



Experimental Closure of part of Black Bourton Road



Background

This is a special edition of the Town Crier to let people know that the Town Council has made a formal request to Oxfordshire County Council for an experimental closure of part of Black Bourton Road to last for a minimum of 6 months. It is expected that the order will be put in place in October this year.

Originally West Oxfordshire District Council's Local Plan showed proposals to pedestrianise the crossroads end of both Black Bourton Road and Alvescot Road, along with the creation of an inner relief road to the south west to take the diverted traffic. Following a recent Inspector's Report, the district council has removed the proposal for the relief road but has left the proposals for pedestrianisation '*as far as is practicable together with measures to improve Wycombe Way for use by diverted traffic*'. A public consultation was held on Carterton town centre last summer and the general view was that it was not feasible to pedestrianise Alvescot Road, but there was some merit in closing the north end of Black Bourton Road to traffic. Both the Town Council and CFF Partnership support this view. Oxfordshire County Council Highways Department were approached informally and have suggested an 'experimental closure' to gauge the effects. This proposal forms part of the work to develop the south east part of Carterton town centre with more shops and facilities and the pedestrian area would make a natural link between the new shops and the Co-op superstore. In addition it could provide a new site for the market stall holders if needed.

The Proposal

An experimental closure would operate for a minimum of 6 months, after which the county council would review the situation taking account of local views and those of statutory bodies such as the local councils and police. At that stage the order might be made permanent, be abandoned or be amended.

The area in question runs from the crossroads up to the mini roundabout serving the Co-op and Somerfield car parks, leaving the service area behind Somerfield to the west and the entrance to the Co-op to the east accessible from the south. Alvescot, Burford and Brize Norton Roads will not be affected (see map overleaf for details).

In addition, in order to minimise the impact on the surrounding road network, we will be seeking a traffic weight restriction (7.49 tons) to prevent heavy vehicles going along Milestone and Corbett Roads. The County Council will oversee the erection of all the necessary signs in the town to warn everyone about the closure. The signs will direct traffic along Upavon Way and Wycombe Way.

The Pedestrian Area

Details have yet to be agreed on the layout, and since it would be for an experimental period no major work would be undertaken. However steps will be taken to make the area attractive for pedestrians and the market stalls may be located in the area on Thursdays. For the six-month period it is likely that planters will be used to close off the road with drop down bollards to allow emergency use. Cycles and pedestrians will still be able to use the area.

Consultation

Discussions have taken place with the store managers of both Somerfield and Co-op and neither see any problems with deliveries to their stores. Individual shopkeepers along the road are being approached. Anyone wishing to discuss these proposals further should contact Catherine Chater or Janet Eustace at the Town Hall, Alvescot Road, Carterton, OX18 3JL. Telephone 01993 842156, Email cchater@carterton-tc.gov.uk, jeustace@carterton-tc.gov.uk

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