

Bedford Place is such a nice place to be currently - the outdoor seating is perfect during a pandemic and it will be a wonderful area during summer!

Please don't take us backwards. Car use needs to be reduced, and Bedford Place is so much more pleasant an environment without cars. At least leave it as-is for the summer to give it a fair chance.

Having recently moved nearer to the City Centre with two young children, I would not have chosen to spend time in Bedford Place before. With small pavements, fast moving traffic and a pretty grey and dreary area. Since it was pedestrianised it is a lovely place to go. It is vibrant and interesting and safe! We have taken a stroll down there with the pram and sat outside with the community. It felt great! A feeling that you don't get from a rat run.

The introduction of the closure and effective creation of a Public Square on Bedford Place has revitalised the area and made it more of a go to location.

The closure of the roads around Bedford place has been a wonderful addition to the city. It has made the area feel much safer, many cars would speed along this road unnecessarily using it as a rat run to avoid London road. Often speeding right up to St Anne's Catholic school creating a danger for the students and staff there crossing the road. In addition I would note that unsavoury people would often loiter in and around their souped-up tinted windowed cars in the evening on Bedford place. Creating an intimidating presence for local people, I have not seen this presence since the closure. Not to mention how brilliant the outside seating has been for business, creating a great community between the various hospitality businesses. It is also lovely to see the artwork painted on the floor, employing local creatives and brightening up what is a pretty raggedy road otherwise.

Please reconsider the pedestrianisation of Bedford Place. Please consider the long-term outlook. Southampton needs a place to be creative, colourful and innovative. We have a huge student population with nowhere to go. Thank you.

We live just off Bedford place. Whilst it's great you're asking the businesses it'd be good if you could ask the residents for their opinion too. Personally we love it and are very disappointed that it may be taken away. It gives the area a continental relaxed vibe with has attracted many customers to the area. It has also meant that cafes and bars can open during lockdown. None of us can say for sure that there won't be another lockdown so taking this away is potentially taking away business. Whilst shops have lost trade from passing cars there's still a car park at each end so they have easy access. Since pubs and cafes have been open outside there hadn't been one day where the area hasn't been busy so it's greatly increased foot traffic who are more likely to pop into a shop than those in cars. It also gives places without an outdoor area the chance to offer outdoor seating which in the summer will greatly increase customers.

I have enjoyed the pedestrianisation of Bedford Place, having frequented the cafes and pubs that have placed tables on the road.

Pedestrianisation in Bedford Place has been fantastic - such an improvement for the area. The restaurants having outside seating is so lovely - reminds me of the narrow pedestrian

streets that are lined with restaurants in Brussels! The area has become much more attractive for people to come in and enjoy dining - easy to park in the nearby car parks and safely sit in the outside sim eating without the plague of passing noise/fumes from cars. Delightful!

Outdoor space is more important than ever and remains the safest way to do anything in a covid way. Reducing car traffic will encourage people to use local businesses.

Having Bedford Place closed to traffic, thus opening it up to a more cosmopolitan way of dining and socialising, has improved the area no end. I'm sure there have been some challenges, but it has encouraged more people and footfall to the area during the day. Having visited the area for a number of different reasons, and therefore discussed the change with a number of business owners, recently, I can only see how it has positively impacted these smaller businesses. We know that Bedford Place is popular with drinking culture at night, and I have no doubt this will not change, however, to improve its popularity as a place to visit during the day must be something that should continue. The area can only thrive and develop further if Bedford Place stays closed to traffic.

Undoing the pedestrianisation of Bedford Place is a terrible, terrible idea

It would be an absolute outrage to turn this back into the awful system it used to be. Bedford place is flourishing with the road closures to cars. And after such an awful year the closure would be a real hit to the businesses based there. Also we don't have enough outside spaces for pedestrians as it is and this change has been massive bonus to Southampton

The pedestrianisation of areas of Southampton have been supported by local businesses and local people. As we may have to continue to opt for outside gatherings more often it does not make sense to cut the capacity of local restaurants, bars and pubs - an industry which has already had a significant hit in the pandemic. It would also appear to be against Conservative policy of supporting local and small businesses especially during COVID-19.

Hi Dan,

Regarding Bedford Place:

It concerns me that closing any part of the scheme may undermine it as a safe, vibrant place to go in the evening. I've spoken with staff who fear going back to the days of boy racers and curb crawlers.

Asides from the benefits to traders being able to utilise road space for outdoor hospitality, cutting the through road means that overall speeds and traffic quantities in the area - even outside the closed zone - have calmed significantly. In terms of disabled people having access, there are 4 large car parks on the edges of the scheme, so if there is going to be this type of scheme anywhere in the city it is ideally placed. I want our city to be hugely ambitious in its visitor offering, and with new street art and vibrant streets, Bedford Place really could be Southampton's "Brighton Lanes".

I'm not going to second guess your proposals for changes to the other schemes, only that I support Boris Johnson's view that not only are we going to have to exchange cars for electric versions to meet our climate change goals, but we are also going to need to reduce our dependence on cars entirely. Personally I have replaced using a car in the city with using the rental e-scooters and trains, and I'm sure many others will follow when this scheme is expanded across the city. Let's make our city cleaner, greener, and a more pleasant place to

live and visit. Southampton is part of the 7th or 8th biggest metropolitan area in the UK and our aspirations should be at that level.

I'm sure you share my passion that Southampton becomes an attractive, vibrant city where people want to spend time and visit.

