

Bridge Road Business Consultation
Proposed part time pedestrian zone scheme

The consultation ran between 19th March – 30th April 2021.

43 letters and emails in total were sent to the businesses of Bridge Road.

There were 10 responses, which equates to **23%**.

60% voted NO.

40% voted YES.

	Comments from respondents opposed
	<p>Our busiest trading days are Fridays and Saturdays. If the roads were closed for the weekend, this would impact on our trade dramatically.</p> <p>Many of our customers travel to us in cars and therefore, with no parking in the vicinity we could potentially lose a high percentage of turnover.</p>
	<p>Any closure of Bridge Road would cause hardship to many of the shops in this road.</p> <p>A lot of customers and families come by car and It has to be accepted that people are going to use their cars for years to come as a convenient and safer form of transport than public services.</p> <p>The closure of Bridge Road would deprive this section of at least 60 parking spaces and, since there is a 3 hour waiting limit, that amounts to a minimum of 180 daily parking slots and considerably more as not all stay the 3 hours.</p> <p>The proposed closure and the loss of parking would have a detrimental effect on the footfall of Bridgr Road to say nothing of the inconvenience caused by the increased traffic and parking in Palace, Wolsey and Arnison Roads. The residents of these roads need to be properly consulted before any decision is made.</p>
	<p>A pedestrian zone for this section of the road would generate un-necessary traffic/parking problems in the local area even if you had it for just one weekend of the year. where do you plan for these folk to park?</p> <p>and there is a natural turning issue at the end of Palace Road at the junction with Bridge Road - who would be responsible/manage that particularly since it will be a pop-up situation?</p> <p>This street is full of SMALL independent shops that would NOT like additional foot traffic of people touching and feeling the goods particularly in the current climate of social distancing and required sanitation still being needed as a result of COVID19 which would mean they would probably close and we can currently ill afford to be looking at reduced income ;-</p> <p>Outside who would be responsible for the additional garbage and cleaning that would be needed after the general public left the area. Even if there were sufficient bins in place - which currently there are not the public are NOT socially responsible where litter is concerned AND we have two pubs in that section -whose clients already leave unwanted bottles and glasses littering the street and shopfront areas.</p>

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	Concern is that there would be a lack of parking for passing trade, particularly on rainy days/winter months.... people/customers just would not walk to collect or purchase from the shops on the road.
	On average 70 cars park on that part of the road or in Prince of wales carpark every 3 hours Where will these vehicles park already weekends palace rd is full of cars parked upto the church If you close the road cars will not get in or out of prince of wales carpark also unless you make palace road one way they will have to u turn at junction of bridge and palace road causing more congestion As running a business here for 14 years i cannot see any advantage in closing the road it will put people off from coming in the are because of parking problems

Comments from respondents in favour	
	Consideration is needed with regard to the number of cycles that would need to be 'parked', given that the number is very high at weekends, often blocking the way for pedestrians. Also, cyclists need to be prevented from cycling on pavements.
	Being a local shop owner My primary concern to any road closure is the availability of parking for my customers. I'm more in favour of an evening only road closure for alfresco dining which wouldn't negatively impact on shopkeepers and other non hospitality businesses. On a side note. This is the first I've heard of this. I wasn't contacted for the initial consultation and didn't receive any correspondence.
	Avoiding Hampton Court Flower Show weekend! Concerns around how cars and lorries (which do come down Palace Road, even at weekends!) will be able to turn round at the bottom of Palace Road while Bridge Road is closed. Concerns around unloading/deliveries for shops will be affected - e.g. butchers, florist, and we do get deliveries on Saturdays. Will barriers are left up overnight and concerns for parking permits spaces taking up all the spaces so none left for customers. I did say in the original consultation that this should be done in conjunction with the consultation about general parking in Palace and Wolesey Roads (single yellow lines down whole roads active for 1 hour during the day (like the current ones 10-11am)) to reduce long term parking and enable customers to all the shops to be able to park especially as this proposal will take away approximately 25 spaces which may mean customers stay away and the area declines.

Of the 10 responses;

- 1 voted for the August Bank Holiday
- 3 voted for Friday- Sunday weekend during the summer of 2021
- 6 had **No Opinion**