

Keynsham High Street one-way trial

Frequently Asked Questions

What is happening?

There has been a longstanding aspiration amongst those who live in and visit the town to improve the public realm along the High Street in Keynsham. There is also a desire to reduce traffic from this route due to the high levels of harmful emissions that have been identified as part of a wider air quality action plan.

As part of the Keynsham Transport Strategy, extensive traffic modelling was undertaken to look at options to reconfigure the High Street area in order to meet these demands. The best option resulting from this modelling was for the High Street to become one-way southbound between Charlton Road and Bath Hill junction. To thoroughly determine if the traffic modelling is correct and evaluate the effectiveness and potential impacts of a one-way system on Keynsham High Street and surrounding routes, funding has recently been released to put a trial scheme in place.

What are the benefits?

The overarching aim of the project is to deliver a High Street for Keynsham that is lively, safe, sustainable and healthy, and which enhances the Conservation Area. Reducing traffic through the High Street will improve air quality, reduce noise and make the area more pleasant to spend time in.

If the trial is successful, it would also enable permanent improvements to be made such as widening of the footways to give pedestrians more space.

Why is this only a trial?

As part of the Transport Strategy, extensive traffic modelling was carried out of various alternatives. This indicated making the High Street one way could work best.

To be prudent, before making expensive changes to the public realm we need to ensure the modelling is correct and it doesn't create unexpected issues elsewhere. For this reason, we are carrying out changes on a trial basis first.

Will parking in the High Street be affected?

During the trial period, the existing short-stay parking bays in the High Street will be kept as they are now. Provision of parking in the longer term will be looked at during development of the permanent scheme in the future.

How long will it last?

The trial period will start in May 2017, and is intended to last for up to 18 months. During this time the Council will closely monitor vehicle, cycle and pedestrian flows and air quality to gauge benefits and impacts. It will also work with the community to set the agenda for long term improvements to the High Street.

Depending on the outcome of the trial, at the end of the 18 months it may be restored back to the original two way layout or kept in place pending the construction of permanent improvements to improve the High Street.

How much is the trial scheme costing?

The budget to implement the trial is £200,000. This includes all design, implementation and monitoring costs for the duration. It also includes a reserve sum to restore the changes if the trial proves unsuccessful. Some developer funding is being used to introduce permanent changes in conjunction with the trial, including the new bus lay by in Ashton Way and signalisation of the current pedestrian crossing in Charlton Road.