

APPENDIX 3

	Comments	Officer Response
<b>General Comments</b>		
1	<p>I own a couple of properties on wicker hill and at times the traffic is ridiculous and it is dangerous/ impossible to safely get across the road. I have had 2 tenants run over (1 spending 3 months in hospital) with serious injuries. I think a pedestrian crossing is badly needed to help with this.</p> <p>The amount of traffic that flows down wicker hill is amazing it is a major route through Trowbridge. The sash windows rattle every time a lorry goes past and the black dust from exhausts cover the windows within a few days of being washed. "The parade" is supposed to be the pride of Trowbridge but heavy traffic is damaging it. This area should be pedestrianised / restricted. Traffic could go down Back Street and turn left by old library if that little bit was made 2 way. This would cut out Manvers Street and wicker hill.</p> <p>Would the changes you outlined prevent tradesmen from parking outside?</p>	<p>The original bid proposal for Trowbridge Future High Streets sought to remove traffic from Fore street and Wicker Hill, however the scope of this project has altered. Given the complexity of delivery within the funding timescales, the two-way traffic aspect has been deferred and the Council is proposing to focus instead on improving the pedestrian arrival points and access to the town centre. This is not to say that a scheme similar to the original cannot be considered at a later date.</p> <p>The current proposal retains the route for through traffic but allows the opportunity for this heritage area of the town centre to become a gateway for visitors and a vibrant commercial street. This will be achieved through improving the route for pedestrians, with wider footways, improved crossing points and better bus stop provision.</p> <p>Whilst the proposal does not remove through traffic, changes to Manvers Street, Wicker Hill and Fore Street may bring about some behavioural change from motorists seeking alternative routes to avoid using these streets as a through route, delivering some of the benefits requested by the correspondent.</p> <p>The proposed parking restrictions will retain time limited parking on Fore Street and Wicker Hill as well as loading bay provision. Tradespersons will be able to park in accordance with the restrictions. Where appropriate, a tradesman waiver may be requested from Wiltshire Council to allow longer durations of parking in restricted areas. More information on this can be found at <a href="#">Parking permits - Wiltshire Council</a></p> <p>An amendment to the advertised TROs is being proposed which seeks to replace the existing taxi bay with additional time limited parking, increasing the parking offer on Wicker Hill. This will be subject to further legal consultation.</p>

APPENDIX 3

2	<p>I rarely see pedestrians using Wicker Hill extensively, so would query the need for widening the pavement. In order to bring more footfall to the town, a priority should be getting the empty retail premises occupied. I think that improving pedestrian access to an area with a lot of unused shops is somewhat putting the cart before the horse.</p>	<p>The intention of the scheme is to improve the pedestrian environment and overall public realm to make Manvers Street, Fore Street and Wicker Hill more attractive to shoppers, both as a destination and as a route into the town centre.</p> <p>In addition to the public realm enhancements, Wiltshire Council launched the Vacant Commercial Units Fund. This was a discretionary grants scheme offering funding to businesses and organisations to bring vacant commercial units back into use, open to applications between September 2022 and July 2023. This has supported the refurbishment of vacant commercial units to encourage independent businesses and start-ups and the conversion of upper floors of commercial premises, creating additional residential accommodation.</p>
3	<p>I am writing in my capacity as the joint Owner and Director of the Grade 1 Listed Georgian <b>Parade House</b> at 70 Fore Street Trowbridge, as well as being a member of the Trowbridge Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee and a Director of the Trowbridge Heritage Trust.</p> <p><b>Parade House</b> is one of the most iconic landmarks in Trowbridge, a beautiful Grade 1 Listed Georgian townhouse which we recently restored and saved from dereliction. It operates as a luxury Wedding and Events Venue, with a bar and cinema in the historic vaults, and recently won the council's <b>Trowbridge Town Enhancement Award</b>, and has been featured on TV including <b>BBC Antiques Road Trip</b>. We often host both Trowbridge Council and Wiltshire Council meetings, receptions and events. Our events and weddings will be seriously affected by the planned works: <a href="http://www.paradehousetrowbridge.co.uk">http://www.paradehousetrowbridge.co.uk</a></p> <p><b>I have several important comments to make about traffic</b></p>	<p>The original bid proposal for Trowbridge Future High Streets sought to remove traffic from Fore Street and Wicker Hill, however the scope of this project has altered. Given the complexity of delivery within the funding timescales, the two-way traffic aspect has been deferred and the Council is proposing to focus instead on improving the pedestrian arrival points and access to the town centre. This is not to say that a scheme similar to the original cannot be considered at a later date.</p> <p>The current proposal retains the route for through traffic but allows the opportunity for this heritage area of the town centre to become a gateway for visitors and a vibrant commercial street. This will be achieved through improving the route for pedestrians, with wider footways, improved crossing points and better bus stop provision.</p> <p>Whilst the proposal does not remove through traffic, changes to Manvers Street, Wicker Hill and Fore Street may bring about some behavioural change from motorists seeking alternative routes to avoid using these streets as a through route.</p>

