

## Windsor Town Centre update report for Windsor Town Forum – March 2022

Whilst footfall remained strong in the town centres throughout Christmas and into the new year, as predicted the town centre saw a number of stores close down in the town centre. Most notably White Stuff and Schuh both of whom have recently undertaken company restructuring resulting in multiple shop units closing across the country. Despite this there we are expecting to see a number of new brands and units repurposed in the town.

### Platinum Jubilee

One of the key programmes of work this year will be the delivery of an extensive programme of events and activities to celebrate HM The Queen 70<sup>th</sup> year. Starting on the 6<sup>th</sup> February themed events will take place and will provide an unrivalled opportunity for communities as well as the country to come together and celebrate not only in Windsor but across the Royal Borough. Outline event and activities include the following.

Events		
21 Gun Salute	Long Walk	21-Apr
Royal Windsor Horse Show – Gallop through History	Home Park Private	11 - 15 May
Windsor Platinum Jubilee Schools' Week	Various	23 - 27 May
Ox Roast – Bachelors Acre	Bachelors Acre	2-Jun
Beacon Lighting and Fireworks	Long Walk	2-Jun
Eton Street Party	Eton High Street	4- Jun
Jubilee Picnic in the Park and Classic Car Show	Long Walk	04-Jun
Windsor's Big Lunch – the longest picnic table	Long Walk	05-Jun
The Royal Windsor Rose and Horticultural Society Summer Show	York Club - Windsor Great Park	11-Jun
Dedworth Picnic in the Park	Dedworth Rec	9 – Jul
En Plein Air - Windsor Castle	Windsor Castle	30-Jul
Bandstand Live	Alexandra Gardens	June - Sept
UK Town Criers Competition	Grass Moat - Windsor Castle	20-Aug
Projects		
Queens Green Canopy	On going	Jan-22
Platinum Jubilee Drinking fountain	TBC	Nov-22
Windsor and Eton Face Lift Project	Windsor and Eton Town Centre	TBC
Heritage Garden Project	Church Street	01-Jun
Museum – display on Elizabethan Age and History of Ox Roast	Guildhall	On going
Library - 70 photographs for 70 years	Guildhall	On going
Commemorative Plaque	Guildhall	TBC
Hanging Garden Scheme (hanging Baskets)	Various	May 2022

A special committee has been established to bring together and deliver a number of the events outlined above. A large number of these and others planned by other organisations can be viewed on [www.windsorplatinumjubilee.co.uk](http://www.windsorplatinumjubilee.co.uk).

### Hello lamppost – Windsor

As of Sunday 13th February, there have been a total of 8,260 interactions, 2,522 conversations with 1,593 unique users. Over the past month, there has been a total of 423 interactions, 143

conversations with 94 unique users.

### Review of Businesses in Clewer, Dedworth and Ascot

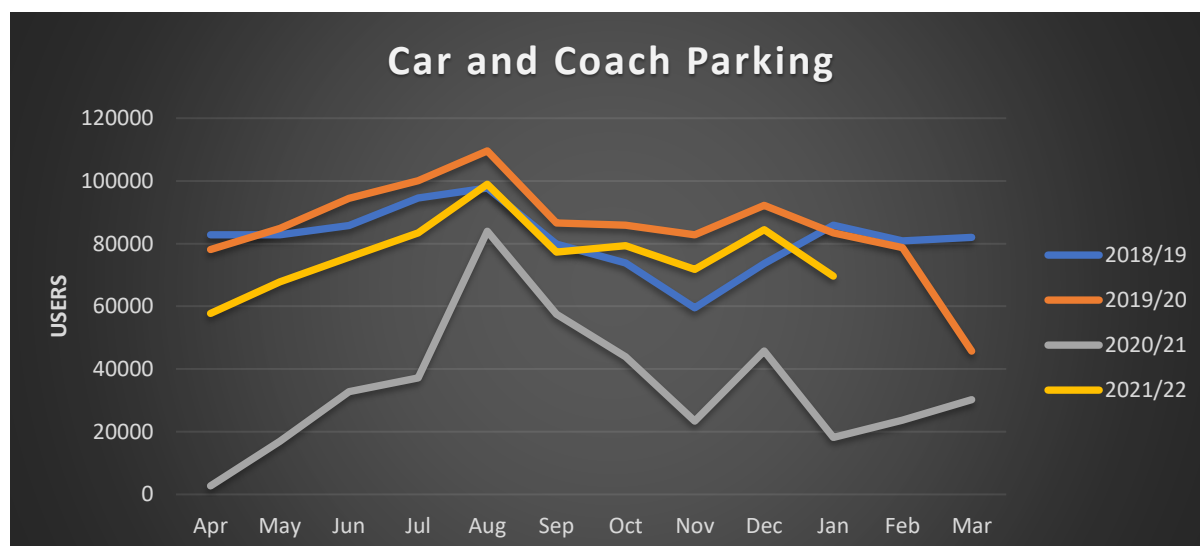
Business trading remains good with business retention still high compared to other parts of the Royal Borough. Clewer and Dedworth occupancy levels remain high at 85%. The recent opening of Aldi has not yet seen any significant effects on other businesses in the area, but this will have to be monitored.

