



<p>Name of the Officer Paul Keeble</p> <p>Phone no: 07793 798928 E-mail: paulkeeble@monmouthshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal</p> <p>Re-opening Chepstow's High Streets</p> <p>Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal</p> <p>Measures are being implemented to re-open Monmouthshire's High Streets to make them safe for shoppers and visitors and traders. The objective is to create a safe environment with social distancing and to support local businesses. In addition to creating a safe place for shoppers, the traffic free streets offer an opportunity for café and pubs etc to make use of this new highway space for seating areas for customers, as well as encouraging walking and cycling. The schemes have been developed through collaboration with County Councillors, Town and Community Councillors and the Business Resilience Forum/ Chamber of Trade.</p> <p>This WFGA builds on the initial WFGAs which considered the initial measures throughout the County and has been produced to specifically consider the additional measures being considered in March 2021 for parklets, planters and alterations to the pedestrian crossing area.</p>
<p>Name of Service area: Placemaking, Housing, Highways and Flooding</p>	<p>Date 12th April 2021</p>

1. Are your proposals going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics? Please explain the impact, the evidence you have used and any action you are taking below.

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Age	<p>The aim of the proposals is to ensure our High Streets are safe for shoppers to return and support local businesses. Pedestrian routes will be widened where possible at pinch points to allow social distancing and queuing. Where kerblines will be in the middle of footways, they will be painted red to highlight the level change.</p> <p>The proposal will allow communities to safely access local shops, which will benefit those who are without internet access/capability to shop, or who are lonely and would benefit from safely seeing other people.</p> <p>The changes proposed on Station Road at Beaufort Square will provide improved pedestrian connection between High Street and St Marys Street, as well as access to other shops and facilities off the main High Street. The scheme narrows down the highway to create a shorter crossing point supported by a raised platform and a 20mph limit to</p>	<p>There is a potential negative perception that older pedestrians and motorists might be confused by the changes.</p> <p>We will ensure that accessible and convenient parking close to High Streets remains available and created additional blue badge parking close to the High Street as well as maintaining access to the blue badge parking on Bank Street.</p> <p>Pedestrians may find the removal of the formal crossing and new arrangements at Beaufort Square different to what they have been used to and initially prefer a controlled system however it is expected that with time the changes will be seen as positive and introduce a more pedestrian friendly arrangement mirroring how the junction is currently used and reflecting the change in higherarch of pedestrians over motor</p>	<p>Live feedback is invited so that schemes can be tweaked, changed or removed as appropriate.</p> <p>Proportionate signage will seek to provide clarity and guidance.</p> <p>Most public toilets are managed by the Town or Community Council or Cadw. Where possible, they remain open for use with appropriate hygiene adaptations.</p> <p>Parklets and planters provide additional street seating allowing people with limited mobility to rest and people with no outdoor space at home a safe outdoor space to meet family and friends when lockdown rules permit.</p> <p>Individuals will be responsible for ensuring good personal hygiene and maintaining social distancing.</p> <p>A Safety Audit will be undertaken on the highway changes at Beaufort Square.</p>

	<p>create a safe environment for pedestrians with a number of informal crossing points to better reflect how people currently use this area. This arrangement is designed in line with new national guidance (ATA & Manual for Streets) and similar to other schemes recently introduced in MCC such as Agincourt Square at Monmouth.</p>	<p>vehicles as per local and national transport strategy and objectives.</p>	
--	---	--	--

<p>Disability</p>	<p>The aim of the proposals is to ensure our High Streets are safe for shoppers to return and support local businesses. Pedestrian routes will be widened where possible at pinch points to allow social distancing and queuing. Where kerblines will be in the middle of footways, they will be painted red to highlight the level change to assist the visually impaired. Some disabilities may increase vulnerability to coronavirus, making social distancing increasingly important.</p> <p>The proposal will allow communities to safely access local shops, which will benefit those who are without internet access/capability to shop, or who are lonely and would benefit from safely seeing other people.</p>	<p>Guide dogs are not trained to maintain social distancing and the widened footpaths into carriageways will not be understood by guide dogs who are trained to respond to kerblines.</p> <p>We will ensure that accessible and convenient parking close to High Streets remains available and created additional blue badge parking close to the High Street as well as maintaining access to the blue badge parking on Bank Street.</p> <p>Pedestrians may find the removal of the formal crossing and new arrangements at Beaufort Square different to what they have been used to and initially prefer a controlled system however it is expected that with time the changes will be seen as positive and introduce a more pedestrian friendly arrangement mirroring how the junction is currently used and reflecting the change in hierarchy of pedestrians over motor vehicles as per local and national transport strategy and objectives. This initial impact is likely to disproportionately affect disabled</p>	<p>Live feedback is invited so that schemes can be tweaked, changed or removed as appropriate.</p> <p>Most public toilets are managed by the Town or Community Council or Cadw. Where possible, they remain open for use with appropriate hygiene adaptations.</p> <p>Individuals will be responsible for ensuring good personal hygiene and maintaining social distancing.</p> <p>A net increase in disabled person parking bays is provided, with as many existing bays as possible retained. Audits have been undertaken taking into consideration potential increased distances and the difficult topography. This has resulted in the Bank Street spaces remaining available for use.</p> <p>10 additional disabled person bays have been provided in Welsh Street car park. The disabled person bays on Bank Street remain available for use by allowing blue badge holders access into the road closure area.</p> <p>Improved signing and lining has been provided.</p>
-------------------	--	--	--

