

ITEM: CYCLING IN PEASCOD STREET

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1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 Cycling is currently prohibited in all sections of Peascod Street in Windsor town centre. However, there is an ongoing problem with illegal cycling activity, with cyclists routinely ignoring the traffic regulation orders and associated signs.**
- 1.2 This report sets out a number of options for future cycling access to Peascod Street and the cycle parking that is currently located around the Peascod Street / William Street junction.**

2. Supporting Information**Background**

- 2.1** Peascod Street is one of the main shopping streets in Windsor Town Centre, attracting significant pedestrian flows. It is also a venue for a number of minor visitor events throughout the year. The street is subject to several traffic regulation orders, which restrict access for various categories of vehicle, including cyclists. The restrictions covering each section are described below.
- 2.2 High Street to William Street** - Cycling and general vehicular access is prohibited at all times on this section of Peascod Street. However, motor vehicles (up to 18 tonnes gross vehicle weight) are permitted access between 6.00am and 10:00am and between 5:00pm and 8.00pm for loading and unloading. Any person can also apply for a permit to enter this section of road in a vehicle for purposes specified in the permit and subject to reasonable conditions as the Borough Council may impose. A pedestrian zone sign and no cycling sign have been erected at the top end. No entry signs have been erected at the William Street end, reinforced with supplementary prohibition of cycling signs.
- 2.3 Oxford Road East to William Street** - Cycling and general vehicular access is prohibited at all times on this section, including Oxford Road East itself where access is controlled by a rising bollard supported by appropriate signing. Again, access for motor vehicles (up to 18 tonnes gross vehicle weight) is permitted between 6.00am and 10.00am and between 5.00pm and 8.00pm for loading and unloading. Any person can also apply for a permit to enter this section of road for purposes specified in the permit and subject to reasonable conditions as the Borough Council may impose. , There is a pedestrian zone sign and a prohibition of cycling sign at the Oxford Road East entry, and no entry signs prevent vehicular access (including cycles) from William Street at a point just beyond the post office access.

- 2.4 **Victoria Street to Oxford Road East** – This section is fully pedestrianised, with vehicular access from Victoria Street for emergencies only. Access is controlled by lockable bollards, augmented by no-cycling signs. Vehicular access from Oxford Road East is prevented by a restaurant's seating area enclosed by guardrailing, again with no-cycling signs.
- 2.5 It should be noted that there are several areas of cycle parking within Peascod Street, including several Sheffield stands at the corner of Peascod Street and William Street and some additional Sheffield stands in Peascod Street just inside the no entry restriction at the bottom of the hill. A number of parties have pointed out that it is not possible to legally access the cycle parking by bike and several cyclists have been stopped and fined by Thames Valley Police for cycling to and from the cycle parking. This arrangement is counter-intuitive and suggests that either the traffic regulation orders or the location of the cycle parking should be changed to make it easier for people to comply with the traffic regulation orders. Three options are proposed below:
- 2.6 **Option 1:** Permit access for cyclists from Oxford Road East through to William Street at all times. This would allow cyclists to legitimately ride their bikes to the existing cycle parking sites, although they would still technically have to dismount to access the stands to the east of William Street. They would also still have to abide by the no entry restriction on William Street itself.
- 2.7 **Option 2:** Permit access for cyclists from Oxford Road East through to William Street only during hours when motor vehicles are allowed access for loading or unloading (i.e. between 6.00am and 10.00am and between 5.00pm and 8.00). This would provide limited access to the existing cycle parking, but would not cater for a significant number of cycling trips made in the middle of the day.
- 2.8 **Option 3:** Relocate the existing cycle parking, for example to a new build-out on William Street in the vicinity of the Nationwide Building Society. This would enable cyclists approaching from the south to access the cycle parking via William Street, without entering the areas affected by the traffic regulation orders. It should be noted that there is another area of cycle parking at the Charles Street / Oxford Road East junction, which would cater for cyclists coming from the west.
- 2.9 It should be noted that any options would have to be subject to appropriate consultation and safety audit.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 **It is recommended that the Cycle Forum consider the options presented above and any other options raised at the meeting and agree which (if any) should be investigated further.**