

Appendix 2

Widegate Street

Equality Impact Assessment for the prohibition of motor traffic between 11.30am and 9pm every day.

Introduction

Widegate Street - traffic access restrictions between 11.30 - 9pm are proposed to enable greater public amenity, walking and allow more tables and chairs licences on the pavement.

Widegate Street is a 'local access' street, one way and narrow, with no off-street vehicle access to any premises. The street is approximately 100 metres long. The occupants of the street at ground level are a mix of retail and hospitality and services, such as dentists, with some residential flats above.

DfT allowed greater flexibility to local authorities to permit pavement licences for tables and chairs in 2020, which is currently applicable to September 2022.

This Equality Impact Assessment is to provide information on the impact of introducing the traffic restrictions prohibiting motor vehicles.

Impact on those with Protected Characteristics.

The test of relevance identified that the proposal will have a **negative** impact on:

- Age
- Disability
- Pregnancy and maternity

Elderly will be negatively impacted if they cannot walk 50 metres from closest drop off point in Middlesex Street or Sandy's Row. Additionally need to ensure street furniture does not impede movement.

Disabled people will be negatively impacted if they cannot walk 50 metres from closest drop off point in Middlesex Street or Sandy's Row. Additionally need to ensure street furniture and tables and chairs do not impede movement.

Pregnant women/parents with buggies will negatively impacted if they cannot walk 50 metres from closest drop off point in Middlesex Street or Sandy's Row. Additionally need to ensure street furniture does not impede movement.

Mitigation proposed:

Ensure that central route through Widegate Street is not blocked by tables and chairs or other furniture. A width of approximately 2.5 metres will be kept clear. This allows usual passage for walking, for wheelchair users and people pushing children in buggies, along the street.

Anyone needing to directly access premises because they are unable to walk more than 50 metres, from Sandy's Row or Middlesex Street could arrange for drop off to the door by taxi / driver in essential circumstances. The recommended action is to ensure the occupants of premises know this, and communicate with taxi drivers that this is permitted.

Positive Impacts:

The test of relevance identified that the proposal will have a positive impact on:

- Age
- Disability
- Pregnancy and maternity

Elderly will be positively impacted because the removal of traffic will improve the level of comfort walking in the street (on the assumption that elderly are more likely to be slower moving, and possibly with some disability).

Disabled will be positively impacted because the removal of traffic will improve the level of comfort walking in the street (on the assumption that some disabled are more likely to be slower moving); ..

Pregnant women/parents with buggies will be positively impacted because the removal of traffic will improve the level of comfort walking in the street (on the assumption that more likely to be slower moving);

Impact on Local Premises

When the restrictions for prohibition of traffic between 11.30am and 9pm were introduced in 2021, all occupants were contacted, or received a letter drop. All those who were spoken to directly said that deliveries before 11.30am were acceptable, or would be easy to manage from the nearest delivery point.

Anyone needing to directly access premises because they are unable to walk more than 50 metres, could arrange for drop off to the door by taxi / driver in exceptional circumstances.

It is recommended that all occupants are consulted again in 2022, to consider the impact of the proposal again, should any changes to occupancy or patterns of use be relevant.

Samantha Tharme

June 2021;

and reviewed January 2022.