

Old City public realm improvements project : Corn Street pedestrianisation

The City Council is working to improve the public realm of the Old City to increase its attractiveness as a visitor destination and support the local economy. One of the main aspirations is to remove traffic and parking from Corn Street and we have been working over the past months on the details of how this can be achieved.

The biggest problem is the access to the Crown Court on Small Street. We had hoped to get agreement for the Courts to use Christmas Street/Quay Street as their main access route, but the redevelopment of the former Magistrates Court on Nelson Street means that Christmas Street will be closed for up to 2 years and this option is not available in the short term.

The Courts do not operate at weekends, however, and we want to press on with what we can do so that we can make a difference on Corn Street this summer. We therefore propose to introduce an Experimental Traffic Order that will:

- **Pedestrianise Corn Street at weekends:**

Corn Street will be closed to traffic from 10am - 8pm Saturday (it is already shut at St Stephens Street between 8pm and 4am) and from 10am – midnight Sunday.

Loading on Corn Street will be available from 7am -10am only on Saturdays and Sundays.

Emergency access will be available at all times.

- Remove parking from Corn Street at all times.
- Restrict weekday loading on Corn Street to the current waste collection windows of 7-10am, when the whole of the street will be available for loading, and 5-7pm, when only the central loading area will be available.
- Ban the right turn from St Nicholas Street into Corn Street at all times.
- Through access will be available at all times during the week.

These changes will significantly reduce the amount of traffic in Corn Street and, in addition, the existing loading ban on the south side of Corn Street will be more strictly enforced to create a better pedestrian environment. We hope that the frontage businesses will want to expand seating out onto the street to animate the area and will be contacting them shortly to discuss this.

We will continue to work with the Court Service to find an alternative primary access to the Crown Court that meets their security requirements and limits the need to use Corn Street.

Also, just to let you know that colleagues from Streetscene will be coming round over the summer to talk to businesses about their existing waste collection arrangements and identify issues to inform the development of the 'No Bins on Street' policy. We are also progressing improvement schemes for the St Stephens Street entrance, the Pithay and the Broad Street crossing.

For more information please contact vicky.welchman@bristol.gov.uk or 0117-922-2969.