If you are able to I'd love to meet you to discuss the views of our members, and how we can work together to make Southampton the city it deserves to be,

Kind Regards,

Please think carefully before removing these areas. The city is already very polluted with the docks so we need to do everything we can to make sure where we can, we are reducing emissions and making the city a nice place to live and visit.

I've loved the fact Bedford place has been closed. Before the pandemic I always drove into town which is ridiculous given I live only a 20 minute walk away. Knowing I can go down a pedestrian route with no car fumes has made a difference. I know the businesses say they have struggled but I've made an effort to go to the local ones I want to support and it's not like access is fully cut off. There are lots of car parks within a five minute walk. Maybe make them free and keep the road closed as a compromise

Dear Dan. Please please don't rip up the good start that has been made in the city. Build on it rather than salting the wells. Thanks

The car-free area in Bedford Place has been amazing for both businesses and customers. I have been to Bedford Place much more frequently since these changes because the atmosphere is great and has a community feel. As a car driver and resident in the City Centre, I haven't been inconvenienced in the slightest by the changes to pedestrianised these areas and encourage the council to look at implementing these in other areas too. I understand that there were initial objections but these were soon overcome when residents of Southampton began making the most of the new areas. Oxford Street is another area that demonstrates how well this sort of pedestrianisation works.

Regardless of the views on the transport plan, the pedestrianisation of Bedford Place area has been a huge success and has breathed new life into the area. Whilst there is obviously disagreement between hospitality owners and other businesses, the area is brighter and better than before. It is essential we keep this area.

The Bedford Place scheme is a transformative piece of urbanism which has greatly improved the public realm of this area. The Bedford Place area is one of the few areas in the city designated for an evening economy and therefore priority should be given to support the hospitality sector by ensuring the street remains closed providing important space for local independent hospitality businesses to provide outdoor seating. The pedestrianisation of Bedford Place supports independent hospitality businesses which have to compete with national chains at West Quay South / Watermark. You should be supporting them with this scheme not providing a hammer blow removing it. There are so many examples of pedestrianisation actually increasing and boosting footfall to local businesses once the public become accustomed to it. The space is vibrant and creative and provides a new destination in Southampton that looks like The Lanes in Brighton, Soho in London and the Northern Quarter in Manchester. Southampton needs a cultural and vibrant heart to make it a more liveable city, not more pollution and priority to motorists.

The restrictions on car through traffic make the area more pleasant, more usable, more financially viable and support active travel choices. They are essential to moving our city to a clean, green economy that benefits everyone. In Bedford Place businesses can still be accessed by car and plenty of parking is available. Other plans would improve Southampton's performance and attractiveness compared to our peer cities, and help improve the health of our city.

The SCC has made some excellent progress in making the area more enjoyable and accessible for pedestrians and cyclists. Please continue this good work!

I am firmly of the opinion that Southampton has enough car parks and is already very accessible. I am proud of the city's green spaces (in fact, it was one of the main reasons I moved here) and am absolutely horrified at the idea of wasting such beautiful space with drab concrete and extra parking that barely anybody asked for (and the few who are asking for it don't seem to be aware of the city's existing parking provisions). I have also very much enjoyed Bedford Place businesses having room to expand and survive, given that they still cannot serve people indoors. There is no need for taxis and boy racers to be given back control of these city centre streets; there are so many ways around, there is just no excuse for re-opening those roads. Taking away what in my opinion has been a very successful pilot scheme will put businesses in jeopardy and...well just ruin Summer for local people. I for one urge you to reconsider the current plans to undo all of the previous council's work towards making this a green, pleasant city, with local businesses at the forefront of planning decisions.

Please reconsider opening Bedford Place to cars again. The local businesses need as many customers as possible and they can do this by having extra seating outside. The closed roads give the area a great atmosphere and looks contemporary like Bristol and Brighton. Please keep the roads shut.

These schemes are such a win-win, making the city a more modern and vibrant place whilst at the same time helping with reducing our environmental impact.

The closure of Bedford Place to motor traffic has transformed it into a vibrant hospitality area. The air is cleaner, the area is quieter and it's much more welcoming to drinkers and diners. Other local businesses will benefit from increased foot traffic as lockdown eases and people can enjoy all these trades more freely.

At a time where climate change and mitigations should be at the forefront of our minds, in a city that has such high pollution levels but wants to promote itself as a city of culture, why would you want to backpedal on schemes that will benefit the residents / visitors of today and the future ?

The Bedford Place pedestrianisation has brought life to what was quite an awkward area due to the traffic, and this needs to be maintained not removed. Southampton is already lacking in areas where small businesses can thrive and your short-sightedness and car-driven single-mindedness is only going to re-enforce this.

Hi Dan,

I have recently become a resident of Southampton. Bedford Place is right on my doorstep

and I absolutely love the pedestrianisation of it. The area is always bustling and busy, so I am horrified to hear of the plans to open the road up to traffic again. I really feel that scrapping the pedestrianisation will cause the road to get busy, increase air pollution and reduce the footfall of the local businesses on the street.

Kind Regards

Bedford place is now a much more attractive place to visit thanks to the pedestrianisation, and I think the city centre would benefit from even more pedestrianised areas rather than rolling them back to encourage car use. The current traffic situation is unsustainable in the long-term, and maintaining the status quo will just cause problems further down the line. Action needs to be taken now to encourage a switch to more sustainable travel options and to reduce the number of cars in the city where possible.

Pedestrianising Bedford place makes sense and it's not an essential travel road so why reopen it. It's dangerous during weekend nights because of the various bar and club goers. As a driver I'm happy to avoid it!

Keep Bedford Place car free!