## APPENDIX 3

<p><b>in Fore Street which I expect you to take into consideration:</b></p> <p><b>1. Problem:</b> The existing Traffic in Fore Street is <b>unacceptable</b>. There is a consistent stream of <b>polluting fast cars, huge trucks</b> and racing motorbikes which <b>accelerate</b> as they turn the corner from Manvers Street into Fore Street, making it <b>a danger to pedestrians</b> to attempt to cross the road. I myself have almost been run over several times.</p> <p><b>Solution:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- A 20MPH Speed limit through the Trowbridge Town Centre</li><li>- Banning Lorries from the Town Centre unless delivering during reduced and limited fixed hours only</li><li>- Banning cars and lorries at Weekends from entering Fore Street</li><li>- Clear black and white zebra crossing at the junction of Market Place to Fore Street and another at the Wicker Hill end (not red colour as doesn't fit in with heritage buildings).</li></ul> <p><b>2. Problem:</b> Fore Street/ Wicker Hill is Trowbridge's an important asset as it is the town's <b>most complete heritage road</b> consisting of a complete run of <b>Grade 1 and Grade 2 listed buildings</b>. However, the volume of traffic has had a detrimental affect on the foundations of the buildings and the unique historic character of the street. At Parade House alone, built in 1720, the stone wall frontage is crumbling at an alarming rate, with chunks of pollution blackened stone cracking from the rumblings of lorries and falling onto the Grade 1 Listed pitched pavement - the oldest in Wiltshire.</p> <p><b>3. Fact:</b> Fore Street/Wicker Hill <b>is the primary pedestrian route</b> from Trowbridge train station to the centre of town, and will be the primary route for <b>tourists</b> as Trowbridge regenerates. There is little point in widening the pavement for</p>	<p>A 20mph speed limit across the town centre is not included as part of the Trowbridge Future High Streets Fund project but may be considered for future introduction.</p> <p>The proposal includes the provision of informal crossing points through Manvers Street, Fore Street and Wicker Hill to help pedestrians cross safely.</p> <p>A Zebra crossing is already in place to connect the pedestrianised area of Fore Street (referred to in comments as Market Place) and the area of Fore Street open to vehicular traffic.</p> <p>Events such as the proposed antiques market may require temporary road closures and as such organisers of such events are encouraged to read the guidance found here <a href="#">Introduction - Wiltshire Council</a>.</p>
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**APPENDIX 3**

	<p>pedestrians if the traffic is consistent. A narrower road means <b>backed up cars and lorries, belching out fumes</b>. At present nobody wants to walk this route to breathe in these fumes, nor will the future tourists want to.</p> <p>In addition, an exciting new weekend antiques market is being considered in Fore Street, which will not be able to function with the current levels of traffic.</p> <p><b>Solution:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Create a Clean Air Zone in the centre of Trowbridge</li> <li>- Ban cars and lorries at Weekends from entering Fore Street to allow for clean air pedestrian access, and thereby improve the limited trade in this heritage street. This will also connect both the pedestrianised upper Fore street (Market Place) with lower Fore Street.</li> <li>- Ban lorries from Fore Street as there are enough roundabouts and ring roads in Trowbridge. Most of these vehicles are only travelling through the centre as a means to reach another town destination.</li> </ul> <p>I hope you will take these points into consideration and I am happy to be contacted or offer a site visit to <b>Parade House</b>.</p>	
4	<p>I'm a Trowbridge resident and I am a car driver but I try to walk and use public transport whenever possible, particularly within Trowbridge itself where I regularly shop and where I try to support local businesses. It would be wonderful to experience less noise and pollution from cars in Trowbridge. For this reason, I would like traffic to be moved away from the area of Wicker Hill, Fore Street and Manvers Street. I would be very grateful if you would take my views into consideration during this consultation.</p>	<p>Whilst the proposal does not remove through traffic, changes to Manvers Street, Wicker Hill and Fore Street may bring about some behavioural change from motorists seeking alternative routes to avoid using these streets as a through route.</p>

