



## Application for COVID 19 temporary road closure

| Applicant details      |                                                    |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Date</b>            | 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2020                          |
| <b>Applicant</b>       | Councillor John O'Mahony                           |
| <b>Parish/Town</b>     | Lavenham                                           |
| <b>Address</b>         | Parish Clerk, 13 Weavers Close, Lavenham, CO10 9QN |
| <b>Contact number:</b> | 01787 249817                                       |
| <b>Organisation</b>    | Lavenham Parish Council                            |

| Sections | Evidence                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Yes | No | Comment                                                                                                |
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| 1        | How many people are using the location and what are the number (one average)?                                                                                                                                                          |     |    | Monday 150<br>Tuesday 150<br>Wednesday 150<br>Thursday 150<br>Friday 150<br>Saturday 150<br>Sunday 100 |
| 2        | How many businesses are affected due to the numbers?                                                                                                                                                                                   |     |    | During current shut down there are 3 businesses open in High Street and 2 in Market Place.             |
| 3        | Have the affected businesses, residents and local authority been canvassed for this application?                                                                                                                                       | X   |    |                                                                                                        |
| 4        | Are there any objections or concerns received?                                                                                                                                                                                         |     | X  |                                                                                                        |
| 5        | Is a public transport service / route affected? If so, is there proposed alternative?                                                                                                                                                  |     | X  |                                                                                                        |
| 6        | Have you attached a clear plan showing the closure and proposed diversion route with road names must be attached to this application. Your plan must match the road name details and diversion you have specified on this application. | X   |    | Create a map - <a href="https://www.scribblemaps.com/">https://www.scribblemaps.com/</a>               |