Please do not allow cars down Bedford Place again. I think it's beautiful and unique to us and so good for all of the businesses. It has made a really lovely central hub for food and drink in a previously underused area.

Bedford place has become so much better, for the public as well as businesses. Public feel safer, knowing they don't need to step into the road to pass by others, as the paths are narrow. You don't get cars flying past at stupid speeds. They feel safer as the security teams have a better view of the crowds. Businesses have done nothing but praise the change. I think reverting back would be a massive mistake.

The pedestrianisation of Bedford place was delayed due to red tape and only implemented in September. We need a full summer to understand the benefits / pitfalls. I strongly support keeping the pedestrianised zone, it was a joy to use and it would encourage me to visit Bedford Place more often during day time hours. It's welcoming and friendly, exactly what Southampton needs. I urge you to reconsider and allow (at the very least) a full summer of activity to better understand the impact.

I live in Bedford Place and the pedestrian zone is amazing. Please do not get rid of it!

Please retain the pedestrian areas like Bedford Place

Bedford place and surrounding areas being pedestrianised are one of the best things to happen in recent times and has created a real happy city feel in the area and helps businesses out in an area that has struggled in the last decade.

The feel of Bedford Place has vastly improved since the pedestrianisation. It is fitting for a city of culture and greatly improves the flow of the streets and how safe they are. These are great benefits to the city and will put the city in a positive light to visitors. It will be a great shame if you go ahead with your reported reversal of this pedestrianised area. I hope you will reconsider.

Removing traffic from areas where people walk and eat will make the city centre a much more attractive place to visit and spend money. Traffic is one of the key deterrents for me personally. I am happy to park in nearby car parks and walk about in peace. This will enable me to spend more money in the area rather than online! If you want people to return to the high street, you need to make it a pleasant experience for the customer. Increase foot traffic, not cars - after all, people are more likely to enter a shop or venue if they're on foot rather than in a car needing to find somewhere to park/pull over.

Please keep Bedford place and Carlton place roads closed. It is a vast improvement with the current set up!

We need more places like Bedford Place in Southampton, places where people can slow down, spend time, socialise, relax, shop, meet with friends. I work in the area (Carlton Place). There is so much parking in the area, I cannot understand what the fuss about parking is about. But we don't want cars driving through where we're having a drink, polluting the space and drowning out conversation with their noise. The creation of pedestrianised Bedford Place had been a great step forward for our city.

I live just north of Bedford Place & I consider that the proposed city improvements are key to improving the city's cohesion & sense of a great city to visit & enjoy.

Even if Bedford Place is opened to traffic, I would urge that Carlton Place remains traffic free (the owner of one large bar/restaurant said that it was so much safer since it had stopped being a fast car rat run). Also, the tables pavement-side outside cafes such as Halliday's & the Craft Beer bar in Bedford Place are retained & some traffic calming measures introduced.

The encouragement of small independent shops such as florists & gift shops in the area, would greatly enhance the experience & help make it a destination place for visitors.

Please don't take away an asset to local business just for political point scoring.

Keep the Bedford Place and Carlton road area as it is! It adds culture to our city and is doing amazing things for local business! :)

The pedestrianisation of Bedford Place has made it a much safer and nicer place to drink and socialise. The whole area has the vibe of a street party and is incredibly welcome in my eyes.

I think Bedford place looks wonderful now and it's refreshing to have no traffic there, it looks and feels far more modern and I think it benefits local venues.

Please consider how much the hospitality sector has suffered as a result of Covid. Many of these businesses can only safely operate with the use of the Bedford Place car free scheme, and the plentiful outdoor seating it provides. E.g. The Black Phoenix, and XOXO - local Southampton businesses that can ONLY provide outdoor seating with the use of this scheme. We know how the virus works now, and we know our best chance of keeping it at bay is staying outside as far as possible this summer. Please do not reopen Bedford Place, these businesses will suffer again when this year has been hard enough.

The pedestrian scheme in Bedford Place has created a much better experience for the area and is a positive change for the city. I think it could lead to further investment in the area and make it a unique social and business destination. I believe the national lockdowns have been detrimental to non-hospitality businesses in that area and not the pedestrian scheme itself (which some have suggested) - this is from observations of being in that area frequently during the last year as a local resident. I would be very disappointed to see the pedestrian scheme in Bedford Place reversed.

To Mr Fitzhenry,

Although I personally didn't vote for the Conservative party this, or indeed any, election, I wish you and your council the best. I hope you do my city proud and make the right choices to benefit everyone who calls Southampton home.

I really hope you, in particular, support the small businesses that have suffered so much this year. The pedestrianisation of Bedford Place is of paramount importance to all the businesses along that road, especially local pubs who use that road in order to bring home the bacon so to speak.

I hope you have a fantastic first week, enjoy!

Dear Cllr Fitzhenry,

As a resident of Archers Road, I strongly support the continued pedestrianisation of Bedford Place and do not think this should be reversed. Rather, it should be enhanced. Firstly, I have often witnessed cars driving at very high speeds down Carlton Road, towards Bedford Place and rounding the corner dangerously to turn onto Carlton Place without any regard to the safety of potential pedestrians crossing the road. Keeping the area pedestrianised prevents idiot drivers from having the opportunity to seriously hurt someone, since the police don't seem to care one iota as I very rarely see their presence in the area. Secondly, the pedestrianisation has been an absolute lifeline for the bars and restaurants in the area, many of which are small, independent businesses who have borne the worst of the brunt during the pandemic. Please keep these areas available to them and their customers so that they can continue to recover and support our local economy. Lastly, as a local resident, I find it an absolute pleasure to walk through the area and enjoy the outdoor seating whilst soaking up the atmosphere. Reversing it will be a mistake and will show that you clearly prioritise the use of cars, rather than the safety of pedestrians, given that this area serves little purpose to the wider road network of Southampton, and is merely just a rat run for impatient drivers. Turn your focus to the many roads of Southampton that people avoid because of the huge potholes or the nonsensical sequencing of the traffic lights causing unnecessary congestion and impacting our already poor air quality.