APPENDIX 3

5	<p>On behalf of Trowbridge Chamber CIC I would like to express disappointment that the proposed changes to the roads and pavements at Manvers Street and Wicker Hill will not noticeably improve traffic flow, traffic calming or pedestrian safety.</p> <p>This one way road is choked with queuing traffic for much of the day, caused by slow traffic at the roundabout and crossing at Bythesea Road. When traffic is moving at 30mph it is very difficult for pedestrians to cross the road at any points. The Chamber has been made aware of several serious accidents, especially near the corner where vehicles turn (often at speed) from Manvers Street into Fore Street. Zebra crossings are needed so that pedestrians can reach their homes and businesses safely, but none of these are included in the proposals.</p> <p>Outside the busy periods, and throughout the night, Manvers Street, Fore Street and Wicker Hill have less traffic, but instead there is excessive speeding by many cars which use these roads. Traffic calming is needed at these times, either speed bumps, signs or speed cameras for the sake of any pedestrians, residents and businesses.</p> <p>Over the next few months many new businesses and households will be created in the town centre, with 36 new households on the one way system where Castle Street turns into Fore Street. The Chamber had hoped that the road system would be adapted to support the enjoyment and safety of town centre residents and visitors by moving fast one-way traffic away from Fore St/Wicker Hill. This would have allowed pedestrians and cyclists to travel from the station into town.</p>	<p>An interrogation of the Police database shows one recorded personal injury collision in the 3year period preceding this report. This collision occurred on Fore Street close to Lloyds Bank and resulted in the slight injury of a pedestrian. The causation factors listed by the Police were failure to look properly and failure to judge vehicle speed attributed to the pedestrian.</p> <p>Given the complexity of delivery within the funding timescales, the two-way traffic aspect and removal of through traffic from this area has been deferred and the Council is proposing to focus instead on improving the pedestrian arrival points and access to the town centre. This is not to say that scheme cannot be implemented at a later date.</p> <p>Whilst the proposal does not remove through traffic, changes to Manvers Street, Wicker Hill and Fore Street may bring about some behavioural change from motorists seeking alternative routes to avoid using these streets as a through route.</p> <p>The proposal includes the provision of informal crossing points through Manvers Street, Fore Street and Wicker Hill to help pedestrians cross safely.</p>
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**APPENDIX 3**

<b>Objections</b>	
6	<p>As owner of a property on Fore Street near the junction of Fore St and Manvers St I very much oppose these changes as not going far enough to solve the existing traffic congestion, speeding, heavy good vehicles and pedestrian dangers.</p> <p>The proposed changes do not calm traffic, which reaches dangerous speeds at times, and at other times queues right along the street when there are delays on Stallard Street. If traffic cannot be moved from Wicker Hill, as the original FHSF bid proposed, then as well as wider pavements I would want to see:</p> <p>1/ a speed limit of 20mph with enforcement needs to be introduced, 2/ enforcement to stop businesses and residents leaving bins and boxes on the narrow pavements, 3/ pedestrian crossings placed on Manvers St and Fore St/Wicker Hill so that pedestrians can cross safely.</p> <p>In addition consideration needs to be given to cyclists entering the town centre from the station. A cyclist contraflow as proposed for the future would be unworkable, and in fact disastrous, unless traffic is moved away from Wicker Hill.</p>
	<p>The original bid proposal for Trowbridge Future High Streets sought to remove traffic from Fore street and Wicker Hill, however the scope of this project has altered. Given the complexity of delivery within the funding timescales, the two-way traffic aspect has been deferred and the council is proposing to focus instead on improving the pedestrian arrival points and access to the town centre. This is not to say that a scheme similar to the original cannot be considered at a later date.</p> <p>The current proposal retains the route for through traffic but allows the opportunity for this heritage area of the town centre to become a gateway for visitors and a vibrant commercial street. This will be achieved through improving the route for pedestrians, with wider footways, improved crossing points and better bus stop provision.</p> <p>Whilst the proposal does not remove through traffic, changes to Manvers Street, Wicker Hill and Fore Street may bring about some behavioural change from motorists seeking alternative routes to avoid using these streets as a through route, delivering some of the benefits requested by the correspondent.</p> <p>A 20mph speed limit across the town centre is not included as part of the Trowbridge Future High Streets Fund project but may be considered for future introduction.</p> <p>Contact will be made with business and residents to remind them of the requirement to keep the footways free of obstruction. Failure to do so may lead to action by our enforcement team. Widening of the footways will also help to alleviate this problem.</p> <p>The proposal includes the provision of informal crossing points through Manvers Street, Fore Street and Wicker Hill to help pedestrians cross safely.</p>