		people especially people with visual impairments.	<p>Parklets and planters provide additional street seating allowing people with limited mobility to rest and people with no outdoor space at home a safe outdoor space to meet family and friends when lockdown rules permit.</p> <p>A Safety Audit will be undertaken on the highway changes at Beaufort Square.</p>
Gender reassignment	No impact	None	n/a
Marriage or civil partnership	No impact	None	n/a
Pregnancy or maternity	The scheme widens the pedestrian areas which will assist parents using prams/pushchairs or pregnant people wishing to ensure social distancing.	None	<p>Most public toilets are managed by the Town or Community Council or Cadw. Where possible, they remain open for use with appropriate hygiene adaptations.</p> <p>Individuals will be responsible for ensuring good personal hygiene and maintaining distancing. Parking ticket machines are cleaned twice daily.</p> <p>Parklets and planters provide additional street seating allowing parents or those expecting spaces to rest and/or feed.</p>
Race	No impact	None	n/a

Religion or Belief	No impact	None	n/a
Sex	No impact	None	n/a
Sexual Orientation	No impact	None	n/a
Welsh Language	Signage will be proportionate to avoid physical and visual clutter. Highway signs will be DfT approved and bilingual.	None	n/a
Poverty	People on low incomes or in poverty may not have internet access or be able to make non-cash payments. Safely reopening our High Streets will enable them to safely access a range of shops and services as lockdown is eased.	Public transport services are limited and may be perceived as less safe than the private car. This is not within MCC's control but we will work with service providers to ensure key routes are operating.	Parklets and planters provide additional street seating allowing people with no outdoor space at home a safe outdoor space to meet family and friends when lockdown rules permit.


2. Does your proposal deliver any of the well-being goals below? Please explain the impact (positive and negative) you expect, together with suggestions of how to mitigate negative impacts or better contribute to the goal. There's no need to put something in every box if it is not relevant!





Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs	The project seeks to create a safe and attractive environment for shoppers to return to our High Streets to support local businesses. Creating such an environment is widely used to support retail, services, hospitality outlets which in turn attracts businesses and subsequent employment whilst adding to the general appearance of prosperity and vitality in a town centre.	A marketing campaign is running alongside the physical works to support the shop local campaign. Live feedback continues to be sought on the trial changes, allowing for tweaks, changes, additions and removal as appropriate.

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<p>A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)</p>	<p>The proposals seek to create a safer environment for pedestrians and cyclists and will hopefully encourage active travel instead of car use.</p>	<p>WG funding bid has been secured for active travel improvements and for regeneration enhancements and grants to support local businesses.</p>
<p>A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood</p>	<p>The proposals seek to prioritise pedestrians and cyclists as well as support businesses. Active travel is being promoted and supported by government as a way to engender a healthier lifestyle.</p>	<p>The proposals are trials and live feedback is welcomed to enable schemes to be tweaked, added to, changed or removed as appropriate. If measures are successful consideration can be given to making them permanent, following further consultation.</p>
<p>A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected</p>	<p>To be successful our High Streets need to be safe and attractive for residents and visitors. To achieve this there must be space to facilitate social distancing and the potential for licenced outdoor seating to cafés, bars and restaurants to appeal to a wide section of society with all generations being comfortable in the environment.</p>	
<p>A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing</p>	<p>The project is about the economic health of our High Streets but the physical health of our communities is paramount. Measures to ensure pedestrian safety and to encourage active travel will encourage people to adopt a more healthy lifestyle through walking and cycling.</p>	
<p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People</p>	<p>Monmouthshire is a county of historic market towns blessed with high quality independent traders and tourism attractions. As such, it is important that our towns and villages are safe and attractive to visitors</p>	

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation	and tourism, being places where people are safe and confident visiting and spend some time.	
A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances	Monmouthshire has a greater proliferation of small businesses than any other county in Wales. Creating an environment to support those seeking to invest or expand in retail thereby adding to the prosperity of our towns benefit from this project	

3. How has your proposal embedded and prioritised the sustainable governance principles in its development?

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p>	The proposals are trial measures to enable visitors and shoppers to safely socially distance. Live feedback is sought to enable measures to be tweaked, added to, changed or scrapped as applicable. If measures are successful, they could be made permanent, subject to consultation with stakeholders.	