Yours sincerely

Good afternoon Cllr Fitzhenry,

Although I think encouraging alternate forms of transport is important, the more significant reason for keeping this section of road closed to traffic is to support the pubs, bars and restaurants in the recovery of their business following the Covid epidemic. I have to admit I live locally and find it a much more attractive destination for having this particular section of road closed and I imagine many others feel the same. I live fairly close to the area in Hulse Road and don't feel significantly impacted by traffic due to the London Road/Carlton Place area closures. The worst traffic impact on this area in my experience comes from the narrowing of the upper portion of the Avenue heading towards Bassett.

Although my political leanings are slightly different, I would like to wish you congratulations on your recent success and appreciate the chance for local people to voice their opinions on matters such as this.

Kind regards

I am soon to be a resident of Southampton, as we are relocating from London. We are actually moving just off Bedford Place, and the pedestrianisation of Bedford Place and the resulting community involvement was a big drawcard for us to purchase our property.

We loved seeing people out and about enjoying the area, but most importantly, we loved how little traffic there was, which was very important to us as a family with very small children. So much work has gone in to make the area a more pedestrian friendly place... it would be such a shame for it to go to waste.

As a resident of Bedford Place, I'm a huge fan of the redesign- the local pubs and restaurants have suffered during the lockdowns, and I'm eager to get out and spend money in them when things reopen. The outdoors tables mean higher capacity, and safer seating.

It was never a very good route to drive, with the narrow roads and pedestrians.

Please consider the positive impact that has been seen in the city centre since the scheme was put in place, and please consider this on a evidence based level and not a political one.

We really like the Bedford place pedestrianised zone - it's good for the restaurants and makes for a nicer eating experience when eating outside

Putting cars first is actually damaging to our environment and our health. Bedford place being pedestrianised finally made it feel like Southampton had some soul.

Come on, don't waste a load more taxpayers money, to make the city worse off out of what seems like spite at this point. This is your top priority?

*(Support for scheme determined from survey answers: Chris)*

I've lived in Southampton all my life, and have always been actively social with the leisure scene, both in work and social life. I feel that the last year has impacted us all hugely, and in different ways. People's lives have changed and so has a lot of their views, mainly regarding health and social activity. These points have been main pillars throughout coronavirus. The current layout of Bedford Place I think positively impacts our community and those two main pillars were in the past taken for granted by some, but are now shining beacons of a world we want to live in again. My recent visits to Bedford Place, which I live very close to, have been filled with so much pure energy. Meeting friends and family, socializing outdoors, safely, from an outside bench, watching joggers use the road to better their health. It's helped Southampton come together as the social hub it is, while taking a longstanding hallmark of the city's location and breathing new life into it. Helping businesses, customers and mental health. Keep it. Embrace it.

Please keep the roadblocks in place. There is finally a place in the city that has some atmosphere and vibrancy which is lacking in Southampton. The road blocks have made Bedford feel very safe and social and allowed businesses to carry on trading when



restrictions on serving inside would have meant they have to close. I am a resident in the city and a car owner and I don't understand how opening this one road will solve the transport issues in the city.

As a Bedford Place resident, I have greatly enjoyed the changes and had hoped they would remain permanent. Traffic noise and pollution has reduced, anti-social and dangerous driving/speeding through Bedford Place is eliminated and the local area has gained a sense of community/neighbourhood that it was lacking before. It used to be difficult to even cross the road before, such was the state of the traffic and drivers speeding through.

I see the scheme not only as something temporary, supporting trading during the pandemic (and associated restrictions) but also attracting more visitors as we are gradually returning to normal. Local businesses are perfectly accessible through the many car park options, all of which are maximum 5 minutes walking distance. I can't think of a bigger compliment to the area that one of my recent visitors commenting that "this looks like a trendy London area". Please don't take this away from us!

The residents of this city like the cycle lanes and the closing of Bedford Place has led to a vibrant outdoor dining area. Whilst pubs and restaurants start to open again this is needed. Don't let the need to put your stamp on the city reverse the good work the former council did.

Pedestrianising Bedford Place has been wonderful. my friends and family come to Southampton just for that, bringing money in, when they wouldn't have done so before. It is quieter, cleaner and much more sociable. It is also much safer, as cars squeezing down those narrow roads often barely missing pedestrians and children as they cross was awful to see before. It doesn't make any sense having cars go down those roads. please keep it the way it is now.

I think Bedford Place should remain pedestrianised.

Active travel methods & reduced traffic make the city centre, Bedford Place & similar areas a much nicer place to be. Encouraging that, at a time when 'the high street' as a concept is in trouble makes sense, if we want businesses to recover.

Please please don't reverse the car free scheme on Bedford place. It makes Southampton that little bit nicer to be able to be there without cars.

With Bedford Place being car free it has helped local businesses to recover from the pandemic. Less pollution in the town centre and feels safer being able to socially distance in quite a busy part of Southampton. I think it should be kept till the end of summer with discussions to make it car free area for the summer months.

