



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Cllr David A Bithell
Deputy Leader of the Council &
Lead Member for Environment and Transport
Wrexham County Borough Council
The Guildhall
Wrexham
LL11 1AY

17th September 2021

Dear Cllr Bithell,

Transforming Towns - High Street Public Realm

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding the above. I am pleased to hear that the Council is actively looking into the feasibility of a public realm scheme in the town centre.

As you may know, I have been engaging with town centre businesses, residents, and stakeholders about this for several weeks now and, in support of this project, I think it appropriate to now share with you what those I have spoken to have told me.

Overall, many that I have spoken to have been supportive of a public realm scheme to pedestrianise the High Street in Wrexham. Firstly, hospitality businesses along the High Street have noted their support, as they hope that this will allow their businesses to expand their outdoor seating creating an attractive hospitality zone. This, in turn, will help support the local economy. Businesses along the High Street have also noted their concerns about dangerous driving at night-time and many believe that the pedestrianisation of the street could help prevent this.

From conversations with the emergency service, I know that they are also supportive of pedestrianisation plans, especially from a public safety point of view. I also know that they would like to be included in Council discussions about this.

However, other town centre businesses have also noted concerns that any permanent pedestrianisation of the street might discourage people from visiting businesses during the day. One town centre trader told me that the town centre collection zones have been “a lifesaver” for businesses in Wrexham, and useful for those with disabilities too. As such, I would urge the Council to be mindful of the convenience of the street for day-time parking too, which in turn supports Wrexham’s day-time economy.

From my conversations with many businesses, residents, and stakeholders, I therefore think it is important that the Council balances the needs of the daytime and night-time economies. A temporary closure of the road in the evenings, for example, would give hospitality businesses along the street the

opportunity to expand their outdoor dining, creating an attractive area, and would limit any negative impacts on the daytime economy that I know some are concerned by.

I look forward to hearing more about the Council's plans for this public realm scheme and, importantly, more information about expected timescales too. Thank you also for your work on this matter so far.

Yours sincerely,



Sarah Atherton
Member of Parliament for Wrexham

CC: Mark Pritchard, Leader of the Council; Councillor Terry Evans, Lead Member for Economy, Economic Development and Regeneration; Ian Bancroft, Chief Executive of Wrexham Council; Darren Williams, Chief Officer Environment & Technical