



Church Stretton

Town Council

Report for Public Realm Committee Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 6th December 2022

Agenda Item:

Report produced by Officer / Councillor	Locum Town Clerk
Summary	To consider the closure of Churchway on Thursday to allow additional space for the current market
Recommendation	Councillors are requested to consider the report and approve the application for a temporary road closure order for Churchway
Purpose / Benefits	To gauge success and community opinion before proceeding to a permanent order

Extension of Charter Market

Background

Church Stretton holds a weekly charter market in the Market Square every Thursday. Space in the Market Square is limited, particularly when the Christmas Tree is in place.

The Current Position

After concerns raised by a resident regarding the market blocking access to his property a visit was made to the area to assess the situation, where it was found that although some stalls were taking up more space than others; space was tight and there wasn't much movement available.

On speaking to the Market licence holder it was felt that although he had managed to move the stalls around to prevent the access being blocked it would be beneficial for all traders to extend the Market into the bottom of Churchway.

An approach was made to Shropshire Council to gauge their thoughts on the closure of the area every Thursday, who have responded that they don't foresee any difficulties, and would have no objection to the closure. The Council currently applies

each year for the closure of this area whilst the Christmas Tree is located in the Square as required by Section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. If a closure order for Thursdays was already in place this would reduce admin for Town Council and Shropshire Council staff each year.

The Way Forward

Shropshire Council have advised that it would be possible for the Council to apply for an order to apply for the closure of this area every Thursday, but that this would be a temporary order which would eventually expire. Investigations are currently ongoing through Shropshire Council about the way forward for introducing a permanent order.

It is felt that applying for a temporary order, in the first instance, would allow for the Town Council to gauge how extending the space would work for the Market, and how the resulting closure of this area of road would be received by the local community. Depending on the response received during the period of the temporary order the Council could then decide to revert back to the existing arrangements, or move forward with applying for a permanent closure.

Should such an order be applied for it could take up to eight weeks before being put in place. We currently have an order for the period of the lights switch on, which will provide us with seven weeks of closure, therefore an application needs to be made as soon as possible, to provide a seamless closure.

Recommendation

Councillors are asked to recommend that an application be made to Shropshire Council for a temporary road closure order for the bottom of Churchway for every Thursday, to coincide as close as possible to the end of the current closure order which expires on 5th January 2023.