



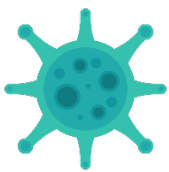
Local Sustainable Transport response to Covid-19: Proposals for DENBIGH

Covid-19 response proposals for Denbigh town centre

Introduction:

The aim of this document is to explain some of the temporary changes we are proposing to make in order to help Denbigh town centre recover from the impact of the Covid-19 (coronavirus) pandemic. This also includes details of how you can share your views regarding these proposed changes.

Background to the scheme



In March 2020, Welsh Government imposed a number of restrictions across Wales in response to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, including wide-scale closures of retail premises which effectively closed entire town centres. From 22nd June 2020 the Welsh Government allowed many businesses to begin to resume trading, however the threat of Covid-19 hasn't gone away and we understand that this ongoing threat continues to have a negative impact on our communities, especially our town centres.

Many businesses are required to work or operate in a different way in response to Covid-19. One of the biggest changes is the requirement for social distancing, as set out in the Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (Wales) Regulations 2020 (as amended). Additionally, there is a requirement from Welsh Government to encourage and promote active travel (such as walking or cycling) as part of the ongoing response to the pandemic.



Understanding local concerns

To understand how businesses and residents/visitors in Denbighshire feel as communities begin to look for a 'new normal' the council launched a survey on 21st June to ask people for their thoughts. To date, over 130 responses have been received from businesses and local residents. Although people generally feel safe in town centres (with 78% of local business respondents and 80% of local residents saying they were either satisfied or very satisfied with how safe their town centre feels), nearly half of respondents who left a comment expressed concerns

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about the width of pavements and over 60% expressed concerns about social distancing. 80% of residents said they were visiting town centres to carry out essential tasks only, and 65% of businesses said they felt quieter than usual. The survey is ongoing and will track people's opinions over the next few months however these early responses indicate that there is a need to do more to support communities back into their local town centres.

Responding to local concerns

In response to these types of concerns, and also in recognition that more of us have been walking and cycling more through lockdown; the Welsh Government has made a grant available to fund measures that address some of the concerns raised by communities in Denbighshire (and likely elsewhere in Wales) such as the temporary widening of pavements. Denbighshire County Council has been successful in securing funding for introducing such measures in some of our towns including Denbigh.

The proposals for Denbigh

We are proposing to introduce a one-way system from Vale Street, by the junction with Station Road with one-way traffic flowing southbound (up the hill) to Bridge Street and the Lenten Pool bus interchange.

This means that northbound (downhill) traffic will instead be required to use Barker's Well Lane and Grove Road. We will also be introducing a 20mph limit on some other streets such as Park Street and Beacon's Hill and Grove Road in case traffic increases on these roads.

The introduction of this temporary one-way system will allow us to:

- Widen pavements in areas where they are narrow
- Re-locate Denbigh's market from Hall Square to the High Street
- Support some pubs, cafes and restaurants on Vale Street and High Street to create outside seating areas for their customers
- Encourage and support commuters and residents to choose active travel (walking or cycling) as their main means of getting around town

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The principle of what are we doing in Denbigh.

Denbigh is an historic market town, and many of the pavements are narrow. At the moment, it is not possible to maintain social distancing on these narrow pavements without stepping into oncoming traffic – which presents an unacceptable hazard for both road users and pedestrians. This is something a number of residents have already expressed concerns about. The options to rectify this are limited as existing roads are already narrow and don't allow the pavements to be widened whilst maintaining a two way flow of traffic.

In line with the feedback received to date from businesses and residents around the county, we want to ensure that Denbigh town centre feels safe and welcoming, and to ensure we support some of Denbigh's pubs, restaurants and cafes to create safe outdoor spaces for their customers to spend time with friends or family.



*Back to the 'good old days'? Denbigh Market could find a temporary home on the town's High Street once again
Photo reproduced with kind permission of Phil Evans at <http://www.oldukphotos.com/>*

We would also like to look at temporarily relocating Denbigh's weekly market back where it used to be, on the main part of the High Street. Much of Hall Square, where the market has taken place in recent years, is currently overtaken by scaffolding works for the Crown Hotel, meaning the area is not currently a particularly safe or pleasant environment in which to site the market.

How are we doing it?

We will be using Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) to put the temporary one-way system in place, and we will be using temporary "kerb-like" equipment to make the new widened pavements. This equipment will be bolted down and can be installed quickly, and easily removed in the future.

Monitoring

If the scheme (or a modified version of it) goes ahead, we will be monitoring the impact of the temporary measures in close detail over the next 18 months. This will include using

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some technology to monitor things like traffic flows, speeds, pedestrian flows and air pollution. We will also be collecting feedback from the community of Denbigh and reviewing this on a regular basis to monitor how residents, businesses and visitors feel about the ongoing impact of the temporary measures.

How to get in touch

To view and comment on the proposals for Denbigh and some of the county's other towns, please visit:

<https://countyconversation.denbighshire.gov.uk>

What happens next?

Once we have considered the feedback we receive, we will discuss this with the Denbigh County Councillors and make a final decision on whether to proceed with the scheme. 