



Environment & Transport  
Hertfordshire County Council  
CHN204  
County Hall  
Pegs Lane  
Hertford, Herts SG13 8DF  
[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk)

Tel: 0300 123 4040  
Email: [highstreetrecovery@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:highstreetrecovery@hertfordshire.gov.uk)  
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## Rickmansworth High Street Recovery Trial update

Dear Sir/Madam

Traffic access and parking restrictions were introduced in Rickmansworth Town High Street in 2020 to support social distancing in response to COVID-19. This change created opportunities for the local economy and a more attractive and healthier space for people to enjoy, contributing to a cleaner, greener, healthier Hertfordshire.

Hertfordshire County Council and Three Rivers District Council are working in partnership to continue the measures in the High Street as a trial through an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order.

In August, we wrote to local residents seeking comments on this proposal. As we found through public engagement in 2021, there is a mix of views for and against continuing the trial, but no significant highway access or safety issues were raised that would affect us introducing the proposed Experimental Order. Some amendments have been made to the proposal based on the feedback we received.

We have decided to introduce the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order with minor amendments, which will continue the trial for a minimum 6 months. New signage will be put in place to implement the restrictions and communicate to road users. Existing gates on the High Street will remain in place and closure times are not changing.

The measures include –

- An **Experimental Pedestrian and Cycle Zone Order**, trialling a Prohibition of Motor Vehicles restriction, Monday – Friday 10am – 6pm, and Saturday 10am – Monday 6am along High Street. Exemptions will apply in respect of Emergency Services, Markets, Maintenance and Permit Holders.
- An **Experimental Restricted Parking Zone Order**, trialling No Waiting or Loading at any time, except as signed in marked bays, along High Street,

between its junction with Northway/Church Street including Station Road to its junction with Northway.

Continuing the trial will allow us to evaluate the effectiveness of the measures in place and continue consultation with residents and businesses about the High Street.

Information about the trial and engagement and consultation will be available from 1 March at [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/highstreetrecovery](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/highstreetrecovery)

### **What happens next?**

- The Experimental Traffic Regulation Order is being prepared to come into effect 6 March 2023
- A statutory notice will be published in the Watford Observer at least 7 days prior to the Order coming into effect.
- 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.
- The trial is planned to last a minimum of 6 months but may legally continue for up to 18 months.

We will consider the consultation feedback and effectiveness of the scheme before deciding with Local Councillors whether to make the restrictions permanent.

Yours sincerely

High Street Recovery Project Team

[highstreetrecovery@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:highstreetrecovery@hertfordshire.gov.uk)