Please retain the Bedford Place pedestrianisation - it feels a much safer place to socialise, than when you had to dodge cars and taxis.

I've lived in Southampton for ten years and I have never felt a more positive atmosphere than the one in Bedford Place since the pedestrianisation and celebration of local businesses. I've heard countless people say they can't believe they're in Southampton, and it "feels like Brighton" and that it adds so much culture to the area.

It would be such a shame to get rid of this now. Especially as Southampton is trying to win Capital of Culture. I'm from Liverpool originally and this kind of vibe is something we have always had up there, and what contributed to us winning City of Culture in 2008. Bedford Place is becoming like Bold Street and it's great! I'd love to see what the area can grow into. Farmers market at the weekend? Craft fairs? Christmas market? It could be so wonderful if we would let it be! Drivers will get used to it fast enough.

Dear Dan, the pedestrianisation of Bedford Place is one of the best things that have happened in Southampton for a while and it should be preserved and extended, not destroyed. It gives the city more character and overall has made the area more attractive and worth visiting. It would not change much for the cars if one more road becomes available, but it would change a lot for the people who enjoy visiting the restaurants and bars. I say this as someone who has visited 4 times in the past 3 weeks. Please reconsider.

Since the introduction of the Bedford Place scheme I have found that it cuts traffic and reduces pollution in my area (Northlands Road). The no car areas are lovely to sit in, Bedford Place is a narrow and pretty dangerous street and this has made it safer and more accessible. I now visit more pubs in the area because of the scheme and feel that it has made it safer for people in the long run. Please do not revert it back, I would be really disappointed if that happened, it has been a huge success in my opinion and a lot of the businesses have expanded their seating and are able to take on more customers. There are plenty of other roads that people can use, such as the avenue and the ring road to access their residential areas. Bedford Place does not need to be open to traffic. As far as I know all of the people that own businesses in the area that I have spoken to have seen an increase in trade, not a decrease. And the scheme is overwhelmingly supported by locals and the public, anyone I talk to loves it there is very little negativity.

As a person that drives a lot, Southampton city centre is never somewhere I would drive to, I always walk. If pedestrian routes were better and safer and there was a park and ride scheme this would reduce pollution and ensure public safety. I believe that this is what will help the city, supporting people driving their cars will not and this view is outdated in my opinion. To look to the future we must think greener, the only way to do this is to invest in public transport and ways of reducing traffic on the roads.

Reopening Bedford Place would be detrimental to local hospitality businesses that are already struggling to recover from the pandemic

My partner and I regularly go to Bedford place currently - it would be a shame and a disgrace for the new Conservative council to abolish something which thousands of people have learned to love and enjoy over recent months. Make Southampton liveable.

I feel a lot safer at work in Bedford Place, where I often have to stand outside the venue I work at to supervise door staff etc, whilst there are no cars in that area. I am normally extremely worried about drunk drivers & crime, this will significantly reduce if it stays car free. It's also so much safer for people getting home after nights out if they are directed to dedicated taxi ranks that can be policed.

Please consider the pedestrianisation of some roads in Southampton, to allow the change for outside dining and drinking in the warmer months. It's something that Southampton has lacked for years.

As both a resident, and a frequent customer of businesses in Bedford Place I have found the pedestrianisation to have been a welcome change.

It has a more cultural, European feel that Southampton has been sorely missing.

Southampton should be embracing change and making people feel welcome and safe rather than pushing them into areas surrounded by traffic. The changes in Bedford Place have created a wonderful little area that with a bit of support and care could potentially be almost cosmopolitan.

Hi Dan. I heard rumours that the pedestrianisation of Bedford Place is up for discussion. I just wanted to say, I think it's brilliant there!

Southampton is so much more than West Quay. Bedford Place is independent and sparking with life. The outdoor seating makes it a classier and more appealing choice for a pub/restaurant trip, than the busy road/student kebab shops it was previously, now one can see its best bits advertised for all to see. Oxford Street is classy, West Quay is commercial and family friendly, and Bedford Place is fun, lively, and not daunting like Shirley with its massive thoroughfare running through. With the high street getting dreary and shops shutting in droves, it's good to see some life here.

I'm proud to show it off as my local area (I live just across the Avenue) It's also a much nicer place to walk through. The junction by Richer Sounds with cars zipping across with little consideration for speed limits and pedestrians, is not a nice reminder of how the whole area was. I actively want to show this part of town off to friends and relatives but I certainly wouldn't if it turned back into a road! At the moment it's different, and that's a massive appeal.

Definitely a great idea to encourage people to the ring road and that roundabout looks a lot cleaner/more approachable, as a city with high air pollution (yet some wonderful green spaces) we obviously want the footfall in town but without the angry drivers and added pollution that unfortunately comes with it. That particular roundabout always has people in the wrong lane and a lot of near misses, anything to improve the driver experience around there would be great

Making space for people rather than space for cars has transformed the Bedford place area into a vibrant urban destination with an amazing atmosphere. I'd love to see more spaces like this supported across the city.

Please don't unpedestrianise Bedford Place. It's a really nice area.

Hi Dan, please consider strongly how this will impact Bedford place businesses, the pedestrian idea has really helped them and has provided much needed seating areas for the pubs and restaurants. It would be such a shame to take it away

I know that a number of people we have bumped into whilst enjoying the facilities in Bedford Place have really commented on how good it feels and how positively it has made them feel about their visit to Southampton. I also know how hard these businesses have suffered and I cannot understand trying to damage them further by this retrograde step.

Dear councillor.

