Number: WG37262



Welsh Government Consultation – Summary of Responses

A458 Welshpool Town Centre - One-Way System

Consultation Outcome Report

December 2018

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg This document is also available in Welsh

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1. Introduction

The North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agent, on behalf of the Welsh Government is currently investigating revisions to the A458 one-way gyratory system in Welshpool's town centre to address concerns raised by traders and residents since the gyratory system was introduced in 2011.

Powys County Council on behalf of the Welsh Government have investigated potential revisions of the parking layout and widths on Broad Street as part of a parking review undertaken in 2017. This work built on previous work undertaken by Powys County Council, including a review into the one-way system and a pedestrian review of the uncontrolled crossing on Broad Street.

The parking review report recommended that Broad Street be reduced to a single lane through the use of road markings to provide a visual narrowing of the carriageway from 'The Cross' signalised junction up to the town hall. In addition, the section of road which currently has no on street parking near the town hall would be physically narrowed to 4.5m through the widening of the adjacent footways / paved areas allowing the installation of a 'Zebra' controlled crossing facility to replace an existing uncontrolled crossing point.

As part of the assessment of the one-way system an option for the east end of Brook Street to revert back to two-way was proposed. This would require the removal of the current right turn lane from Union Street into Church Street, resulting in travellers heading towards 'The Cross' signalised junction having to negotiate the one-way system via Church Bank and Mill Lane.

The 12-week formal consultation commenced on the 10th September with information being made available on the Welsh Government website and in Welshpool Tourist Information Centre and Town Council Offices. A public consultation document and questionnaire was also distributed to Welshpool residents and other key stakeholders with a closing date of Monday 3rd December for responses. Two drop-in events were also held in Welshpool Town Hall on the 14th September and 30th October 2018.

The questionnaire asked residents for their views on revisions to the existing network being considered and any other suggestions for improvements. The proposals included:-

- The possibility of reducing Broad Street to a single lane from 'The Cross' junction to the 'High Street' outside the town hall.
- The installation of a 'Zebra' crossing on Broad Street near the town hall.
- Improvements to make Brook Street two-way between Church Street and Jehu Road which would require alterations to A458 signage at Sarn-y-Bryn Caled roundabout and 'The Flash' Junction.

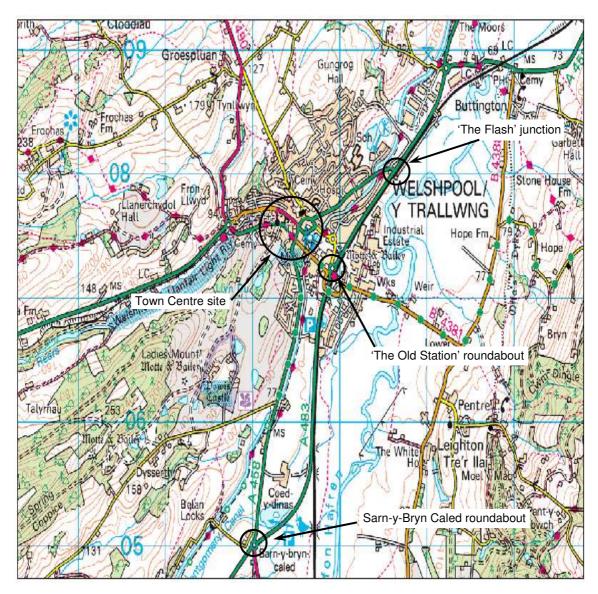
This document provides a summary of the responses to the consultation.

2. Public Consultation

The consultation was undertaken to obtain public views and gather feedback on the proposals put forward which are detailed above and any further suggestions which may be undertaken.

Three thousand five hundred consultation documents incorporating questionnaires were posted to residents in the Welshpool area.

Location plan



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3. Analysis of Responses

Two hundred and sixty responses were received to the consultation. A breakdown of how the responses were submitted is shown in the table below.

