



Service Delivery Committee	Tuesday, 22 March 2016	Matter for Information and Decision
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Title: **Bell Street, Wigston - Update on Prohibition of Vehicular Access**

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1. Introduction

- 1.1** This report provides an update on the trial pedestrianisation scheme currently in place on part of Bell Street in Wigston and considers various options for preventing unauthorised access to the pedestrianised area.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** It is recommended that a like for like telescopic bollard remains the method used to prevent unauthorised vehicular access into Bell Street, due to the ease of use, matching design with the Bell Street public realm and relatively low costs to maintain and manage.

3. Information

- 3.1** The trial pedestrianisation scheme was brought into effect in December 2015. Since implementation the Council has not received any formal complaints as a result of the trial pedestrianisation, and in general, it has been supported by the local community.
- 3.2** As part of the public realm improvements scheme in Wigston the gate which restricted access to Bell Street was replaced by a bollard, in-keeping with the design of the new street furniture. At the time of the implementation of the trial pedestrianisation scheme the bollard was locked into its up position in order to prevent unauthorised vehicular access. At the same time arrangements were brought into effect to ensure that the emergency services could operate the bollard in order to be able to access Bell Street in the event of an emergency.
- 3.3** Unfortunately during the week of 15th February the bollard was struck, apparently by a vehicle and damaged beyond repair. In addition, the damage inhibited its operation and therefore it had to be removed so as to enable access by the emergency services. Temporary barriers were placed across the access to Bell Street, and despite providing a very visual barrier, appear to have been moved by members of the public on a frequent basis. This has led to unauthorised access to Bell Street by vehicles.
- 3.4** A 'like for like' replacement bollard has been ordered and at the time of writing this report, delivery is awaited. In addition, a further two bollards have been ordered to the same specification, so that if this situation happens again, the Council will be able to respond swiftly.
- 3.5** As a result of this damage to the bollard so soon after the implementation of the trial pedestrianisation, the opportunity has been taken to consider the options that are available to the Council in order to prevent unauthorised access in the future.

4. 'Like For Like' Replacement Bollard

- 4.1 This bollard is relatively easy to use, we already have the keys cut for this system and have supplied these keys to the emergency services. The bollard also allows the general public to walk through easily without a blockage. A system such as this is ideal as the bollard does not need to be removed very often.
- 4.2 This bollard also ties in with the look and feel of the new public realm within Bell Street. There is minimal maintenance on this style of bollard, so ongoing costs are reduced.
- 4.3 The disadvantage with this bollard is that if a vehicle hits the bollard at speed, it requires a complete replacement of the bollard and it's underground socket.
- 4.4 The indicative cost for purchasing one of these bollards is £390 and the installation is up to £400, therefore a replacement cost is £790 every time it is seriously damaged.



5. Automatic Rising Bollard

- 5.1 An automatic bollard would allow easy access to Bell Street at all times and would not require keys to operate. There would either be a key code system or a card access system. These bollards are extremely robust and if they were hit by a vehicle, they would still be able to operate.
- 5.2 These bollards have some very sophisticated electronics, enabling it to detect when a vehicle is in range and lowering when a code/card is entered. The bollards would then lower for the vehicle, and detect when the vehicle has passed and then raise. This means only one vehicle at a time is allowed and they are usually programmed to lower automatically when leaving the area.
- 5.3 The disadvantages with this type of bollard are that there is not the need to access Bell Street on multiple occasions through a day as it is currently pedestrianised, which is the main advantage of this system. Also the bollard needs regular servicing (approx £300 per visit) and cards would have to be allocated to people who are allowed to

access (cost of £20 per card). This would then need to be monitored and an officer made responsible for issuing cards and managing the bollards.

- 5.4 They are also very expensive to install, with a minimum cost of around £20,000. There would also be a lot of disruption to install these bollards.



6. Rising Barrier

- 6.1 These barriers are very effective in preventing access, as well as being very visible. Also if a vehicle does hit this style of barrier, it should be relatively cheap to repair, as it is bolted to the ground (rather than rooted into the ground).
- 6.2 The disadvantage with this style of barrier is that it would stop pedestrians being able to walk freely into Bell Street. Although very visible, it would also detract from the look of the new public realm in Bell Street. Also a lifting barrier could be a safety risk to the public when people are accessing the barrier, due to the nature of a bar being lifted and lowered.
- 6.3 A barrier like this would cost approximately £800 to purchase and approx £1,200 to install. The ongoing maintenance of this would come in at around £200 per year.

(Continued overleaf)



7. Gate

- 7.1 A Gate would be very similar to the rising barrier and are very effective in preventing access, as well as being very visible. Also if a vehicle does hit this style of barrier, it should be relatively cheap to repair, as it is bolted to the ground (rather than rooted into the ground).
- 7.2 The disadvantage with this style of barrier is that it would stop pedestrians being able to walk freely into Bell Street. Although very visible, it would also detract from the look of the new public realm in Bell Street
- 7.3 A barrier like this would cost approximately £700 to purchase and approx £1,200 to install. The ongoing maintenance of this would come in at around £200 per year.

(Continued overleaf)



8. Conclusion

- 8.1 From these 4 options it is proposed that the current style of bollard is maintained as this offers good value for money and an attractive design. It also offers an easy to use system that is already in place.
- 8.2 A review of the operation of the bollard will take place within the next six months, whereby if further damage is taking place to the bollard we can revisit these options or explore other methods of barrier.

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Implications	
Financial (CR)	Included within the report
Legal (AC)	No significant implications.
Risk (AC)	CR1 decreasing financial resources – the recommended option would appear to be the most appropriate in context of the current budget. CR4 Reputation damage – it is proposed to order 2 additional bollards so that they can be replaced more quickly should damage occur again.
Equalities (AC)	No significant implications.