The recent changes to Bedford place have thus far, been one of the few examples of Southampton city council programs to actually improve and revitalise the aging city we call home, and it would be a terrible shame and loss of opportunity for residents, visitors and most importantly; businesses in the Bedford place district, to stop or reverse the process at this juncture.

One only has to take a daytime walk in Bedford Place to see the increase in people enjoying themselves and spending their money (even under current coronavirus restrictions) when before this was only the case late at night when the floods of students descended on the pubs and nightclubs, where now it is a place for everyone even before the dreaded binge drinkers descend.

Many warm regards.

I believe the closure of Bedford place has not had its opportunity to show how much safer and convenient it is. Considering we've been in lockdowns for most of the time its been in place, the busy weekend nights have not been tested. I have seen people falling off the pavement into the road before the lockdowns, and taxis that go way to fast past while people are waiting to get into revolution etc. Also I think in the new world we will live in, extended outdoor space anywhere is a responsible thing to provide for businesses and its customers. My opinion is to give it a fair trial, when the world has returned to some normality. I am a very local resident of Bedford place and find the traffic no worse, and the road closure of no inconvenience.

I fully support the pedestrian area in Bedford Place. I visit regularly and also would like to see a reduction of traffic in the centre of town. I fully support the proposed £18 million scheme approved by the previous Council.

Although not currently an employee of an establishment in Bedford place I have been in the past, and the pedestrian zone that has been in place since summer 2020 has been wonderful for guests to visit and I'd like to see it occur more across the city.

My family have loved Bedford place and around being pedestrianised, it has made a real community and welcoming feel and I know lots of people who are more likely to visit the area as a result. We need to support small local businesses and this gives the road a real identity as a leisure destination with a quirky cool vibe

Please leave Bedford Place as a pedestrianised area with no cars - it really lends itself to the café culture and it would be a shame to reintroduce vehicles

Please consider the evidence on an objective basis before making any further changes to any of the street changes. Don't make changes against the will of the community.

*(Support for scheme determined from survey answers: Chris)*

Do not reverse a fantastic opportunity to continue a flourishing area in the city. The benefits outweigh the small reported issues that can be dealt with in time

You're doing the right thing here, Bedford place has gone from one of the worst places in Southampton to a lovely place! I've even recently started work there and it'd be a real shame to see all that money and work go to waste.

The pedestrianisation of Carlton place has really made a good impact on not only my business but all the businesses on that road. We have no worry of cars speeding down the roads, traffic forming outside and it gives clients/public a chance to sit outside and see other businesses.

Cafes, restaurants and shops in Bedford place need the pedestrian precinct to recover and build back better. The Bedford Place precinct will become an attraction for visitors and Southampton residents. Please keep it.

The terrible COVID19 pandemic forced us to think, work, and live in new ways. Social distancing laws required changes to our cities and communities. There is now a demand for real change to how we travel within Southampton. The Bedford Place scheme gives us a taste of a much healthier, safer and vibrant city. Please build on its success.

I really like the pedestrianisation of Bedford Place/Carlton Place. I've used the space much more (and spent more money in the area) since it was closed to through traffic, than I had done in my previous 27 years of living in Southampton!

In my opinion as a resident of the Banister Park area of Southampton, and someone who voted for the Conservative Party in the most recent local elections, it is vital that Bedford Place continues to be a pedestrianised area. The pedestrianisation of Bedford Place has not only made it safer for nights out, but has allowed these businesses a vital income stream under current Covid regulations. In the economic and social interests of the city the area must not be reopened to cars.

I think the pedestrianised area in and around Bedford Place improves the area and gives the city some much needed character. It can only be a good thing for businesses in the area.

In particular, the pedestrianisation of Bedford Place has made the area much more of a pull for tourism. Southampton without these areas is a particularly boring city. This road is also very dangerous to put cars on as it has heavy foot traffic, particularly with students in the area. The high student population brings with it money and a young, able workforce which keeps hospitality and our hospitals running. Please don't get rid of one of Southampton's few best bits.

Please keep Bedford Place a pedestrian area. It has brought a lot of local pride to Southampton and has a friendly bohemian feel you can only find in European cities. It really is a destination for visitors and a pleasant place to be. Don't take away something that is making the city special.

For every person who voices this opinion there are many more who feel the same but may not speak up until it is too late.

This is a brilliant opportunity to create a strong positive relationship with Southampton's citizens from the get go.

Many thanks for your time.

We recently moved out of the city centre but visit regularly and still own a property a short walk from Bedford Place. We have visited Bedford Place on several occasions since the road closure and have been impressed with the vibrancy and atmosphere it has brought to the area. It provides an equal footing for those businesses that did not previously have

outdoor space, and particularly as we move to the summer gives them the opportunity to compete on a more equal footing with businesses that have outdoor space already. As many workplaces are moving towards a hybrid work from home model then traffic will be reduced long term and so the route is not as in demand. I feel it would be short-sighted to reopen the road, at least during the upcoming summer months.

What a shame that the Bedford place closure could be removed. It creates such a lively, community atmosphere that could inject new life into a tired street.

We need to support alternatives to car travel in our city centre.

Let's face it the City isn't pretty. Compared to other cities so we need to find ways to attract people. But if you remove the things that attract locals why should others visit. This is a lovely feature within the city, such a nice change from all the negative going on and it helps to support the local businesses. Some things this city will lose to online but don't remove things that will form an experience for our visitors.

Please reconsider the plan to reverse this scheme and look at the picture across the city. We need to make a more pleasant environment for all and to make Southampton an attractive destination for visitors

Congratulations on your Leader role.

