

## **Pedestrianisation FAQs**

### **Why has the decision been taken to pedestrianise the town centre?**

Centre Government has advised local authorities to take the necessary steps to ensure that town centre road layouts enable social distancing where this is possible.

The temporary order in Newbury is intended to help town centre businesses and shoppers to comply with social distancing guidance as it will make additional floorspace available for queuing outside of shops and businesses who choose to re-open. It will also help those who are accessing the town centre on foot or by bike to do so safely.

Further information about the Government guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safer-public-places-urban-centres-and-green-spaces-covid-19>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reallocating-road-space-in-response-to-covid-19-statutory-guidance-for-local-authorities/traffic-management-act-2004-network-management-in-response-to-covid-19>

### **When does the pedestrianisation come into force?**

The order comes into force on 1<sup>st</sup> June.

### **Is it permanent?**

No. This is a temporary measure until September while the town centre reopens to assist with social distancing measures, encourage active travel and allow maintenance works to be undertaken in Newbury town centre.

### **Which parts of town are affected?**

The temporary traffic order will see the north end of Bartholomew Street, Northbrook Street and the Market Square closed to traffic for 24 hours a day until further notice.

### **My town centre business receives deliveries by vehicle. How can I arrange this?**

Businesses can arrange this by emailing [trafficandroadsafety@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:trafficandroadsafety@westberks.gov.uk). The team will ensure these requests are accommodated.

### **I have a Blue Badge. Will I be able to drive through the town centre?**

Unfortunately it will not be possible to allow individual access for blue badge holders. Blue badge spaces are available in all Council Car Parks and there are a number of on street spaces available close to the pedestrianised area.

### **My customers drive past my businesses to collect goods. How can they do this now?**

Parking and waiting outside town centre businesses is contrary to traffic regulations so should not be used as an option for customers of town centre businesses. There is a list of free or very low cost parking options for those wishing to collect goods from town centre businesses, which can be found here:

[https://citizen.westberks.gov.uk/media/48872/Your-Questions-Answered-Car-Parking/pdf/Parking\\_FAQs\\_03062020.pdf?m=637267789633330000](https://citizen.westberks.gov.uk/media/48872/Your-Questions-Answered-Car-Parking/pdf/Parking_FAQs_03062020.pdf?m=637267789633330000)

**I own a hospitality business. Am I now allowed to provide additional outdoor seating?**

Officers will be working with the Newbury BID to ascertain what demand, if any, there is for additional seating in the town centre. We will seek to accommodate requests where necessary although social distancing guidance and road safety must be our primary consideration. Please contact [trafficandroadsafety@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:trafficandroadsafety@westberks.gov.uk) to discuss your request.