Method of Response	Number of Responses	Percentage of 260 Responses
Submitted Online	98	38
Submitted by post or delivered by hand	157	60
Submitted by email	5	2
Total	260	100

Ninety eight responses were received through the online portal and five were submitted by email.

One hundred and fifty seven responses were written responses returned by post to the Welsh Government or handed in to the Town Council offices, Tourist Information Centre and drop-in sessions.

The questionnaire comprised of five questions of which the first two established use of the existing one-way system. The third requested views on the safety of the existing system and the fourth requested views on the proposed improvements. The fifth asked for any further suggestions or comments.

Questions 1 to 5 are listed below with responses tabulated and a summary provided:

Q1. How do you use the one-way system? (select all that are relevant to you)

Interest	Number of Responses	Percentage of 281 Responses	
Local Resident	247	88	
Local Business Owner	18	6	
Other	16	6	
Total	281	100	

The majority of respondents, two hundred and sixty five (94%) were local residents and/or business owners. Sixteen (6%) of the respondents had 'Other' interests in the area.

A number of respondents had multiple uses for the one-way system hence the total figure being above the total number of responses to the consultation.

Other uses of the one-way system included working and shopping in Welshpool, travelling to work and taxi driver.

Q2. Which mode of transport do you use when you interact with the one-way System (select all that are relevant to you)

Mode of Transport	Number of Responses	Percentage of 513 Responses
Pedestrian	231	45
Cyclist	28	5
Motorcyclist	10	2
Driver	236	46
Other	8	2
Total	513	100

The majority of respondents, 91%, utilise the one-way system as drivers and/or pedestrians. A significant number use multiple modes of transport hence the total figure being above the total number of responses to the consultation.

The other modes of transport were identified as bus travel and wheelchair.

Q3. Do you feel that there are safety issues with the existing one-way system?

Element	Number of Responses		Percentage of	of Responses
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Current One-way on Brook	132	116	53	47
Street				
Current Two Traffic Lanes on Broad Street	184	66	74	26
Current Crossing Facilities	198	53	79	21
on Broad Street	.50		, ,	_'

The majority of respondents felt that there were safety issues with all three existing elements that are proposed to be amended.

74% and 79% think the two traffic lanes and current crossing facilities on Broad Street respectively have safety issues. The results for the current one-way system on Broad Street were split fairly evenly although the majority did think there were safety issues.

Of the respondents that felt there were safety issues with the existing system the following concerns were expressed.

Categories of Response	Number of Respondents who mentioned these themes
Broad Street - Problems with parking, deliveries, pedestrians	53
crossing, opening doors into the road, too narrow for two cars to travel	
Speeding traffic	47
Difficulties crossing - General	28
Difficulties crossing Broad Street	20
20mph speed limit should be introduced	13
Lack of enforcement of parking restrictions	6

Timings of red periods on controlled crossing lights too short	6
for crossing	
Difficulty pulling out of Severn Stars Road into Brook Street	5
due to parked cars, etc	
Difficulties crossing Brook Street	4
Difficulties crossing Brook Street/Jehu Road junction	4
Poor driving, wrong way on one way streets, etc	4
Too long waits for lights to change to red on controlled	4
crossings	
More pedestrian crossings required	3
Difficulties crossing High Street	2
Difficulties crossing Church Street/Mill Lane	2
Union Street and the Cross too short for traffic to swap lanes	2
Difficulties swapping lanes in Church Street	2
Additional signage required for pedestrian crossings	2
Junction near NFU building is dangerous	1
Church Road junction is dangerous	1
Difficulties crossing near NFU building	1
Difficulties crossing Church Street	1
Union Street/Mill Lane junction driving difficulties	1
Parking issues on housing estates	1
Lack of parking outside 12 High Street	1
High Street/Jehu Road junction currently dangerous	1
Union Street/Church Bank pedestrian issues	1
Lack of parking near Chip Shop and Sainsbury's	1
Red Bank/Church Bank crossing difficulties	1

Q4. If you answered yes to question 3 - how do you think the proposals will affect these concerns? Please select one for each proposal below

