



Bury St Edmunds Area Working Party 30 November 2010

St Andrews Street South Review of Access Arrangements

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To consider the options for change to address concerns about motor traffic using St Andrews Street South between Woolhall Street and Risbygate Street, Bury St Edmunds.**

2. Background

- 2.1 The section of St Andrews Street South between Woolhall Street and Risbygate Street has increased in importance as a pedestrian area with the opening of arc as it is the interface between the original and extended retail area of the town centre.
- 2.2 In addition to carrying high pedestrian crossing flows, this section of road is also used as the main pick up/drop off location for the town bus services. In addition to two way bus flow, a number of other vehicle classes are also allowed to access this street. These are:-

In both directions
Hackney Carriages
Bicycles

Northbound only (from Woolhall Street end)
Delivery vehicles (needing to load/unload in this street)
Private Hire vehicles (picking up/dropping off pre-booked customers in this street)
Vehicles accessing off street parking only accessible from this street
Dial-a-ride vehicle picking up/dropping off in this street

- 2.3 These access arrangements have been in place for over 10 years. They were reviewed prior to the completion of arc development, but no change was made at that time.

3. Concerns

- 3.1 Two main concerns have been raised about the use of this street. The first is the number of vehicles accessing the street illegally. The second is the dominance of motor vehicles in a street intended primarily for pedestrian use. Earlier in 2010 surveys suggested that out of 650 motor vehicles using this street between 9.00 am and 5.30 pm nearly 30% (200 vehicles) were doing so illegally. Of these

around 150 had no business in the street other than using it as a through route. The police do undertake enforcement action in the street, but it cannot be relied upon to ensure higher levels of compliance. An update on a more recent survey will be circulated at the meeting given the concerns expressed about the potential impact of the opening of the Tesco Express store.

- 3.2 St Andrews Street South is within the town centre 20mph zone, speed surveys have not suggested inappropriate speeds is a particular problem in this street, but the number and size of vehicles using it may intimidate pedestrians and create an unwanted perception of risk. It may also discourage pedestrians to make full use of this area.

4. Options for change

- 4.1 There are a number of general approaches that can be taken to address the concerns in this street:-

- (a) physical closure of the street;
- (b) part-time closure of the street;
- (c) physical access control; and
- (d) change the classes of vehicles that can use the street.

- 4.2 In March 2010 the Working Party considered a report on this section of St Andrews Street South (Report A578 refers) which set out a number of options for possible changes to the management of traffic in this street. Members of the Working Party requested that the following options be further developed, how they fit within the approaches outlined in paragraph 4.1 is indicated:-

- (1) simplify access arrangements (b,d);
- (2) allow unrestricted vehicular access (d);
- (3) entry features (c);
- (4) bus stop build-outs (c);
- (5) redesign layout (a,b,c); and
- (6) traffic lights (a,b,c).

- 4.3 The Borough Council has been working with colleagues at Suffolk County Council to progress these ideas. They have recently carried out a survey of deliveries to businesses in the street. This revealed no particular pattern to deliveries as they are being received most days of the week, at all times of day.

- 4.4 In evaluating the options, it is clear that to achieve the desired goals of enhanced pedestrian utility and managed access, as currently configured it is not easily achievable. It may well be that some groups of users currently permitted to make use of the street will need to be disadvantaged to achieve effective management.

- 4.5 In view of the wide ranging, complexity and interconnectivity of the various approaches available, it is proposed that a workshop be held to consider the matter in greater depth. The workshop should cover the following issues:-

- (1) establish priorities for the street;
- (2) consider implication for pursuing those priorities; and
- (3) make recommendations for changing the management of traffic in the street.

4.6 It is suggested that in addition to the members of the Working Party being invited to the workshop, other members of the Borough Council and County Councillors for the locality are also invited. In addition, representatives of the police, Town Centre Management, arc Management and Town Council are invited to attend.

5. **Recommendations**

5.1 The Bury St Edmunds Area Working Party are requested to **RECOMMEND** that:-

- (a) the contents of Report B331 be noted;
- (b) a workshop to consider the management of St Andrews Street South be undertaken; and
- (c) the outcome of the workshop be reported to a future meeting of the Bury St Edmunds Area Working Party.

For further information, please contact:-

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