Ascot High Street similar to Clewer and Dedworth has retained good business unit retention and very few empty units (92% occupancy)

Compared to the national average Ascot, Dedworth and Clewer are operating well above those levels in other parts of the country. National vacancy rates fell slightly last month to 14.4%.

### Town centre health

#### Car Parking up to January 2022

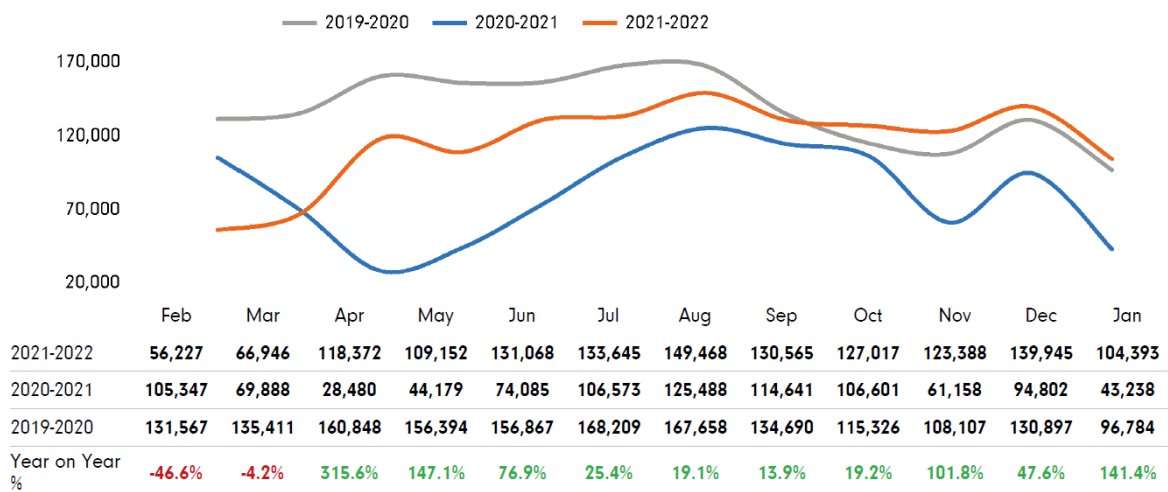


Car parking between December and January continued to decrease. Anecdotal information received from businesses indicates customers feel that parking in the town centre is still too expensive and the quality and amount of parking is poor. Coach parking has continued to significantly underperform due to international travel not yet returning to the UK.

## Footfall – January 2022

### Footfall - rolling 12 months

The figures shown below are calculated using weekly averages.



### Headline information on footfall - January 2022

- The total number of visitors for the year to date is 417,575 which is 141.4% up on the previous year.
- The total number of visitors to Windsor Town Centre External in month commencing 3 January 2022 was 417,575.
- The busiest day in month commencing 3 January 2022 was Saturday 29 January with 24,445 visitors.
- The peak hour of the month was 15:00 on Monday 3 January 2022 with footfall of 3,636.

### Vacancy Rates

	Dec	Jan	Feb
Current vacancy	<b>10.48%</b>	<b>11.56%</b>	<b>11.56%</b>
*Expected Vacancy	<b>13.07</b>	<b>15.86%</b>	<b>16.40%</b>
**National Average	<b>**</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>14.4</b>

\*this includes businesses that have/or are known to be in danger of closing.

\*\* Data provided by British Retail Consortium/Local Data Company

As reported at the January Town Forum the vacancy rate has increased as a number of businesses coming out of Christmas and New Years sales are not able to sustain their businesses beyond February and March. We may see more businesses leave the town centre before the end of March. Work is being done with local Agents to understand the current view on future lets in the town centre and what more can be done to support this.

### Recently opened Businesses

Bovington's Est Agent

### Units Under development

Five Guys

Estetica

Ole Steen

Mama Mia

**Recently Closed**

Rush

White Stuff

Schuh

**Paul Roach**

**Windsor, Eton and Ascot Town Manager**