Proposed Element	Proposal Impact									
	1 – Improves safety - removes safety concerns		2 – Sli improven safety - removes conce	nent in partly safety	3 – No ch safety coi remain un	ncerns	4 – Sli decrease i – safety co made sl wors	n safety oncerns ightly	5 – Decr safety – concerns worse or adde	safety made others
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Proposed Two-way on Brook Street	108	50	34	16	33	15	17	8	24	11
Proposed Reduction to Single Lane on Broad Street	117	56	46	22	16	7	13	6	18	9
Proposed Zebra Crossing Facility Near the Town Hall	139	66	46	22	16	7	2	1	9	4

In all cases the majority of respondents think the proposals put forward will improve safety.

66% thought that the proposed two-way system on Brook Street would improve safety. 19% thought safety would decrease.

78% thought that the reduction to a single lane on Broad Street would improve safety. 15% thought safety would decrease.

88% thought that the zebra crossing facility on Broad Street would improve safety. 5% thought safety would decrease.

Q5. If you have any other suggestions or comments, please provide them below

A number of respondents provided suggestions or comments and the categories of response and the number of respondents who mentioned the themes are listed below.

Categories of Response	Number of Respondents who
	mentioned these themes
More controlled and uncontrolled crossing points especially	17
for elderly and disabled	
Concerns with Jehu Road / Brook Street junction layout	14
Return system as it was before the one-way system was	11
installed	
Improve signage	11
Difficulty entering Brook Street from junctions due to parked cars, visibility, etc	10
Brook Street parking issues, remove some of Brook Street	9
parking, amend parking restrictions on Brook Street for two way traffic	
Install pedestrian crossing Church Street / Mill Lane	8
junction	
Install a pelican rather than a zebra crossing on Broad	6
Street	
Incorporate cycle lane / Increase cycle provision	5
Changing Broad Street to one-lane will cause congestion	4
problems	
Likely congestion on Brook Street with two way traffic	4
Pedestrianise or close Church Street	4
Construct town bypass	4
Speeding concerns	4
Difficulties exiting Vicarage	3
Ensure public are informed of changes	3
Zebra crossing on Broad Street not required	3
Move Broad Street crossing nearer the Post Office	3
Parking issues will be created in Broad Street	3
Broad Street crossing is required	3
Improve streetscape / materials selection	3
Make Jehu Road two way	2
Difficulties crossing Jehu Road	2
Increased traffic/ queueing on Red Bank	2
General congestion issues with proposals	2
Make Jehu Road one lane	2
Extend Broad Street one lane into High Street	2
Install pedestrian crossing on Jehu Road	2

Reduce parking on Broad Street	2
Remove parking on Jehu Road outside Sainsbury's	2
Pedestrianise High Street / Broad Street	1
Congestion on Broad Street with one lane	1
Pedestrianise town centre	1
Make Broad Street two way	1
Install weight limit on Broad Street except for deliveries, etc	1
Remove lights at the Cross and replace with roundabout	1
Change traffic signal timings at the Cross	1
Right of way from Westwood joining one-way	1
Leave one-way system as it is	1
Give way / right of way to go up Church Bank	1
More difficult access to Bron-y-Buckley	1
Effective signing of new crossing In Broad Street required	1
Crossing light timings at the Library need changing	1
Access group – Address concerns on all uncontrolled	1
crossing points. People with disabilities have got problems	
to cross there. We would like to suggest any type of control	
at crossing points instead of no control at all.	
Install raised platform for Broad Street crossing	1
Converging issues at Mill Lane junction	1
Install yellow box at Morrison's junction	1
Improve Westwood pub zebra crossing	1
Remove kerbing restrictions for access / egress from New	1
Street	
Change mini-roundabout on Red Bank to give way junction from Brookfield Road	1
Install traffic calming on Broad Street	1
Reduce corner radii and raise pavement area from Red Bank to Church Bank to slow traffic	1

Welshpool Town Council Response

The following response to the consultation was received from Welshpool Town Council on the 26th September:-

Minute no 8: One Way System Review

The Committee received an update on the proposed changes to the one-way system in Welshpool.

