

REPORT

ANNUAL ROAD CLOSURE ORDER – BLUE BOAR ROW – FOR THE ‘SWITCH ON’ OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

1. Purpose of report

To seek the Committee's agreement to permanently delegate authority for the annual closure of Blue Boar Row (see below for details of the Council's authority relating to Road Closure Orders) to the Head of Forward Planning and Transportation.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Council has power under section 21 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 to make an Order to close a road.
- 2.2 The Council closes Blue Boar Row annually for the formal 'switch on' of the Christmas lights. (This year, the 'switch on' is taking place on Thursday 20 November and the Closure Order will exist for the period 1830hrs to 2000hrs).
- 2.3 The 'switch on' of the Christmas lights is a well known and popular event and, following consultation in previous years, Wiltshire Constabulary have advised that the road must be closed for the safety of the crowd attending.
- 2.4 In view of the fact this is an annual event it appears sensible for the power to authorise the closure to be delegated to the appropriate Service Unit Head; the Head of Forward Planning and Transportation.

3. Procedure

- 3.1 The co-ordination of the event is delegated to City Centre Management and overseen by the Council's Marketing, Economic Development and Tourism Unit.
- 3.2 Wiltshire Constabulary and Wiltshire County Council (as the Highway Authority) are consulted as their consent is required for the closure. The consent of the Constabulary is conditional that all barriers and signs are removed at the close of the event and that adequate public liability insurance is in place. Both conditions are to be (have been, in the case of the insurance cover) complied with.
- 3.3 The Wilts & Dorset Bus Company are also consulted as they run bus services along Blue Boar Row.
- 3.4 The closure has been, and will be until any delegation of the procedure is agreed, authorised by the City Area Committee, frequently by using the special delegation procedure.
- 3.5 The road closure order is drafted by Legal & Property Services.
- 3.6 The order is advertised in the Salisbury Journal and/or in publicity material advertising the event.
- 3.7 The display of any necessary signs is arranged in consultation with Wiltshire County Council.

4. **Recommendations**

The Committee is recommended to approve that (owing to the implementation of the Road Closure Order being an annual procedure for a non-controversial event) the Head of Forward Planning and Transportation be delegated to authorise the closure of Blue Boar Row for the annual 'switch on' of the Christmas lights on an ongoing basis.

[Note: the Head of Forward Planning and Transportation has been consulted and is content to receive delegated authority to implement the annual road closure.]

5. **Background Papers**

None

6. **Implications**

Financial: There are no proposals in the report which are not covered by existing budgets

Legal: Dealt with above

Human Rights: None

Personnel: None

Community Safety: None

Environmental implications: None

Council's core values: Excellent service

Wards affected: St Edmunds and St Martins