I was equally sad and concerned upon hearing within days that immediate plans were to create 1000 new parking spaces and reverse the pedestrianised Bedford Place. Living in the City Centre, we're really not short on parking spaces and should strive to encourage people to utilise public transport where possible.

Bedford Place has really "come into its own" recently; embracing outdoor recreation space which also allows space for disabled people to easily manoeuvre around. I haven't yet spoken to anyone who actually lives in or utilises the area in its current form who objects to it, most are really enthusiastic so rather confused why this is a local priority?

Without undertaking some research to refer to the relevant legislation, but isn't Southampton under government regulations regarding air pollution targets? I thought for instance that DEFRA signed off the cycle lanes? Will the government be moving environmental goalposts for the new administration? Just a plea really that we don't move backwards on a really important issue. Circa 1000 related deaths a year is a little more serious than annoyance over having to take a different route. Please do listen to those living here. We appreciate your attention in this matter.

I've been really happy with the pedestrianisation Bedford Place which has made it a more vibrant and enjoyable place to be. Reverting it back to a rat run would be, I feel a mistake. Instead I would love to see similar schemes in other parts of the city such as Portswood where the shop I work at and help run is based.

I have also been keen to see the proposals to create a greener and more people friendly city centre. I hope these changes of a bold new vision for Southampton are not put on hold. I am a car owner and indeed have chronic fatigue so often need to use my car to assist me in managing my energy levels. However I feel the multi-storey car parks in the city are more than adequate and reducing the amount of space cars take up on the roads, with unnecessary parking etc preferable.

Bedford Place is so much more attractive as a destination now that it is closed to motor vehicles. I come in to St Anne's school and work at the Highfield campus and it's been lovely

to meet my wife here a few times for a coffee and a wander. Would never have done that before.

I'm absolutely disgusted by the proposed plans to remove the pedestrianised area in Bedford Place and the bike lanes. I have used these facilities a lot and believe they make Southampton a much more pleasant and liveable city. It is imperative that we support active transport options, for reasons of health, community, wellbeing and sustainability. I do not believe that SCC should be forcing people off of their bikes and feet and into cars.

Really keen to keep Bedford Place pedestrianised for so many reasons, not least to enjoy supporting the businesses there, and am in favour of opportunities to improve non-car movement around the city and other local hubs.

I think reducing options for outdoor seating at hospitality outlets is short sighted both for health and economic reasons. Bedford Place should become more pedestrianised in my view while allowing vehicular access for residents and deliveries. This is a common practice in Italy, France and Spain.

My household loves car-free Bedford, and the plans for a more open, pedestrian-friendly city centre. I've been local for 20+ years and I love the sense of togetherness and community I feel now when around Bedford; its always bustling and looks a lot more welcoming, it's a much more social environment than before - which feels very cathartic after countless lockdowns and the isolation COVID brought on for many; personally I will really miss this space if it's changed back, it's a version of Southampton I would love to see more of.

As a manager of a local pub I feel that the Bedford place road closure should stay, especially the Carlton place closure.

I have two main reasons:

- 1: Cars driving very quickly down Carlton place was a huge issue (boy racers)
- 2: Safety. On most nights of the week cars of men would drive non stop around the Bedford place/Carlton place area. Essentially looking for young drunk women to offer lifts home to. This was a big issue and not what Southampton needs. Keeping the roads closed will improve safety for women

Reviving the businesses in Bedford Place has been helped immensely by the closing of the street and allowing it to become a busy, attractive place for drinking and dining. There are many examples of this kind of development across UK cities which focus on returning public spaces to leisure and retail experiences. We need to rethink the use and space for city centres, and the Bedford Place changes have made a great start. I hope you will also take very seriously the issues of air pollution in our city too. People are dying because of it. Cramming our city centre full of cars really isn't the solution.

I use several of the businesses in Bedford Place and Carlton Place and have been looking forward to the summer and sitting outside, Parisian Cafe style. In a period where we are still cautious the possibility of spreading new variants through close contact I feel it would be folly to undermine the positive steps Southampton council have already taken.

I was so happy when Bedford place was pedestrianised. It was just used as a rat run previously and there is still access to city centre through London road so I don't see the issue of having to take it away.

Please continue to work on the schemes to reduce car usage and traffic in the city, it makes for a much nicer place to visit which will ultimately lead to improved business. Bedford Place is so much improved and so many users have offered positive feedback.

Bedford Place has become such a lovely place and feels much safer without idiot cars whizzing down the narrow roads. Southampton needs that pop of colour to help it thrive!

Please keep Bedford Place closed to traffic.

The pedestrianisation of Bedford Place has transformed it from a seedy and run down night strip to a European plaza style experience, it's a great asset to Southampton. It would be a shame to revert this just as a symbolic gesture of breaking with the previous council's ideas.

As a local resident of Bedford Place I can say I am so proud of the community hub it has become since the pedestrianisation. The atmosphere is fantastic and after a glum year it is uplifting to see people supporting local businesses while interacting with each other safely. I have become a first time mum during the pandemic and I love strolling through Bedford Place with my family and feeling like we belong to a community. It also feels safer and cleaner, and less chaotic.

I hope you will consider the many positive impacts that the changes in Bedford Place have had on local businesses and residents, as well as the environment.

Best wishes

Bedford Place and Carlton Place have both had life breathed into them. Where once was a dead road where cars would speed past on a regular basis now we have a beautiful outdoor space similar to the likes of Oxford Street. I own Cheshire cat clothing and jewellery at 21 Carlton Place and it has both helped my business and made it a nicer road to work on. All my neighbours I have spoken to also agree. I hope you take this into serious consideration if you truly have small businesses best interests at heart. All the best

The Bedford place area has been great, it offers so much for both residents and visitors to our city.