The Committee considered the plans and detailed junction layouts. (large scales plans were made available at the meeting).

The Committee noted the following public consultation results from the Town and Community Plan 2017-2022:

Heading	For	Against	Not sure
Crossing point by Town Hall	65%	21%	14%
Alterations to system to bring Brook Street/Union Street to two way traffic	58%	29%	13%
Single lane in Broad Street	49%	37%	14%

The scheme proposed is in line with the Town and Community Plan 2017-2022 policy.

The Council was informed of the open day and business forum views which were in general to support the changes.

The Council considered the proposals for changes to the one-way system in Welshpool.

The Council **RESOLVED** to support the changes proposed to the Welshpool One Way Road System.

The voting was 13 in favour, 0 against and 0 abstaining.

The Town Clerk is to inform Welsh Government that the Council wishes to complete a review with Welsh Government and Powys County Council 3 months after its introduction to consider.

- a) How the new arrangements are working and their effect on other areas of the town including Red Bank.
- b) The introduction of yellow lines to allow better sight lines from Dol Y Felin.

Welshpool Business Forum Response

The following response to the consultation was received from the Welshpool Business Forum.

BUSINESS FORUM – NOVEMBER 2018 REPORT ON ONE WAY SYSTEM REVIEW

Area of discussion	Viewpoint of forum
Overview	The meeting was very positive with regards to the
	overall proposals and were keen to see such
	changes as soon as possible.
Broad Street single lane	Support for the single lane option.
traffic	Parking in main street important for traders and for
	those who are unsure on their feet or disabled.
Broad Street crossing	The Zebra Crossing by the Town Hall area was
points	welcomed. This should be in place after the traffic
•	has been sorted in Brook Street. Currently too
	much traffic to make it work.
Jehu Road junction	The current arrangement and the plans to bring out
with High Street	the kerbs was accepted as a good way forward.
Jehu Road junction	The difficulty of turning out with more traffic was
with Brook Street	considered. However, with the two lanes leading
	into Brook Street this was not thought to be a great
	issue.
Brook Street	The issue of turnout out of Bron y Buckley and
	Woodside was raised. It was felt that the residents
	here will find it more difficult to get out onto Brook
	Street. No solutions were offered.
	Broad Street crossing points Jehu Road junction with High Street Jehu Road junction with Brook Street

7	Church Bank/Red Bank junction	Concern over the junction with Red Bank was expressed, particularly with lorries. It was suggested that a weight limit should be put on the road between the Guilsfield Road and Brookfield Road.
8	Signage	Signage will be very important and must be considered carefully. If the signage is wrong in any way tourists will get lost and more bad publicity on the one way system will not be helpful.
9	Dol y Felin	The extension of the yellow lines to give better sight lines to Dol y Felin was welcomed.
10	Parking	Any loss of parking should be resisted or reduced to an absolute minimum.
11	Timing	The scheme taking place before Easter 2019 was welcomed.

Emergency Services Response

The emergency services were also consulted, however, no responses have been received to date.

4. Next Steps

Given the positive response to the proposals, it is recommended that detailed design of the scheme including Permanent Traffic Restriction Orders and Road Safety Audits should be undertaken, taking into account responses to the consultation where necessary.

The consultation results will be submitted to the Minister for a decision on whether to proceed with the proposals.

