Poole Quay and Lower High Street Experimental Traffic Regulation Order
Information Document

BCP Council has introduced an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) to prioritise walking and cycling on the Quay, the Lower High Street and Paradise Street. This is to create a safer environment, making it easier to maintain social distancing and to travel to and through the area on foot or by bicycle.

The Experimental Traffic Regulation Order will run from 27 June 2020 for up to 18 months.

As this is an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order, we want to hear your views on the changes and their impact throughout the process. This document summarises the changes. You can give your views using the online form at www.bcpcouncil.gov.uk/poolequayconsultation.

What changes are being trialled?
The following roads would be closed to all motor traffic:

- The Quay (between Thames Street and the mini roundabout at the end of Old Orchard).
- High Street (from the junction with Castle Street down to The Quay).
- Castle Street (the first 10 metres north of the Quay).
- Paradise Street.

The closure will be carried out using barriers. The closure applies to motorised traffic only, so people will still be able to walk and cycle in these areas.

Delivery vehicles will be able to enter the closed streets between 10pm and 10am. The Council will work with businesses during the trial period to try to address any issues regarding deliveries and access. Any deliveries between 10am and 10pm will have to park outside the closure area and walk deliveries in. A new loading bay will be provided on the Quay opposite the Customs House.

Three new disabled parking bays are being converted from general parking bays outside The Custom House to replace those bays that are no longer accessible. There are 16 disabled car parking bays at the Quay Visitors Multi Storey Car Park and a further 13 disabled bays on The Quay opposite Thistle Hotel that remain accessible.

Motorcycle parking will be moved to the roundabout on the Quay.

The RouteOne bus will continue to stop at Lower High Street (outside Sainsburys), then will divert into Castle Street, Strand Street and onto Old Orchard.
Why prioritise walking and cycling on Poole Quay and Lower High Street?

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Government has instructed Local Authorities to make any changes necessary to enable adequate social distancing on local streets, in order to keep people safe and to enable businesses to re-open. The council has been given money from the Government’s Emergency Active Travel Funding to fund these changes.

The Lower High Street has extremely narrow pavements which do not permit people to maintain social distancing, and the parking along one side along with vehicles travelling through restricts people’s ability to safely walk in the road. Removing vehicular traffic will create a safer space where pedestrians can safely access the shops and travel through the area at ease.

During the nice weather, many people have chosen the Quay as a place to go for a walk or bike ride, and it can get quite crowded at times. By closing the Quay to traffic, we will be freeing up space for people to move by foot or by bicycle. We also hope that closing the Quay will enable some of the pubs and restaurants on the Quay to expand their outdoor seating areas. This will also directly link to existing walking and cycle routes such as the Holes Bay path, Townside Access Scheme, Baiter and Whitecliff.

Prioritising walking and cycling helps us to contribute towards tackling the council’s declared climate emergency and to enable people to make journeys to work, school, and for leisure, by bicycle instead of using cars or public transport as contained in the Local Transport Plan.

Will events still be held on the Quay?

In a similar way to how the Quay is normally closed for special events, once it is safe to host events again we can open the Quay up for events such as Bike Night, Quay for my Car etc.

What is an Experimental Traffic Order?

An experimental traffic order allows the council to put traffic measures in place for a trial period of up to 18 months. During this time the council assesses the impacts of the measures and may make any necessary changes. You can provide feedback at any point during the trial.

At the end of the trial period, the Council will make a decision as to whether or not the changes should be made permanent.

Have your say

Your views are important to us and we want to hear from those who live in, work in or visit the area. You can give your views on the changes and how they affect you using the online form at www.bcpcouncil.gov.uk/poolequayconsultation. You can give feedback in this way throughout the trial period.

If you wish to formally object to or support the proposed Order, please send your comments by 27 December 2020 to Covid-distancing@bcpcouncil.gov.uk or ETRO/1, Growth and Infrastructure, BCP Council, Civic Centre, Poole, BH15 2RU. Please put ‘ETRO/1’ as the subject, include your name and address and specify the grounds for your support or objection in your response. Any representations received may be made public. Emails of objection and support will be considered by the Council before deciding whether or not to make the experimental measures permanent.

What happens next?

We intend to review the measure in early 2021. A full report on the findings and outcomes of the ETRO will be presented to the Council’s Cabinet, who will make a decision on whether the changes should be made permanent, retained (with minor alterations), or removed. The experimental order can also be maintained for further review, up to a maximum period of 18 months (up until 27 December 2021).