

For release: 28th March 2019

## **OTTERY ST MARY TRAFFIC REPORT NOW AVAILABLE TO VIEW**

The recently adopted Neighbourhood plan for the parishes of Ottery St Mary and West Hill envisages a town regeneration scheme emerging from two of its major projects in coming years. A public realm study undertaken during preparation of the plan suggests that a key foundation of such a programme is likely to involve reducing traffic levels, returning public space to people, and quality improvements in the town's public environment.

This background, and Neighbourhood Plan projects 10 ('Town Centre Action Group') and 11 ('Parking Solutions') form the primary context for an 86 page report, detailing traffic, parking and related issues in the town, which can now be viewed and downloaded on the Town Council website. It was researched, compiled and written by the council's Regeneration Group traffic sub-committee over a 12 month period, and submitted to the town council with 14 key recommendations in early March 2019.

The report considers the current local traffic situation in some detail, delivering an overview of present and potential future traffic concerns, amongst them topics as diverse as parking issues, HGV numbers and bus sizes - the enforcement of parking regulations, and future on-street recharging of electric vehicles. It also considers implications for getting around town on foot and bicycle, and evaluates the situation for the less mobile, blind and partially sighted.

Amongst the sources supporting the report's findings and recommendations are hundreds of responses to an informal local public survey - many of which provided valuable comments on traffic issues beyond the set survey questions. Inputs also came from Kings School sixth form students and Ottery St Mary primary school pupils. A dialogue is continuing with Devon County Council and East Devon District Council on local highway and signage matters, and various national consultees offered initial specialist advice on planning for regeneration from traffic and pedestrian perspectives.

The report's recommendations range from a comprehensive traffic and parking survey, to the innovation of a public "Ottery Lottery," to generate a funding pool for the unending stream of "minor" works needed on the town's roads but suffering delays because finance is unavailable.

See the full report [here](#)

(ends)

350 words