


CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	30th January 2025 7.00 pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Chief Officer / Cllr S Radcliffe		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	13.1 Town Centre Safety		
Background	<p>With a reasonably steady daytime and the growth in the evening economy, significant concerns are being raised about the safety of pedestrians and cyclists on Bridge Street in the Town Centre due to the abuse and lack of enforcement on vehicle movements in that area.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The signage clearly states that vehicle access is allowed after 4.00 pm through to 10.00 am for deliveries. During that time the road access barriers at the top of Bridge Street / Market Street and Bridge Street/ Swan Bank are removed at 4.00 pm and re-instated at 10.00 am. However, cars and vans are gaining access via Little Street and West Street, between those hours when it should only be used by pedestrians and cyclists 2. During the 4.00 pm and 10.00 am period (set aside for deliveries) the following illegal activity takes place: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicles using Bridge Street as a cut-through to West Street as well as parking for restaurants and servicing takeaway vehicles. • Vehicles driving through and parking to collect and deliver meals. • This is not dissimilar to other towns such as Crewe and Macclesfield. 		
Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage entering Bridge Street via Market Street could be deemed to be confusing, it is also poorly located. • Bollards by Higher Ground café allows enough space for smaller cars to pass through this area. • At Little Street there are no bollards due to allowing Emergency Vehicle access, vehicles are using Little Street despite no entry signs being visible. • There appears to be no enforcement. 		
Options being investigated	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ANPR (auto number plate recognition cameras) 2. Improved signage 3. Gates Barriers at all 3 entry points – to be discussed with emergency services 4. Establishing options for enforcement 		

Financial Implications	The costs are not known at this point and are part of the investigations.
Environmental Implications	The implications of no action could result in serious injuries or even fatalities on Bridge Street as it is not a safe environment for users of the town centre. This could also impact businesses as footfall may decrease as a result of the growing misuse of vehicles.
Equality and Diversity Impact	Residents with visual and mobility issues are more at risk of vehicles being driven on Bridge Street between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm
PROPOSAL	To note/add comments to this report.