(a) KEYNSHAM FISH BAR – RE HIGH STREET CLOSURE

Good afternoon,

I have contacted Traffic Management regarding the closure of Keynsham High Street that comes into play this Monday. Please see below the email thread outlining my concerns with the closure.

While I am waiting for a response I wanted to reach out to further contacts with the hope to be heard during these already challenging times for small businesses!!

Many thanks,
REDACTED
(Keynsham Fish Bar)

From: REDACTED
Sent: 09 July 2020 11:25
To: Traffic Management Team <Traffic_ManagementTeam@bathnes.gov.uk>
Cc REDACTED

Subject: Re: HIGH STREET CLOSURE

Dear Paul,

In response to your email I am very disappointed that whatever issue the small business might have, that no matter how much help or support is required from the local authority you will go ahead regardless.

I had to relocate in the high street when my premises were demolished to make way for the precinct and now I have to battle because I am not allowed access for delivery to **my business** throughout the working day.

Can you please let me know how my two 11 litre bins of waste, two collections a week of food waste, are going to be collected bearing in mind that the waste company **will not** commit to a specific time? Do you think our suppliers would be happy to deliver a tonne of potatoes on a pallet across a main road and pedestrian crossing? I am not even sure health and safety would allow this.

While we appreciate the importance of social distancing can you please explain the need to shut an entire road when footfall is already so significantly low we are barely able to break even?

I have attached two photos as an example of measures that have been implanted on my local high street. This provides safe social distancing while allowing the business to carry on as normal with minimal disruptions. Is this not a compromise?

Regards,

(Keynsham Fish Bar)

On Thu, Jul 9, 2020 at 9:49 AM Traffic Management Team <Traffic_ManagementTeam@bathnes.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear REDACTED

Thank you for your email

I am afraid that the temporary traffic restriction will not enable you to access your car park after 9am. In order for people to make full use of the space created by the road closure and feel safe in doing so we have to limit the number of exemptions to the restriction. This is being limited to the dial a ride bus, emergency service vehicles and maintenance vehicles. These are all very distinct and highly visible vehicles and the public will understand and see the need as to why they are being permitted. However, if we were to permit access to your property we would undoubtedly receive requests from other businesses in the High Street to receive access for deliveries or other purposes and it would then be difficult to turn these down. Continuing to allow access for these reasons would undermine the purpose of the road closure and not create the safe environment that people expect from a traffic-free area.

The road closure is supported by the Town Council and is similar to the temporary closures we have introduced in York Street, Kingsmead Square, Milsom Street, Cheap Street, Westgate Street, Saw Close and Upper Borough Walls in Bath.

We will, however, include an exemption within the Traffic Regulation Order that enables you or anyone else to exit your car park after 9am if your vehicle was already there before the road closure starts that day, since you are so close to the end of the High Street.

The 9am to 5pm restriction has been chosen to reflect the times when the High Street is at its busiest and when measures to support social distancing are most needed.

We appreciate that during the restricted hours deliveries vehicles will not be able to stop as close to your premises as they can at the moment. The loading bay outside of Sainsburys is not too far away and there is a crossing too.
Yours sincerely
Paul Garrod
Traffic Management & Network Manager

Bath & North East Somerset Council
www.bathnes.gov.uk

From: REDACTED
Sent: 08 July 2020 11:00
To: Traffic Management Team <Traffic_ManagementTeam@BATHNES.GOV.UK>
Cc redacted
Subject: HIGH STREET CLOSURE

Dear Mrs Romero
I have been closed for the last 14 weeks and as soon as we open after a long time here you come with this idea of closing the High street. I don't understand why you think closing the High street will help the small businesses. The High street is very quiet at the moment and this is just another nail in the coffin of the small businesses. In other parts of Bristol the council have not closed the High street but placed red and white plastic barriers to enable social distancing for the foreseeable future. Why can't this be done in KEYNSHAM instead of closing the High street.? On Monday there were 3 staff working in my shop. We took £30 for lunch, there is nobody in Keynsham. It occurs to me that this has presented you with an excuse to close the High street believing this is the answer to the problem , when in fact it will have the reverse effect and kill the High street off for good, and the very people you are trying to help will not be coming back to KEYNSHAM again.
As far as gaining access to the High street is concerned can you explain to me how I'm going to get a tonne of potatoes delivered to my shop? At the moment the delivery van can park outside my shop and make a delivery without any problem, so now you are creating yet another problem and causing yet more stress to the everyday running of my shop!
There are 6 nominated parking spaces at the rear of my shop, can you tell me how vehicles are supposed to gain access ?
I hope that this situation can be given sensible consideration because this is extremely worrying. Hopefully the temporary solution for widening the pavements can be adopted in Keynsham as elsewhere.
Please give this your kind consideration bearing in mind that we are entering an even more uncertain time after lockdown, and now have to build business up again after many weeks away.

Kind regards
REDACTED
KEYNSHAM FISH BAR