

Pedestrianisation trial to go ahead

But 58 per cent of people object to plan to extend traffic ban

IT'S happening. Newbury town centre will get pedestrianised in a trial, writes Local Democracy Reporter Niki Hinman.

That's despite 58.5 per cent of those responding to a West Berkshire Council survey about it saying they didn't want it.

Overall, 36.7 per cent of those that answered supported the proposed trial extension to the pedestrianised hours in the town centre.

The Department for Transport has approved the council's application for the trial.

This follows a pre-trial consultation between September and November 2024, where residents, businesses and visitors shared their rather mixed views on the proposal.

Starting on May 19, Newbury's pedestrianisation hours along Northbrook Street, Bridge Street, Bartholomew Street (north), Mansion House Street, Wharf Street and Market Place will be extended until later in the evening as a trial under an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order.

The pedestrianisation hours



Newbury town centre

will run from 10am to 11pm; it is currently 10am to 5pm.

The council's press release does not mention the 'those against' stat, preferring to say "while there was a mixed response, and a good level of support, to the proposal, we believe that this now presents a valuable opportunity for the public to engage and share their views whilst a trial is carried out".

"For the first six months of the trial, we will run a formal consultation gathering feedback to assess the impact," it adds.

"The trial will then remain in

place until a decision is made as to whether it is made permanent."

The council maintains that pedestrianising the town centre will boost the local economy, enhance the environment – a cleaner, quieter town centre with more outdoor dining and event opportunities.

And it claims it will improve safety, saying fewer vehicle interactions make the area safer for pedestrians and cyclists.

West Berkshire Council executive member for the environment and highways Stuart Gourley (Lib Dem, Newbury Clay Hill) said: "We are pleased to have secured Department for Transport approval to trial this important initiative for Newbury."

"Extending pedestrianisation has the potential to create a safer, greener, more vibrant town centre while supporting local businesses and promoting sustainability."

"This trial allows us to test the benefits, listen to residents and businesses, and shape the future of our town centre together."



Mayor of Thatcham Suzanne Adamantos and owners Daisy and Terry Rolls

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Daisy's fresh on the high street

A NEW independent coffee shop opened in Thatcham High Street on Monday.

Daisy's coffee shop, run by husband-and-wife duo Jerry and Kerry 'Daisy' Rolls, opened to a full house of customers joined by the mayor of Thatcham Suzanne Adamantos.

The family and dog-friendly café sells a selection of homemade cakes, pastries and sandwiches, including gluten-free, dairy-free and vegan options, as well as a special blend of coffee supplied by Podium Place in Newbury.

Co-founder Mr Rolls told

the *Newbury Weekly News* how it felt to finally open: "We're glad it's come. We've been nervous and excited."

"We have another business called Cupcakes by Daisy (still active), and so we will use all the cakes from there in here."

"We used local trades on the refit. And all our stock we buy from local wherever possible."

"Podium have been a fantastic support to us."

"We buy our beans from them and they've helped us with barista training."

One customer, Eric Panting, had been waiting outside since 7.30am for the shop to open.

Wholesale manager for Podium Daisy Chambers, whose team has been on site supporting Jerry and Kerry, said they "came into Podium to ask about coffee and we just talked them through the journey, went through what coffees they'd like. We did some taste tests and they said they were really happy. They have put so much work into this."

"It's local businesses supporting local businesses, which is what we need around here."

The site was previously occupied by Vaccaro's Coffee Shop, and before that Mug & Brew.

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