Annex A: Public consultation d	document and questionnaire
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Introduction

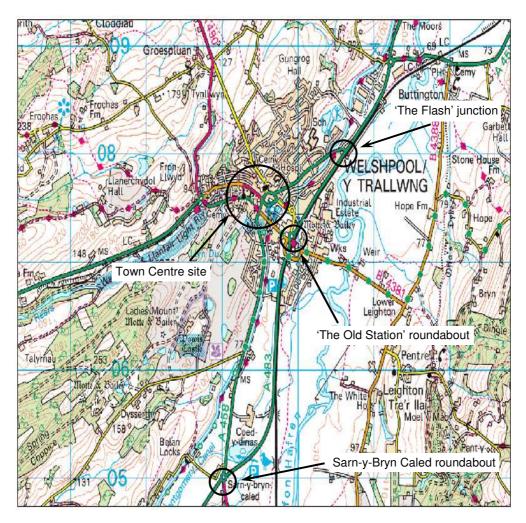
The North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agent, on behalf of the Welsh Government is currently investigating revisions to the A458 one-way gyratory system in Welshpool's town centre to address concerns raised by traders and residents since the gyratory system was introduced in 2011.

The revisions to the existing network being considered are;

- The possibility of reducing Broad Street to single lane from 'The Cross' junction to the 'High Street' outside the town hall.
- The installation of a 'Zebra' crossing on Broad Street near the town hall.
- Improvements to make Brook Street two-way between Church Street and Jehu Road which would require alterations to A458 signage at Sarn-y-Bryn Caled roundabout and 'The Flash' Junction.

This consultation seeks your views on the above.

Location Plan



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Background

The A458 trunk road is one of the main east – west links in Wales and passes through the centre of Welshpool, a market town in rural Powys. A one-way gyratory system was introduced in 2011 resulting in the A458 traffic using Broad Street westbound, the main shopping street, and B4381 Brook Street eastbound.

There are three junctions that lead into Welshpool from the A483 by-pass, these are; Sarn-y-Bryn Caled roundabout at the end of the by-pass south of Welshpool, a roundabout midway along the by-pass near to 'The Old Station' in Welshpool and a 'T' junction known locally as 'The Flash' junction at the north side of Welshpool. All three junctions have primary route signage for the A458, the A458 traffic at the Sarn-y-Bryn Caled roundabout and 'The Flash' junction use mostly residential streets while from 'The Old Station' the A458 traffic uses mostly commercial / retail streets.

Concerns have been expressed over pedestrian safety along Broad Street as well as inappropriate driver behaviour through the main shopping area of the town such as speeds and undertaking as well as illegal double parking obstructing traffic lanes.

Development

Powys County Council on behalf of the Welsh Government have investigated potential revisions of the parking layout and widths on Broad Street as part of a parking review undertaken in 2017. This work built on previous work undertaken by Powys County Council, including a review into the one-way system to investigate various concerns raised by traders and residents regarding the gyratory system, and a pedestrian review of the uncontrolled crossing on Broad Street.

The parking review report recommended that Broad Street be reduced to a single lane through the use of road markings to provide a visual narrowing of the carriageway from 'The Cross' signalised junction up to the town hall. In addition, the section of road which currently has no on street parking near the town hall would be physically narrowed to 4.5m through the widening of the adjacent footways / paved areas allowing the installation of a 'Zebra' controlled crossing facility to replace an existing uncontrolled crossing point.

As part of the assessment of the one-way system an option for the east end of Brook Street to revert back to two-way was proposed. This would require the removal of the current right turn lane from Union Street into Church Street, resulting in travellers heading towards 'The Cross' signalised junction having to negotiate the one-way system via Church Bank and Mill Lane.

Proposals

The existing and proposed layouts are shown on the A3 plans included with this document.

Figure 1 – Existing Layout of One-Way System.

Figure 1 shows the current layout of the one-way system in the town centre.

Figure 2 – Overview of the Town Centre Revisions.

There are three main elements to the proposal, these include;

- allowing two-way traffic flow on part of Brook Street,
- narrowing Broad Street to a single lane,
- installation of a Zebra crossing on Broad Street in the vicinity of the town hall.

These are highlighted on Figure 2 to provide an overview of each part and their place within the proposal.

Figure 3 – Brook Street / Jehu Road Junction, Traffic Island Revised.

As part of the two-way traffic flow proposal on Brook Street, the existing traffic / refuge island at the Brook Street / Jehu Road needs to be altered. Figure 3 shows the proposed alterations to the island and road markings in the vicinity of the junction.