APPENDIX 3

		<p>Cyclists will be encouraged to use an improved on carriageway facility on Stallard Street and Hill Street then on to Back Street when accessing the town centre from the station. This reduces the interaction between cycles and motorists. A contraflow cycle facility cannot be accommodated on Wicker Hill and Fore Street.</p>
7	<p>The proposed changes to traffic on Fore Street and Wicker Hill will make an impossible situation even worse. Widening of the pavements on the southern side of the road will further narrow what is already one of the busiest thoroughfares in the town.</p> <p>Far from benefitting the businesses situated along Wicker Hill and Fore Street, these changes will actually make them even harder to access. Drivers currently use this road like a racetrack, speeding up as they round the corner from Manvers Street. This already makes it virtually impossible for vehicles to access the private parking areas along The Parade on the northern side of the road and prevents pedestrians from crossing easily.</p> <p>Instead, proper crossing points - either zebra crossings or traffic lights - should be installed at the corner of Manvers Street and Wicker Hill to slow traffic, allow pedestrians easy access to both sides of the street, and allow vehicles from the properties at 70 to 74 Fore Street to use their parking areas safely.</p> <p>Furthermore, the addition of no waiting and no stopping zones will prevent businesses along Wicker Hill from receiving deliveries, thereby reducing our commercial viability.</p> <p>Unauthorised drivers already attempt to use our private parking spaces without permission, forcing us to install parking barriers which we must move manually when we ourselves wish to park on our private property. The no waiting and no</p>	<p>Whilst the proposal does not remove through traffic, changes to Manvers Street, Wicker Hill and Fore Street may bring about some behavioural change from motorists seeking alternative routes to avoid using these streets as a through route.</p> <p>The proposal includes the provision of informal crossing points through Manvers Street, Fore Street and Wicker Hill to help pedestrians cross safely.</p> <p>The proposed changes to Fore Street and Wicker Hill include the provision of a marked pedestrian route, using specialist surfacing to complement the grade 1 listed pitched pavement, between the carriageway and the private parking area. This will clearly demarcate the area as separate to the carriageway and allow improved access/egress to the parking as well as the improved pedestrian facility.</p> <p>The proposed restrictions do not prevent those accessing the private parking from stopping to relocate barriers, etc. This action will still be permitted without penalty.</p> <p>An amended proposal for waiting restrictions to increase the provision of time restricted parking is to be taken forward subject to legal advertisement. This includes additional loading bay provision.</p> <p>Given the complexity of delivery within the funding timescales, the two-way traffic aspect and removal of through traffic from this area has been deferred and the Council is proposing to focus instead on improving the pedestrian arrival points and access to the town</p>

**APPENDIX 3**

	<p>stopping rules threaten to penalise us for stopping to access our own land.</p> <p>Wicker Hill's "stretch of palaces" as Pevsner's Guide to Wiltshire calls them are together the finest collection of buildings in Trowbridge. They comprises no fewer than 22 listed properties - and five Grade I or II* properties - in the space of just a few hundred metres. These buildings should be preserved and protected from traffic.</p> <p>The original plan to remove traffic from Fore Street and Wicker Hill should be reinstated.</p>	<p>centre. This is not to say that scheme cannot be considered at a later date.</p>
8	<p>Further to the reference we wish to have recorded our very strong objections to this proposal.</p> <p>The monies from central government were given to Councils from the High Street Regeneration Fund and should be used solely for this purpose. They should be used to encourage new businesses to open, to reactivate closed premises/shops and to provide some preferential business rates to allow new retail ventures to get a good start in life. This would encourage visitors to the County town and result in economic benefits. These funds were not given to repair and redesign pavements and parking arrangements and it seems that this misuse of public monies are merely someones vanity project.</p> <p>This whole affair should be subject to a rigorous audit by an independent body.</p> <p>We seek confirmation that our objections have been lodged and formally recorded.</p>	<p>The Future High Streets Fund is a central government programme aimed at renewing and reshaping town centres and high streets in a way that drives growth, improves the experience for everyone visiting the town centre, and ensures a sustainable future.</p> <p>In 2021 Wiltshire Council was awarded <b>£16,347,056</b> to develop a range of projects in Trowbridge.</p> <p>The funding was provided to deliver the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town Hall Refurbishment</li> <li>• Pedestrian improvements within the town centre</li> <li>• Wayfinding and public space enhancements</li> <li>• Improvements to the River Biss</li> <li>• Vacant Commercial Units Fund</li> </ul> <p>All of the above projects align with the Trowbridge Masterplan 2014.</p> <p>More information can be found here: <a href="#">Future High Streets Fund Trowbridge - Wiltshire Council</a></p>