My husband is the owner of a hospitality business in Bitterne Triangle. Unfortunately it is not possible to have increased pedestrianisation in this area but we would strongly support it if it were possible. We have been to many other countries where outdoor cafe culture is embraced (including cold places like Scandinavia, where blankets are available), and it is very pleasant to sit outdoors enjoying a drink or meal, especially when you don't have cars roaring past. There is evidence that small businesses really benefit from 'walkable communities'.

Furthermore, I have a 16 month old daughter. She loves going out on the bicycle and every day she does the sign language for 'bicycle', or toddles over to the bicycle and points at it. It is such a shame because I mostly do not feel safe to take her out. The only route I can take with quiet roads and cycle lanes is to and from the common or to town. Bitterne Road West has been made slightly less terrifying due to the bus lane there, but we still have to cycle on



the pavement near Bitterne Station which is extremely narrow. The cycle lane in Portswood has been allowed to wear away, and is a hazard anyway due to the risk of being 'doored' (I have seen this happen).

Following lockdown rules relaxing, the roads are becoming full of cars again when most journeys could easily be taken by bicycle. People I have spoken to (including friends from Denmark and the Netherlands) have said that the main thing stopping them from cycling is that they don't feel safe on the roads here. More, and safer cycle lanes would remediate that.

A number of my highly skilled friends have moved away in recent years, partly because Southampton really isn't a nice place to live compared to the alternatives. There are creative and vibrant cities in the south: Brighton, Bristol, Bournemouth, and even Portsmouth outcompete us on this front. I frequently work in Brighton, and they have a 20mph speed limit and extensive cycle lanes which really help people on foot or bikes to feel safe on the roads.

Even if the pedestrianisation of Bedford Place is removed, leaving the pedestrianisation of Carlton Place in place would provide a much safer environment for the public in that area and provide significant benefits to local businesses, without any significant impact on traffic flow through the area.

Dear Councillor Fitzhenry,

I would like to congratulate you on your election result and hope you will continue to ensure that Southampton is a strong and vibrant city that looks forwards in order to improve the quality of life for its residents. I strongly feel that spaces such as the newly piloted pedestrianised space in Bedford Place and the changes to the road layout at Civic centre place are part of that vision, which I hope will continue to go ahead under your council. Of course I understand that you need to take into account all the impacted businesses and parties as part of this process, however I hope that the impact of the pandemic and the health of residents are properly accounted for in this process too. In my opinion the pedestrianised space created in Bedford place offers a great addition to the cities array of outdoor spaces, where people can gather, socialise & enjoy our city. It has offered great benefits to hospitality venues along this stretch of the road whilst social distancing regulations are in place and once these are removed I am sure that footfall to any other businesses in this area suffering at this time will return as normality resumes.

We now know that the negative impacts of air pollution and climate change on our health and wellbeing are tangible, with the costs to both likely to rise in coming years. As such, it seems to me that both these plans and further encouragement for residents to use public transport, are critical in the future health and prosperity of our city.

Best Regards

The Bedford Place scheme has created a wonderful sense of community and positivity during a challenging time. I have loved walking through and seeing people getting together and eating and drinking with one another - it has made Southampton feel buzzy, like Copenhagen or Lisbon. It's astounding to me that one of the most positive interventions in public space is first on the council list to axe. The parallel and adjacent streets are still open to drive through, so the businesses who are claiming they have suffered a drop in trade really need to interrogate whether it's the closure or other factors involved.

Cage Culture! So many people love it. Bedford Place looks amazing right now. A much better 'draw' for visitors as a pedestrianised area.

I was a Southampton resident for several years. I think the Bedford place car free scheme is amazing, and I was really looking forward to coming to Southampton and experiencing this for myself as soon as lockdown has eased enough. However, without this scheme Bedford place really loses its appeal. In general any proposal which increases the amount of traffic going through Southampton is going to negatively affect the area. Considering all of the great work which has taken place to turn it into a cultural hub, this really would be a big step backwards, and I can't say I would be keen to visit Southampton in the future.

The pedestrianisation of Bedford Place/Carlton Place has had such a positive impact on the area for reducing pollution and congestion, brought a heavily increased footfall to the area allowing independent and locally owned business to help rebuild themselves after lockdown. Public safety has been increased with the extra staff and security teams visibility with outdoor hospitality service and crime has also been reduced in the area.

This is a real positive action for the community of Southampton and is heavily used and would be damaging if it was removed.

As a resident of Southampton I thoroughly enjoy being able to eat/drink in the pubs and bars especially during these times as even when we can eat inside, I still don't feel comfortable to, we should be supporting these businesses to stay open and flourish in any way we can. As a business its been fantastic and I 100% support it. Yes, loading/unloading is trickier and we do have large items that need moving but the peace and tranquillity brought to the area now the boy racers and road rage has been removed massively outweighs this. The vibrancy and uniqueness of this area should be proudly celebrated, not taken away, please don't do that!

Please keep Bedford Place closure as it's been such a success

I personally feel a lot safer sitting on a bench on the closed off road than having to sit inside where the virus spreads more. Please don't take the road block away. So much thought and effort has gone into transforming it, would be such a shame to see it go. Also as a cyclist I'd like to see more cycle lanes not less as, I'd rather have a less polluted city to ride around in for my health more than anything.