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| <p>7.</p> | <p>Please provide reasons as to why social distancing measures in the affected location cannot be maintained without intervention</p> <p>The primary reason is the very nature of Lavenham with its medieval architecture and street plan resulting in very narrow pavements, and in many instances, none at all.</p> | <p>X</p> |  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The historic core of Lavenham has a road network that has changed little since medieval times. Building lines are irregular making pavements very narrow in places and non-existent in many others. There are more than 300 medieval timber framed buildings in the core that are still in everyday use. Such buildings do not readily lend themselves to modern usage as shops, restaurants, pubs, tea shops, pharmacy etc.</li> <li>2. While most of the shops in the village are designated non-essential there are three grocery shops and a pharmacy that are allowed to continue trading. Two of the grocers are Co-ops which open 7 days a week from 9am to 8pm; the pharmacy and the remaining grocers are 6 days a week.</li> <li>3. Many people who live in smaller locations near to Lavenham come here to shop rather than travelling to Sudbury or Bury St Edmunds. Also, many of our residents are in the upper age bracket and do not wish to drive or take the occasional bus elsewhere. Due to the age and limited mobility of many of our residents we would have difficulty in supporting the idea of one way pavements with people crossing back and forth.</li> <li>4. The shops which have been permitted to continue trading during the shut-down period have implemented a rigorous limit on the number of shoppers allowed in at any one time. This results in queues of waiting customers on the pavement outside. Passing pedestrians are obliged to step off the pavement by up to two meters to continue their passage while maintaining social distancing.</li> </ol> |
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|  |  |  |  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Even without queuing customers, where the pavements are narrow it is not possible for pedestrians to pass each other while maintaining a gap of two, or even one, meters without stepping into the roadway.</li> <li>6. There are sections of road that have parking restrictions in force but these do not always line up with where there are shops trading. All existing parking restrictions to be retained.</li> <li>7. If pavements were temporarily widened by the use of cones and signs the road available for vehicles, especially large ones such as buses and HGVs (High Street and Water Street is part of the A1141) would be insufficient for two way traffic. There are no suitable roads to provide a diversion through the village for such vehicles but if the parking of cars opposite the widened pavement were to be suspended then the available road width would be restored.</li> <li>8. There are two public car parks within the village which have been virtually empty since the shut-down was implemented. These car parks are “tariff free” although there are voluntary donation boxes in each of them. As many of the cars that currently park in High Street and Market Place are owned by residents or shop staff their vehicles could be accommodated in the car parks. Unfortunately, the closure of the public toilets in each of our car parks has brought with it the scourge of desperate people making use of hedgerows and even private gardens. This unpleasantness is being exacerbated by the gradual return to higher visitor numbers. We would therefore welcome an early return to open toilets once they have been deep cleaned to reassure users.</li> </ol> |
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|  |  |  |  | <p>9. If widened pavements were to be introduced we must consider pedestrian safety with people stepping off the pavements to walk in what would normally be the road. Cones used for this purpose should be a continuous line and roped together to form a physical barrier. It is desirable that a 20mph speed limit be introduced along these sections of road as pedestrians may be in closer proximity to moving traffic than when walking on a dedicated pavement with raised kerbs.</p> <p>10. During the current period of lock down many people have taken advantage of the early summer weather to take daily exercise by cycling or walking, with or without their dogs. There are several Public Footpaths close to the village centre. Some of these link with roads to provide a circular walk around the perimeter of the village. Such exercise has been promoted by the government and health professionals.</p> <p>11. One of the linking roads is Lower Road which runs between the banks of the River Brett and the eastern limits of the village housing. This is a road that has no pavement for much of its length and is used as “rat run” despite being signposted “Local Traffic Only”. There has been a noticeable increase in vehicle speeds on this and other roads during the shut-down period.</p> <p>12. It is proposed that Lower Road be made one way southbound from Bolton Street to Clay Lane, which is the section without pavements. Again, a 20mph maximum speed limit would be desirable.</p> <p>13. In addition to commercial premises and homes the core of the village contains our primary school. It is located on the corner of Bolton Street and Barn Street. Again,</p> |
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|  |  |  | <p>the roads surrounding the school have some narrow pavements which are less than 1 metre wide and in places no pavement at all.</p> <p>14. There are places for some 120 children at the school and consequently at the beginning and end of the school day there is a great deal of pedestrian traffic which includes lively and excited children. A number of the children that attend the school come from outside the village so are brought and collected by car. At the start and finish of the school day there is a melee of children and parents spilling onto the roads which are open to all traffic.</p> <p>15. The distance from the school to the furthest point of the village is 1.4 miles so there is a temptation for those who live at the extremities to do this journey by car. Walking this distance with small children can be challenging. Cycling is an option but there are no cycle lanes in place which is an important consideration especially for young children.</p> <p>16. A possible solution to this is to implement a traffic free zone in the immediate vicinity of the school on school days. While this would cause some inconvenience to some motorists it would give space immediately around the school for social distancing to be observed.</p> <p>17. It is recognised that enforcement of such a partial closure of these roads would be limited and would rely in large measure on willing compliance.</p> |
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| Road name/number                             | Type of restriction (full or part closure, parking restrictions etc.)                                                      | From where to where?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (1) High Street A1141                        | Width reduction to allow for pavement widening                                                                             | From Spring Street to Market Lane                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|                                              | 20mph Speed limit                                                                                                          | In both directions from Church Street to Preston Road                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|                                              | Parking restrictions on both sides                                                                                         | West side from Hall Road to opposite Spring Street, East side from Spring Street to opposite Hall Road                                                                                                                                                             |
|                                              |                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| (2) Lower Road                               | To become one way southbound from Bolton Street to Clay Lane, along with a 20mph speed limit for traffic travelling south. | Bolton Street at the junction with Shilling Street. Barn Street from 100 yards south of the junction with Bolton Street to Bolton Street. Market Lane at the junction with Prentice Street and Market Place from The Guildhall of Corpus Christi to Bolton Street. |
| (3) Bolton Street, Barn Street, Market Place | No Entry on schooldays between 8am - 9am and 3pm - 4pm                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|                                              |                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
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| Please list the roads that diverted traffic will take to navigate around the closed road(s)                                                                                 |
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| (2) To avoid Lower Road, traffic that would normally be allowed to travel north can be diverted via Water Street and High Street (A1141).                                   |
| (3) To avoid passing directly in front of the school a combination of Shilling Street, Bolton Street, Barn Street, Prentice Street, Market Place, Lady Street, can be used. |
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| Additional Information: |
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