

STAINES HIGH STREET PEDESTRIAN ZONE

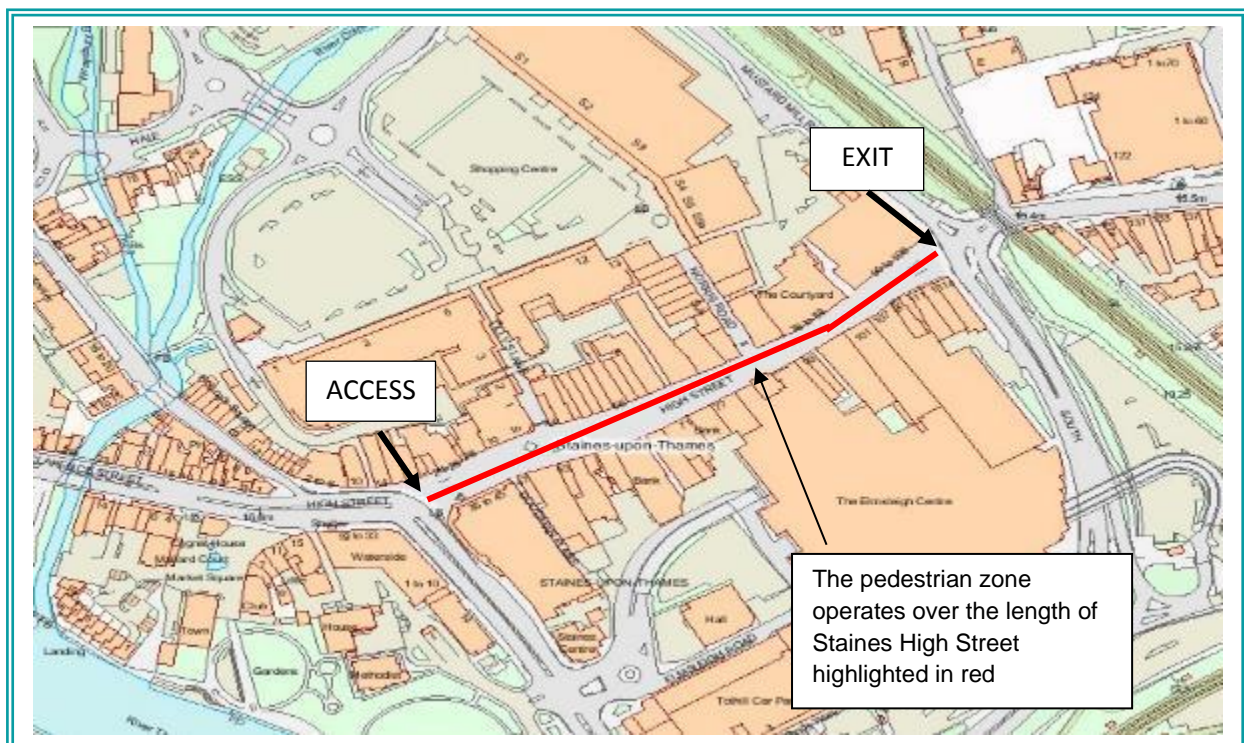


Background

The section of Staines High Street between its junctions with Thames Street and South Street is currently restricted to pedestrians only. All vehicles are prohibited from travelling along this section of the High Street. This includes ridden pedal cycles (although cyclists may dismount and push their cycles). However, there are a number of exemptions to the restriction including:

- Enable Emergency service vehicles on operational duty.
- To comply with the requirements if a Police Officer in uniform
- To enable a vehicle to be used in pursuance of statutory powers or duties
- Businesses or residents that has been issued a permit by Spelthorne Borough Council
- To enable a vehicle to operate in association with cash and bullion deliveries to banks and building societies in the High Street
- Deliveries are permitted from 5pm to 09.30am Monday to Saturday and all-day Sunday

Up until 2015, the restrictions were enforced by a system of Automated Rising Bollards at either end of the High Street. However, for the past 6 years the bollards have not been in operation due to being damaged beyond economical repair. Although the existing Traffic Regulation Order restricting all vehicles on the High Street is still in place, as there are no physical restriction measures (bollards) vehicles can not only access the High Street from the western end (Thames Street) but also from the eastern end against the one-way system, 24 hours a day.



