



CABINET REPORT

Date Written	26 th November 2020 **
Report Author	Anouska Beaumont
Service Area	Communities and Regeneration
Committee Division	Portfolio
Exempt/Non Exempt	Non Exempt
Committee Date	6 th January 2020

To: Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen

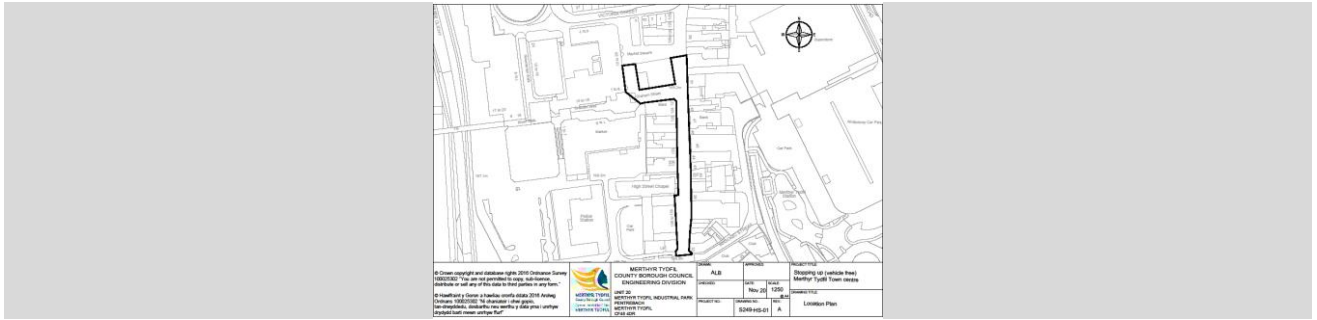
Amendment of Existing Order - Upper High Street, Merthyr Tydfil

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

1.1 The section of Upper High Street, indicated on the plan below, was converted to a bridleway in 1975, under the Town and Country Planning Act. The existing order allows for exemptions for blue badge holders. In order to remove these exemptions and allow for a traffic free High street, MTCBC must apply to Welsh Government under Section 249 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. This would complement the existing order on lower high street made in 1995, and allow for the main stretch within the town centre to be pedestrianised

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that

2.1 The necessary consultations be undertaken with stakeholders and submission of an application under section 249 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 to the Welsh Government to amend the Bridleway on Upper High Street as identified on the plan attached below. (Click to open in new window)



3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council is looking to improve pedestrian safety on High Street, Merthyr Tydfil. To enable this, it is proposed to apply for an order under section 249 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1980 to amend the existing Bridleway.
- 3.2 This will allow access to the Council, emergency services and statutory bodies to undertake their duties. The exclusion of all other vehicles will ensure a safe and attractive environment for pedestrians, enhancing the vitality and viability of the town centre and significantly improving the visual appearance and visitor experience of the area. It also promotes social inclusion and equality, by providing a safe and accessible environment, minimising transport emissions and promoting modal shift.
- 3.3 It will be necessary to initiate the process of the application which involves firstly consulting with Emergency Services and Utilities Companies to determine what apparatus exists in the area. This is followed by an application to the Welsh Government to obtain an Order under Section 249 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1980.

4.0 COVID-19 SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FUND

- 4.1 WG awarded MTCBC £414k from the Covid-19 Sustainable Transport Fund, which enables the Council to ensure effective social distancing measures are in place, especially in main town centres.
- 4.2 There has been extensive consultation undertaken by the TC Team with the businesses on the High Street and Market Square about the traffic orders and the measures we will be implementing. There will be further consultation undertaken to inform businesses as work progresses.
- 4.3 Following approval from Cabinet the application will be made to Welsh Government. The minimum time taken to make an unopposed order – allowing for the statutory objection period of 28 days from the date of publication of Notice of the Welsh Ministers’ proposal to make an order – is about 4 months from the date of receiving all the required information. If because of objections received and not resolved by the authority applying for the order it is necessary to hold a local inquiry, the period before a decision is taken on the order will be considerably larger.

4.4 If and when the Order is granted, the enforcement of the order will remain the responsibility of the Police.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

5.1 There are no financial implications as the proposal will utilise the Covid 19 allocation, 100% funded by Welsh Government.

6.0 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts	Not Applicable
1. Merthyr Tydfil Well-being Objectives	3 of 4	0 of 4	1 of 4
2. Sustainable Development Principles - How have you considered the five ways of working: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term • Prevention • Integration • Collaboration • Involvement 	5 of 5	0 of 5	0 of 5
3. Protected Characteristics <i>(including Welsh Language)</i>	9 of 10	0 of 10	1 of 10
4. Biodiversity	0 of 1	0 of 1	1 of 1
<p><u>Summary:</u></p> <p>The removal of vehicles will ensure a safe and attractive environment for pedestrians, enhancing the vitality and viability of the town centre and significantly improving the visual appearance and visitor experience of the area. It also promotes social inclusion and equality, by providing a safe and accessible environment, minimising transport emissions and promoting modal shift.</p> <p>No negative impacts have been identified.</p>			

ALYN OWEN
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

COUNCILLOR GERAINT THOMAS
CABINET MEMBER FOR
REGENERATION AND PUBLIC
PROTECTION

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Title of Document(s)	Document(s) Date	Document Location
Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?		No

Consultation has been undertaken with the Corporate Management Team in respect of each proposal(s) and recommendation(s) set out in this report.