Figure 4 – Union Street / Church Street Junction, Traffic Lanes Remodelled.

As part of the two two-way traffic flow proposal on Brook Street, the existing right turn lane from Union Street into Church Street has to be removed. The removal of this lane allows for traffic from Mill Lane to turn into Union Street / Brook Street heading west.

This will result in additional travel as drivers wishing to utilise Church Street from Brook Street / Union Street will have to negotiate the gyratory system of Church Bank then Mill Lane before turning left up Church Street. Figure 4 shows the proposed alterations to the Union Street / Church Street junction.

Figure 5 – Broad Street, Zebra Crossing with Single Traffic Lane.

To address the concerns of traders and residents, Broad Street will be reduced to a single lane of traffic. The road width will be visually reduced to 3.7m adjacent to the on-street parking through the use of road markings. While the section adjacent to the town hall will be physically reduced to 4.5m by widening of the footways / paved areas either side. This footway / pavement widening improves visibility past parked vehicles and will allow a 'Zebra' controlled crossing facility to be installed near to the town hall. Figure 5 shows the proposed alterations to Broad Street.

Figure 6 – High Street / Jehu Road, Footway Widening.

A Road Safety Audit on the pedestrian refuge islands at the High Street / Jehu Road junction was undertaken as part of those improvement works. As part of the audit the auditors raised concerns regarding illegal and inconsiderate parking within the hatched areas adjacent to the islands. To address these concerns the proposal includes widening the footways over the hatched areas to physically reduce the available road width. Figure 6 shows the proposed alterations.

Questionnaire response form

Thank you for taking the time to complete the following questionnaire. Your views are important to us.

Please review the information on the proposal for the revisions to the one-way system in Welshpool's town centre, and let us know what your comments are by **3 December 2018**.

Information on the proposals can either be viewed at the drop-in sessions at the Town Hall on the 14 September and 30 October 2018 or on the website https://beta.gov.wales/a458-welshpool-town-centre-one-way-system. If you have any queries on the proposals, the project team at the drop-in sessions will be happy to assist.

The questionnaire can be returned in the envelope provided to the FREEPOST address below, or handed to a project team member at the drop-in session, or submitted by email to welshpooltowncentre@powys.gov.uk

Welshpool One-Way Consultation

FREEPOST Welsh Government Sarn Mynach Llandudno Junction Conwy LL31 9RZ

Alternatively, you can fill in an online questionnaire which can be found at the website address above.

Questionnaire response form

Name and / or Organisation						
Address						
Publication of	responses					
If you would prefer your name and address not to be published, please tick here						
1) – How do yo	u use the one-	way system'	? (Select all that are rel	evant to you).		
Local Reside	Local Resident		Local Business Owner			
Other Interes	st, please state					
	de of transport hat are relevan		when you interact with	the one-way s	ystem?	
Pedestrian			Cyclist	Γ		
Motorcyclist			Driver			
Other, please	e specify					
3) - Do you fee	I that there are	safety issue	es with the existing one	-way system?		
 Current 	one-way on Broo	k Street		Yes		
				No		
 Current 	two traffic lanes of	on Broad Stree	et	Yes		
				No		
Current crossing facilities on Broad Street Yes						
				No		
If yes, pleas below.	se list any safety	oncerns yo	ou have with the existing	situation in the l	box	

Questionnaire response form

a) Proposed two-way on Brook Street. b) Proposed reduction to single lane on Broad Street. c) Proposed Zebra crossing facility near the town hall. 1 – Improves safety - removes safety concerns.	a)		
	a)		
		b)	
2 – Slight improvement in safety - partly removes safety concerns.			
3 - No change -safety concerns remain unaltered.			
4 – Slight decrease in safety – safety concerns made slightly worse.			
5 – Decreases safety – safety concerns made worse or others added.			
If you have any other suggestions or comments please provide	them belo	ow.	

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this questionnaire.