**APPENDIX 3**

9	<p>I am concerned about the proposed parking restrictions on Fore Street / Wicker Hill. There is certainly a need for no waiting on the section outside Town &amp; Country and Sportsbug, but on a daily basis I am forced to park on the double yellow lines further down to unload for my shop in 55/56 Fore Street – this is already a distance of 100 meters away (see photo). Please can the scale of the no waiting be reduced slightly (retention of some double yellows) so unloading can take place outside of Kingstons and Carter Harding or some unloading bays be provided? Van and lorries often have to circle the Town to wait for a couple of loading bays to be available or double park (see photo).</p>	<p>An amended proposal has been developed to include an additional loading bay. This is to be taken forward subject to legal advertisement.</p>
<b>Support</b>		
10	<p>I wanted to let you know that I very much approve of the proposals to improve the pedestrian access on Wicker Hill and Manvers Street in Trowbridge.</p> <p>My daughter is a full time wheelchair user and it is currently difficult pushing her up and down Wicket Hill. It is very narrow and uneven. It is also very difficult to cross the road there whilst attending Barnardos club. Manvers Street is also narrow and can be busy when people are waiting for buses.</p> <p>I welcome all improvements that make it easier to push my daughter around the town.</p>	<p>Your comments of support are noted.</p>
11	<p>I fully support this decision for quite a few reasons. My husband is blind and easy navigation of public routes is vital for myself and my husband. I make my main points below.</p> <p>Manvers Street</p> <p>As regular users of the buses, the bus stop in Manvers Street is a particular issue. The bus shelter itself is in a dreadful state</p>	<p>Your comments of support are noted.</p>

### APPENDIX 3

of disrepair, broken windows and extremely dirty with rubbish on the floor. There is hardly any shelter if it rains. The bus stop itself is a complete nightmare for any disabled person (and non disabled.) The queue waiting for the bus gets mixed up with people on foot walking by, some with pushchairs and mobility scooters, this is particularly difficult when boarding the bus itself. There is very little standing space by the bus stop and on the odd occasion when we have been standing there, a street cleaning vehicle has showered the waiting people with dust, this is not really very nice for obvious reasons. If you have to stand back to let people pass by, you then have to stand on the stones by Manvers House in order to make room, it's not a smooth surface at all and not suitable for standing passengers.

#### Wicker Hill

Going down the hill towards the station, on the left hand side, this path is so uneven it is positively dangerous, even for a sighted person. All sorts of obstacles, drain covers, patched surfaces plus the shop at the bottom which has goods outside, making it even more narrow for two people to walk side by side as we have to do. My husband has no sight whatsoever so any hazards are difficult to navigate. The work that has been done widening the pavements on Church St is a vast improvement and has improved the whole 'look' of that area, really well done for that!

I have read numerous complaints about how much all this work is costing, I can assure you that for any visually impaired person, or disabled in any form, will welcome all these improvements. The 'complainants' have no idea what it is like to be met with uneven surfaces, obstacles and narrow paths. It is extremely difficult at times, and even for myself having to guide my husband through these problems. I think any

**APPENDIX 3**

	<p>improvements to the walkways is a huge bonus for everyone, and in summing up, I would like to say that we are very grateful for these changes. My husband and I will look forward to the future enhancements that are planned.</p>	
12	<p>I welcome the proposals to improve pedestrian access to the town centre from the station and from Sainsbury's. Currently Manvers Street is horrible to walk down, the bus stop is in the wrong place and the volume of traffic makes on Wicker Hill means it is not pleasant to walk down. I would like to see further restrictions on traffic flow down these roads, possibly restricting use to buses and taxis. The proposal to widen the pavements will not improve things and lead to standing traffic, increasing pollution.</p> <p>I would like to see some of the funding used to build a pedestrian footbridge from Asda to the Shires Gateway. The pedestrian crossings impede flow of traffic leading to long queues around Holy Trinity Roundabout every working day. This adds to pollution and makes walking into town past lines of stationary cars very unpleasant.</p> <p>Thank you for securing this funding and you efforts to improve the town centre.</p>	<p>Your comments of support are noted.</p> <p>Whilst the proposal does not remove through traffic, changes to Manvers Street, Wicker Hill and Fore Street may bring about some behavioural change from motorists seeking alternative routes to avoid using these streets as a through route.</p> <p>The original bid proposal for Trowbridge Future High Streets sought to remove traffic from Fore Street and Wicker Hill, however the scope of this project has altered. Given the complexity of delivery within the funding timescales, the two-way traffic aspect has been deferred and the Council is proposing to focus instead on improving the pedestrian arrival points and access to the town centre. This is not to say that a scheme similar to the original cannot be considered at a later date.</p>