Issues/Problems

- Regular complaints about vehicles illegally accessing the High Street during the restricted hours despite road markings and signs at either end.
- The existing permit system is outdated, and no longer viable due to not having controlled access measures in place
- Reports of vehicles entering from the eastern end against the one-way system
- The High Street is legally a pedestrian zone, (with exemptions) but without control over vehicle access, pedestrian safety is at risk.
- Several businesses have outside seating in the daytime and evenings, so there is a desire to minimise access to the High Street as much as possible during the day and evenings.

Working Together to find a solution

In 2019, a Staines High Street Pedestrian Zone Workshop was held between SCC officers, Borough and local County Councillors from the Joint Committee for Spelthorne, representatives from the Staines-Upon Thames Business Improvement District, and Two Rivers Shopping Centre.

The workshop's objectives were to establish if funding could be secured to replace the faulty bollards, what existing conditions under the traffic regulation order would need to be reviewed and updated to reflect the current needs of the businesses within the High Street.

IDENTIFIED NEW NEEDS TO BE CONSIDERED

- Access for deliveries to the front of several businesses will be required
- Number of residential accommodations above shops/businesses has increased – access requirements will need to be reviewed.
- Minimise access to the High Street to accommodate the increased numbers of businesses with outside seating areas in the daytime and evenings.
- Vehicles associated with the weekly market will require access during operation times – 4.00am – 8.30pm.
- Access for overnight deliveries is preferable to enable the High Street to be as free as possible from traffic when it is busiest with pedestrians.
- As part of the Spelthorne Sustainable Transport Package (an area wide package of walking, cycling and bus improvements) allow cycling in the High Street in both directions at all times of the day.

SUGGESTED OPERATIONAL EXEMPTIONS– TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER

No access for any vehicle at any time, with the following exceptions:

- collections and deliveries of cash,
- emergency services

- vehicles needed for road maintenance or utility works,
- vehicles directed by a police officer in uniform
- vehicles associated with the market(s) between 4am and 8.30pm on market days, vehicles for which permission has been given in writing by either Spelthorne Borough Council or Surrey County Council (this would be used to cover vehicles needed for building maintenance and special events)
- Cyclists

Access for general deliveries overnight at the following times:

- 8pm Sunday to 7am Monday
- 7pm Monday to 7am Tuesday
- 7pm Tuesday to 6am Wednesday
- 8pm Wednesday to 7am Thursday
- 7pm Thursday to 6am Friday
- 8pm Friday to 6am Saturday
- 8pm Saturday to 6am Sunday

Access Control Options

OPTION 1; AUTOMATED RISING BOLLARD SYSTEM

- An Automated Rising Bollard system (default in the raised position)
2 bollards to be installed to control access to the High Street (Thames Street)
2 bollards to be installed at the exit to the High Street (South Street) again defaulting in the raised position, to prevent motorists entering from the wrong end
- By means of CCTV, Elmsleigh Centre security staff can determine whether a vehicle presenting at the entrance to the High Street had legitimate access according to the operational exemptions detailed above.

Estimated Total Costs: £110,000 including fees for TRO amendments and a 5-year Maintenance and Service Contract with ATG Access.

OPTION 2; AUTOMATED NUMBER PLATE RECOGNITION (ANPR) SYSTEM

- ANPR operated rising bollards would enable drivers to access and exit the bollards automatically.

Estimated Total Costs: £140,000 including TRO fees and a 5-year Maintenance and Service Contract with ATG Access.

What happens next

- Funding to be secured
- Project Plan with agreed timescales and milestones
- Detailed Design
- Public Consultation

Similar schemes – Egham High Street

Like Staines, there is a section of Egham High Street which is restricted to pedestrians only. Prior to 2007, the restriction was enforced by gates at the start of the pedestrian zone. However, the gate was not locked. As such, they could easily be opened allowing the restrictions subject to significant abuse.

Following a public consultation, The Local Committee for Runnymede funded and introduced a Rising Bollard System to control access to vehicles along the High Street. In this instance, vehicles exempt from the restrictions, were issued with fobs to gain access. Intercom links to CCTV security who can remotely operate the bollards ensured vehicles with legitimate access without a fob were granted access.

Photos of Completed Project



Entry point for vehicles on Egham High Street



Exit point for vehicles on Egham High Street



This page is intentionally left blank