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p>	<p>The proposals have been drafted in collaboration with County Councillors, the Town Council and business representatives sitting on the Business Resillience Forum.</p>	<p>A series of review meeting have been held to discuss how the measures are working and provide an update on feedback received and changes made in the interim.</p>
 <p>Involvement</p> <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p>The proposals have been drafted in collaboration with County Councillors, the Town Council and business representatives sitting on the Business Resillience Forum. A community survey received nearly 1500 responses for the whole County which have helped shape the initial measures proposed. A further survey helped inform active travel proposals to support town centres.</p>	<p>Further feedback on successes and problems can be submitted via live feedback on the measures.</p>
 <p>Prevention</p> <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p>The purpose of the proposals is to put physical measures in place to avoid health and/or economic problems occurring, i.e. communities are kept safe while businesses are supported.</p>	
 <p>Integration</p> <p>Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p>	<p>The proposals seek to balance the competing needs of shoppers, businesses, pedestrians, cyclists and drivers (given the rurality, topography and demographic of the county it is appreciated that car use will remain essential for some people).</p>	

4. Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on the following important responsibilities: Social Justice, Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding. Are your proposals going to affect any of these responsibilities?

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has	What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Social Justice	People experiencing poverty may not have access to internet shopping or non-cash payment, so ensuring high streets are safe to return to will assist their opportunities to access goods and services, as lockdown easing allows businesses to trade. Data suggests that there is a link between poverty and vulnerability to coronavirus, so a safe environment that enables social distancing is particularly important.		
Safeguarding	Not applicable		
Corporate Parenting	Not applicable		

5. What evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?

These are trial measures informed by Councillors, Town and Community Councils, business representatives, community feedback and officer expertise.

Data on blue badge holders has been considered.

Wales is now in Covid response level 3. Case numbers are low in Chepstow and a very high proportion of older people and people with a disability or underlying health condition in Wales have now received both covid vaccinations, offering them the maximum protection currently available.

The planters and parklets will be placed in a way that enables the need for people to socially distance, where possible. Visitors and shoppers will be advised to socially distance where possible and to wear a face mask where social distancing is not possible.

6. SUMMARY: As a result of completing this form, what are the main positive and negative impacts of your proposal, how have they informed/changed the development of the proposal so far and what will you be doing in future?

The proposals will enable our communities to be and feel safe when visiting our High Streets, thereby supporting the local businesses that are vital to the sustainability and attractiveness of our towns and villages. Measures seek to encourage active travel.

7. ACTIONS: As a result of completing this form are there any further actions you will be undertaking? Please detail them below, if applicable.

What are you going to do	When are you going to do it?	Who is responsible
Review of measures via live feedback and arranged review meetings with Councillors, Town and Community Councils and business representatives.	Reviews will be carried out quarterly starting July 2021	MCC to arrange (Paul Keeble)
Project update as measures are amended and street furniture installed and highway works completed	May 2021	Paul Keeble
Project reviewed in line with quarterly review and wider engagement with stakeholders and whether measures should continue or amended in line with unlocking and opening up under Covid-19 guidance etc.	July 2021	Paul Keeble

8. VERSION CONTROL: The Equality and Future Generations Evaluation should be used at the earliest stage, such as informally within your service, and then further developed throughout the decision making process. It is important to keep a record of this process to demonstrate how you have considered and built in equality and future generations considerations wherever possible.

Version No.	Decision making stage	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consideration
1	Officer sign off of proposals, with agreement from Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure and Cabinet Member for Enterprise and Land Use Planning	18 th June 2020	Amendments to proposals made during previous ten days from meetings with businesses and Town/Community representatives.

2	Project update as measures are amended and street furniture installed	18 th March 2021	Review of parking provision and accessibility
3	Specific consideration of proposed parklets, planting and pedestrian crossing changes in Chepstow	18 th March 2021	Further amendments and comments from Mark Hand 12 April 2021.