

LOOE TOWN COUNCIL
KONSEL TRE LOGH

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Dear Resident/Business Owner

We know you have been going through a difficult time with lockdown, now that more of the local shops are open, we hope you will be supporting 'shop locally'. As the season begins, we are concerned about keeping you and our visitors safe and ensuring social distancing rules are respected.

Looe Town Council want to work with you to ensure we implement and maintain social distancing in our Town.

Survey results

You may have already seen the survey Looe Town Council recently conducted, testing some of the proposed measures to keep residents and visitors safe as the volume of people start to increase and more businesses reopening. The Town Council proposals received overwhelming support with over 1000 responses to the survey.

For example:

73.7% think there should be a full one-way system in East Looe (in via the bridge and out via the quay car park), during the pandemic

86.8% think there should be a 'keep left' system in East Looe for pedestrians during Covid-19

47.3% think the back streets of Looe currently be kept safe for residents. 820 answers

61.3% think the 'cut throughs' between Fore Street and the Quay in East Looe be managed via a one-way system.

62.2% think the bridge between East and West Looe should be on a keep left system.

In the recent Looe Neighbourhood Development Plan resident survey, residents were asked what could improve the town centre for residents and disabled people - making the town centre car free rated highly.

Pinch points

Our concern is that, with increased numbers of visitors in our narrow streets, social distancing will be difficult in high footfall areas and pinch points such as by The Cornish Bakehouse, The Ship Inn and Middleton's Corner, particularly at peak times. We are also concerned about multiple queues from different businesses due to restricted entry and exit points into different areas or shops overlapping with through footfall. It is therefore essential that we work together to make plans.

Pedestrianisation

Unfortunately, due to our street configuration, any traffic will force pedestrians to the sides of the road onto very narrow pavements which will also potentially push pedestrians into shop queues thus preventing social distancing.

Due to the nature of our streets it is unlikely that social distancing will be possible without putting in some control measures.

Reopening businesses

Now that the Government has indicated that most shops and businesses can re-open, we need to be prepared in the town. We also need to plan for July onwards when accommodation businesses are able to re-open, further impacting on visitor numbers in the town.

Street scene

Businesses are being encouraged by Government to place tables, chairs and other temporary furniture adjoining but outside the boundaries of their unit. The Local Planning Authority will tolerate and not take any enforcement action for 2020, in respect of any business in a Town Centre who wishes to do this without the need for planning permission, providing there are no public safety implications. Cornwall Council have recently announced a scheme to assist towns to draw up their plans and are providing some funds to enable these town plans.

Events and Festivals

We already close the roads in East Looe for events like Looe Live Music Festival and Carnival week and there are opportunities for other initiatives like street markets and a Christmas Market that may flow from pedestrianisation.

Pedestrianisation of Fore Street was the rated highest rated response in the Looe Neighbourhood Plan survey responses based on the question 'what could improve the safety and experience of Fore Street, East Looe'.

We need your views

However, some of the proposals throw up some practical considerations. How will parking space owners on the seafront and quayside be affected? Emergency access, deliveries and disabled parking, etc will also need to be considered.

We will work closely with residents, businesses and local bodies to try and solve these issues, should the proposal go ahead.

Below are some options for road closure timings in East Looe and the roads to be included which we would like to test with you as a resident and gain your views.

We will not impose anything until we have considered all representations.

Please complete the survey, by clicking on the link below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ZBQJDHH>

Closing date 3rd July 2020