated. Parking for residents will be permitted in line with the existing pre closure arrangements.

The county council sees this trial as having the key benefits of:

- Improving air quality in the direct area
- Reducing traffic congestion in the local area by removing the signalised junction of Walton Street/Worcester Street

- Helping to create a safer environment for cyclists and pedestrians within the city
- Reducing “rat running”

If you have any objections or comments concerning these proposals, please complete the short online questionnaire available at the following link:

<https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk> or by emailing your response to:

[christian.mauz@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:christian.mauz@oxfordshire.gov.uk) or in writing (quoting ref:

WS/ETRO/PCONSULT) to the postal address listed above.

The two-week consultation process will run from **Friday 4 October 2019 to 1600 on Friday 18 October 2019**. If there are no significant objections and the Cabinet Member for Environment agrees to proceed with the process, the county council will seek to register the ETRO and the Experimental Order will come into force on **1 November 2019**.

Yours faithfully

Sean Rooney

Service Lead Highway Operations

[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk)

### ***ANNEX 3 – Consultee list***

#### **‘Statutory’ Email sent to:**

Thames Valley Police  
South Central Ambulance Service  
Fire and Rescue Service  
Road Hauliers Association  
Freight Transport Association

Cllr Yvonne Constance  
Cllr John Sanders  
Cllr Susanna Pressel  
(various) Oxfordshire County Council Officers

Oxford City Direct Services  
Oxford City Council Planning  
(various) Oxford City Council Officers  
Cllr Pressel  
Cllr Hollingsworth

Thames Travel Bus Company  
Oxford bus Company  
Stage Coach Bus Company  
City of Oxford Licensed Taxicab Association

Worcester College  
Exeter College  
Faculty of Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics

Various Cycling & Pedestrian organisations & user-groups  
Oxford Civic Society  
Oxford Preservation Trust

#### **Letter delivered to:**

200 residential & commercial properties in the immediate vicinity.