

Press Release

13th October 2021

Harpenden Town Council Statement regarding High Street measures implemented in response to the challenges of Covid

In 2020, Hertfordshire County Council, together with St Albans City and District Council and Harpenden Town Council, delivered a number of initiatives that aimed to protect the local community, including the vulnerable, to access essential High Street services.

One of these initiatives was the introduction of the social distancing measures in the High Street, identified as a location of potential high risk due to its footfall and narrow footways. These temporary measures were introduced in line with national and local Public Health guidelines.

In the summer of 2021 a survey was conducted to understand local views on whether temporary measures should be considered for a longer term trial period. A project board, including officers and elected representatives from Hertfordshire County Council, St Albans City and District Council and Harpenden Town Council was created to help consider the options and decide upon the future of the measures.

Having considered the findings of this survey, listened to the views of local people and considered the issues raised by businesses, the project board has concluded that the continuation of the existing High Street measures is not the right option for Harpenden. As such the measures will be removed and the High Street layout returned to how it was before the measures were introduced.

We know that the pandemic has presented challenges to local communities and businesses and it is crucial to support them going forwards.

In the weeks and months ahead the Town Council will be focussed on supporting the recovery of the High Street. This will include delivering events and initiatives that draw people into the Town and improving public spaces to make them more attractive, thus encouraging people to stay longer.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank those who took the time to complete the survey or share their views with us in a different way. We will provide updates on when the measures will be removed once available.

###

Further information:

Please direct all press enquiries to Claire Ahmed, Communications Officer, E. claire.ahmed@harpenden.gov.uk / t.01582 463542

Information about Harpenden Town Council

Harpenden Town Council was created in 1974 and is the largest parish in the St Albans District with a population of almost 30,000 represented by 16 Councillors across 4 Wards. For more information about other Harpenden Town Council events visit www.harpenden.gov.uk/events-calendar