

Statement of Reasons

Summary of the Location

Wickford High Street is an entirely urban area within the centre of Wickford town, serving a variety of properties including restaurants, retail and other businesses.

It is a PR1 route within the Council's functional route hierarchy and is used by commercial, local buses and private vehicles alike. In addition it is regularly used by non-motorised users accessing local amenities.

As well as numerous food and retail businesses, within the vicinity of the High Street is also Wickford Train Station, Wickford Primary School, Wickford Swim and Fitness Centre and The London Road Surgery.

Reasons for the Proposed Changes

A request has been received from Basildon Borough Council to close Wickford High Street to motor vehicles on Saturdays to facilitate a weekly market in the High Street. Funding acquired by Basildon Borough Council has facilitated this opportunity and the trial period will enable an informed assessment to be made as to the impacts for residents, businesses and road users.

Benefits of the Proposed Changes

The restriction will be installed as an experimental traffic regulation order, which will involve a consultation period of up to 6 months. This will allow the Council to determine the impact of the scheme on the surrounding road network and understand the views of local stakeholders. This will involve consultation with local residents, businesses and public transport operators.

The experiment will last no longer than 18 months. If the experiment is deemed successful, the restriction can be made permanent. In addition, the experiment can be amended or removed entirely if any issues arise.

If successful, the proposed restriction will provide an improved pedestrian environment within Wickford High Street on Saturdays, free from traffic, whilst the market is in operation.