



Sustainable Development Panel 4 September 2007

Abbeygate Street Barriers

Summary

This report is to inform the Sustainable Development Panel of the outcome of consultation on the proposed traffic barriers in Abbeygate Street, Bury St Edmunds.

The recommendations are to proceed with the detailed design, manufacture and installation of the barriers.

1. Background

- 1.1 Abbeygate Street, Bury St Edmunds is closed to traffic during all or part of most days. To deter unauthorised access, a form of physical barrier is required. It is proposed to install hinged barriers at the junction of Abbeygate Street and The Buttermarket and use rising bollards at the other closure points, at the junctions of High Baxter Street and Lower Baxter Street.
- 1.2 On 12 June 2007, the Sustainable Development Panel approved for consultation, a proposed barrier design (Report Y53 refers). A number of local bodies, the emergency services and businesses in Abbeygate Street were approached for their views. The barrier design and questionnaire distributed are attached as Appendices A and B.

2. Outcome of Consultation

- 2.1 In all, 25 questionnaires were distributed and 13 responses have been received. The responses given to each question are outlined in Appendix C. The installation of a barrier at the proposed location is widely supported, as is the continued use of rising bollards at the other closure locations.
- 2.2 With regard to the barrier design, two respondents raised concerns about the aesthetics of the design, the Bury Society making the most adverse comments; they have requested the design be referred to English Heritage for their views. The emergency services raised concerns about access to the street during the hours of closure; however it should be noted that the previous closure methods did not provide access during the hours of closure and no point in Abbeygate Street is more than 30m from an accessible location.
- 2.3 Concerns were raised about the potential visual impact and the perception that the street might be closed to pedestrians as well. There were also concerns that the barriers might impede flow along the street. The overwhelming flows into this part of Abbeygate Street are along the footways and these would not be impeded by the barrier design. On market days, when the flow is more widely spread across

the street, and the street is closed at the junction with Whiting Street, there will be no requirement to close the barriers.

- 2.4 The Police, in particular, have asked that we ensure the barriers are visible. This issue will be taken into account in the detailed design stage.

3. The Way Forward

- 3.1 In view of the overall support for the concept and design, it is proposed to proceed with a detailed design based upon the preliminary one. A locking mechanism will also be devised to prevent tampering, whilst providing the necessary levels of access. Detailed discussions will be undertaken with the emergency service to address their access concerns.
- 3.2 The suggestion of referring the design to English Heritage is not considered necessary. The council employs its own specialist conservation staff who have been involved in the development of the design and English Heritage would expect this to be dealt with at a local level, their interest being in more substantial alterations.
- 3.3 The rising bollards in use at the other closure points have been vulnerable to vehicle strikes. It is proposed to relocate these bollards and adjacent fixed bollards to reduce this vulnerability.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 The estimated manufacturing and installation cost of the barrier is £3,700, which can be funded from existing capital resources. The work to the rising bollards can also be funded from budgets for street furniture.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 The Sustainable Development Panel are requested to **RECOMMEND** that:-
- (1) The detailed design be agreed with the Portfolio Holders for Environment and Street Scene and Transport and Planning before fabrication is commissioned;
 - (2) Barriers be installed at the junction of Abbeygate Street, Bury St Edmunds and The Buttermarket, Bury St Edmunds, based upon the design shown at Appendix A to the Report Y185; and
 - (3) Rising bollards be used to control access at the other closure points in Abbeygate Street, Bury St Edmunds.

For further information, please contact:-

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APPENDIX A

Abbeygate Street – proposed barriers

Proposed barriers at junction with Buttermarket

Are you in favour of installing barriers at this location? Yes No

Are you generally in favour of the proposed barrier design? Yes No

Do you have any comments on the proposed design?

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Are you in favour of retaining rising bollards at the other closure points (Hatter Street and Angel Lane)?

Yes No

If your answer is no, are there any comments you would like to make?

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Do you have any other comments you would like to make?

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Name

Address

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Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire

Abbeygate Street – Proposed Barrier Questionnaire

Results: July 2007

Number of questionnaires delivered: 25

Number of replies: 13 (52%)

1) Are you in favour of installing barriers at this location?

Yes 10
No 3
Not stated 0

2) Are you generally in favour of the proposed barrier design?

Yes 8
No 4
Not stated 1

3) Are you in favour of retaining rising bollards at the other closure points (Hatter Street and Angel Lane)?

Yes 12
No 1
Not stated 0