

28 May 2026

I would like to reaffirm my objections to making West Street 2 way.

My previous objections stand with some additions.

I am not sure if the pathway from the Folly Roundabout will remain, in the development of the Riverside Park. If it will, that means pedestrians will have to cross 2 way traffic to continue across the West Street.

In the first section of the West Street you have West Street carpark which will have to cross traffic to exit. Next there is a crossing for pedestrians who may be coming from the carpark, the college, the sports centre and at the moment, The Lights. At certain times, particularly lunchtime, there is an increased number of pedestrians, namely students, crossing from the side of the sports centre to the path by the side of Lidl's. A short distance on there is a further crossing going to the same path by Lidl's. The last crossing is by the road access to the sports centre which goes across towards Chantry Lodge.

So, at the moment you have 4 crossings in a very short bit of road which are not too difficult to cross with it being one way.

I understand that it is possible for vans and possibly a lorry to be able to park on the pavement at the side of the sports centre. Recently I was in that vicinity and there were 2 vans parked. In the proposed changes I would assume that on the drivers side it would be road and that would mean there would be a very narrow pathway on the passenger side up to the building, thereby restricting people with wheelchairs, mobility scooters and baby buggies.

Going further round passed Chantry Lodge it would seem that the pathway would disappear with the road widening and pedestrians would have to cross West Street to the Lidl's side, walk just round the corner and cross the road again, all this while negotiating 2 way traffic. At the moment you stay on the pathway all the way round.

Going back to the crossing from the side of the sports centre to the side of Lidl's, pedestrians have already crossing West Street once. They then go through Lidl's carpark and have to cross it a second time to get to town. There always seem to be people crossing there in both directions. It is rare to see just 1 person. I have found that, as a pedestrian on a mobility scooter, vehicles frequently stop to let people cross. As a driver, I do the same thing.

With 2 way traffic that could be dangerous.

One point which I did not make before is with regard to the taxi rank being moved. I understand to proposal is to relocate it to Waterloo Court.

At present people can come from Chantry Centre and get a taxi home or come from the bus station. The reason they cannot get a bus home is because the bus services to their areas have been cut or they cannot get on a bus.

At present there are also a couple of parking places behind the taxi rank so people can be dropped off for the bus station. There may be people who are going away with luggage and that is the closest point.

People who need a taxi will have to walk a distance and then negotiate a steep slope at the side of the multi storey carpark to get to the bus station, which for people with mobility problems is almost impossible.

When you look at the pedestrian footfall in West Street, it must have the highest continuous footfall throughout the day of most other roads in the town. It seems to me that putting in a scheme which makes it more hazardous for pedestrians to cross such a short section of road, twice in many cases, is counter productive for making the lives of pedestrians safer. Plus the pedestrians will be breathing in more vehicle fumes.

I am not against the Riverside Park proposal.

There surely must be a better way of all parties.

Judith Entwisle