



Hertford Town Centre Recovery Trial

08 April 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

Traffic access and parking restrictions were introduced in Hertford Town Centre (Fore Street and Parliament Square) in 2020 to support social distancing in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. This change has created opportunities for the local economy through outdoor dining, trading and events and a more attractive and healthier environment for people to enjoy.

Hertfordshire County Council and East Herts District Council are working in partnership to progress a trial by way of an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO). The Authority considers that an experimental scheme of traffic control is required, to evaluate the effectiveness of the introduction of a new Restricted Parking Zone and vehicular movement controls in Hertford Town Centre.

The proposed experimental measures will include –

1. An **Experimental Restricted Parking Zone Order**, trialling No Waiting or loading at any time, except as signed in marked bays, effecting Fore Street, Parliament Square, Market Place, Market Street and Railway Street.
2. An **Experimental Prohibition of Motor Vehicles Order**, trialling a No motor vehicles restriction at all times and days, effecting Fore Street. Exemptions will apply in respect of Emergency Services and Maintenance.

The general purpose of the trial, is to enable the Authority to ascertain and evaluate the effectiveness of new restrictions in reducing the number of vehicle movements in Hertford Town Centre, providing support and improved environment for users (noise, air quality, amenity) and making the street safer and more conducive to walking and cycling.

1. Manage parking in the town centre area including measures to prevent vehicle parking to achieve the above stated goals.
2. Prioritise provision of parking space to Disabled Persons and for the purposes of Loading.
3. Through the addition of a no waiting/no loading restricted zone, preventing vehicles waiting or loading from the road outside of specified bays, which would encumber the passage of other road users.

4. Prohibit the use of motor vehicles in the area of Parliament Square and western part of Fore Street to allow safe use of the space by pedestrians.

The purpose of this letter is to raise awareness of the Authority's intention to introduce experimental restrictions and provide you with an opportunity to comment on the proposed experiment.

Following this period of consultation, a decision will be taken by the Authority, as to whether or not to proceed with the experimental Orders. If a decision is taken to proceed with the experimental Orders, a statutory notice will be published in the Herts Mercury at least 7 days prior to the Order coming into effect. It is anticipated that if the experiment goes ahead, this will likely commence in mid - late May 2022 and may remain in effect for up to 18 months. During this 18-month period, the Authority will evaluate the experimental measures and will be considering whether to subsequently make the restrictions permanent. For the first 6 months of the experiment, there will be an opportunity to object to the Orders becoming permanent and details will be set out in the Public Notice of Making.

If you would like to comment on the proposal to introduce an Experimental Traffic Order, please contact us at highstreetrecovery@hertfordshire.gov.uk by 01 May 2022.

Information about the trial and engagement and consultation will be available from the start of the trial at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/highstreetrecovery

Yours sincerely

High Street Recovery Project Team

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