

Community Safety

Date: 13 July 2020

Purpose of the Report: Trial evening pedestrianisation of Lake Street and/or Hockliffe Street

Contact Officer: Vivien Cannon, Head of Cultural and Economic Services

Corporate Objective/s	Vibrancy and Vitality of Town And Town Centre - To continue to support a vibrant town through partnership working and initiatives including management of the street market, support for local businesses, town and community promotions and town centre enhancements.	
Implications:		
Financial	✓	£3000 to assist trial from existing Community Safety budget
Human Resources		
Operational/Service delivery		
Procedural/Legal		
Risk/Health and Safety		

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

Should members be minded, the proposals are:

- 1.1 To instruct officers to request Central Bedfordshire Council Transport Management service considers and puts in place a timed road closure in Lake Street and /or Hockliffe Street for 18.30 to 21.30 to create a period of pedestrianisation of the roads for a trial period of 3 weeks.
- 1.2 To utilise up to £3000 of Committee's budget to assist the Traffic Management controls to enable the proposal to be realised.

2. INFORMATION

- 2.1 Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) has put a Town Centre Experimental Traffic Road Closure (TTRO) in place. From the first date of the TTRO being in place, CBC has been and remains responsive to feedback and is willing to alter traffic management arrangements in respect of how it operates.
- 2.2 Feedback collated, with the assistance of LB First and a business representative from Hockliffe Street is that businesses say there is a lack of opportunity to expand onto the street with tables and chairs which other

establishments can do if they are in the High Street. Their fear is how to remain economically viable under existing distancing restrictions.

- 2.3 The focus of CBC has been to address immediate needs for managing the access and egress of the Town Centre given that the High Street is temporarily pedestrianised. It is not in their immediate remit to go outside of the High Street for pedestrianisation therefore the Town Council may wish to raise the concern on behalf of its business community.
- 2.4 In support of our local businesses, Committee is asked to consider endorsing that officers approach CBC Traffic Management Officers to request a trial period of 3 weeks for a temporary evening period pedestrianisation of Hockliffe Street and possibly half pedestrianisation of Lake Street. The intention being to allow leisure businesses specifically to flourish, i.e. restaurants and licenced premises, and ensuring safety of customers using those businesses. The proposed times would be 18.30 to 21.30. Officers would seek advice on which days of the week this would operate although it is thought that Sundays would be kept free.
- 2.5 Officers understand that a Traffic Management company could be commissioned to supervise the temporary closure. This would need to be procured and managed directly by CBC.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Given that these two roads do not give the same benefit of the full pedestrianisation that High Street based businesses have, Officers ask that Committee considers facilitating a trial period of evening pedestrianisation in support of Hockliffe and Lake Street businesses towards maintaining the vitality and viability of these Town Centre businesses.
- 3.2 Should Committee support the proposal; officers understand that some financial assistance for a trail period of closure would help CBC to manage the trail. The budget proposed at recommendation 1.2 is estimated.

End