

Healthy Streets Truro



Countdown to launch the first phase of Truro Healthy Streets experimental scheme

9 July 2021

Truro's Healthy Streets group are putting the finishing touches to the designs for the experimental scheme to transform Truro's Boscawen Street which is due to be officially introduced on Monday, 19 July.



Led by Truro City Council, Truro BID and Cornwall Council, the aim of the Healthy Streets scheme is to reduce traffic and pollution levels in the city centre and create a better environment for all, allowing space for people to move around safely and comfortably.

The 12-month trial is the first step towards a wider project to develop an ambitious new vision for Truro which will ensure that the city centre is accessible to all parts of the community.

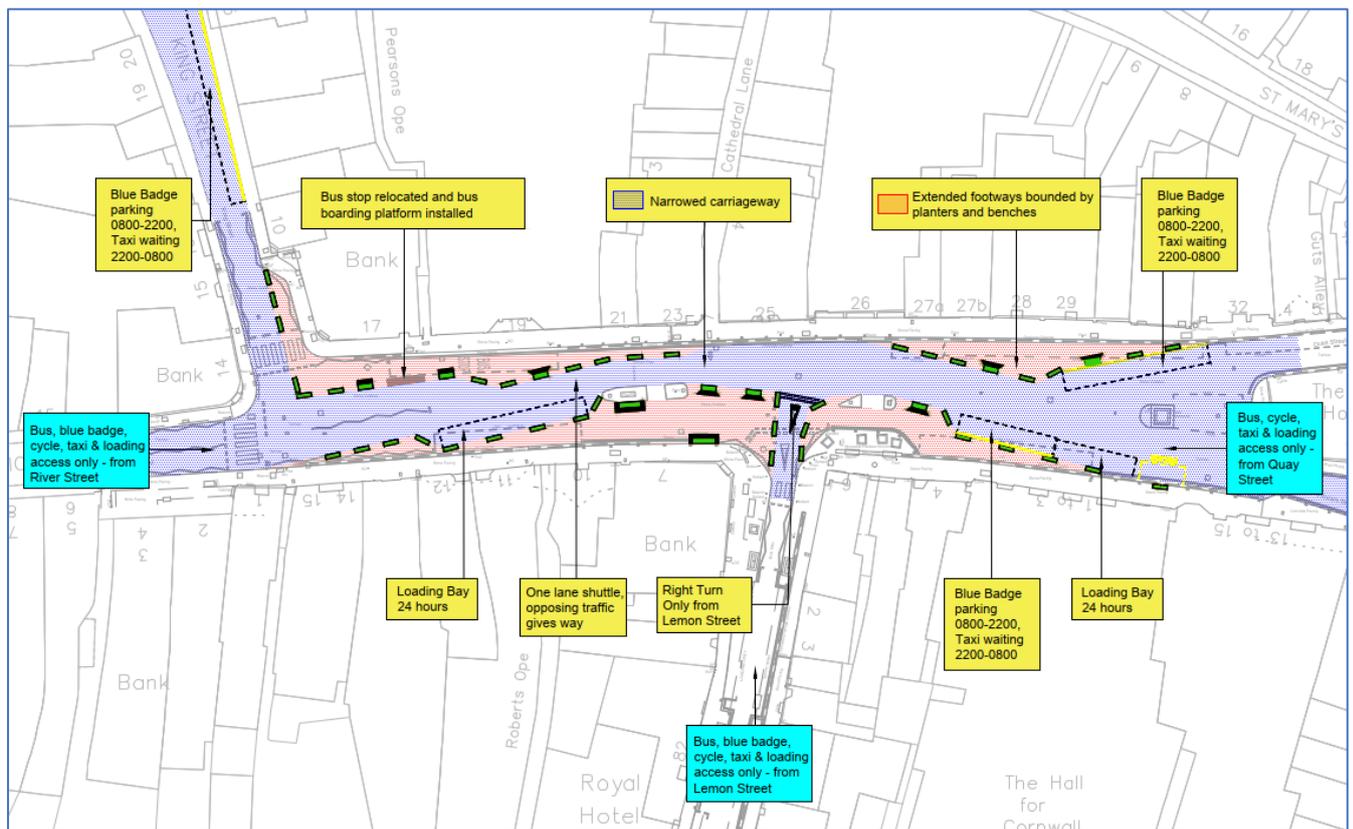
Designed to help regenerate the city at the same time as increasing opportunities for walking, cycling and bus use and space for staging community events, the Healthy Streets Truro scheme is also part of the wider ambition to promote sustainable transport and tackle climate change.

This first phase involves trialling a 24-hour restriction on through traffic entering Boscawen Street. Access is being retained for emergency vehicles, buses, taxis, cycles and blue badge holders, and for loading and unloading.

To deliver the scheme, the area of carriageway used by permitted vehicles is being narrowed, creating more space for pedestrians and cyclists to use. Existing disabled parking bays and loading bays will remain and, where impacted, will be replaced.

This means there is no reduction in the number of parking spaces for blue badge holders or in the number of loading bays.

Boscawen Street has a key role to play in the wider public transport network. It is essential for people using public transport to be able to access the city centre so buses will also be able to access the street during the duration of the experimental scheme.



As this is an experimental scheme, the traffic islands in the centre of Boscawen Street will remain in place for the present.

However new benches and planters are being installed at key places throughout the street to help create a vibrant and attractive space in the city centre.

The working group are also investigating a new disabled access crossing and will be working with bus operators to identify the passenger views of access to the centre.

“July 19th will be a very important day for Truro” said Councillor Steven Webb, the Mayor of Truro. **“The introduction of the initial phase of the Healthy Streets scheme marks the first step in an exciting journey which will see our city centre transformed into an attractive and vibrant space which meets the needs of all parts of our community.”**

“We have listened carefully to the concerns of people with disabilities and have worked with our partners to ensure that there is no reduction in parking spaces for blue badge holders in the city centre. We have also ensured that there are loading bays available for businesses”.

“At the same time we are creating space for people to walk and cycle safely, and adding new areas of seating and colourful planters to encourage more people to visit and shop in our city centre”.

Welcoming the new scheme, Alun Jones, from Truro BID, added **“Truro BID supports this trial with its objective to reduce the volume of throughfare traffic , creating additional pedestrian space which will encourage longer customer dwell times , whilst maintaining vital access for loading and blue badge holders”**.

The first phase of the Healthy Streets scheme is being introduced using an 'Experimental Traffic Regulation Order' funded by Cornwall Council. This provides an opportunity to see if and how the scheme is working before making a decision on whether the measure should be made permanent.

“We recognise that there may be some initial teething problems with the new scheme and we would ask the local community to bear with us in the first few days as people get used to the changes ”said Councillor Webb.

“It is also important to recognise that this is the start of our journey, and not the final destination. We know that we do not have all the solutions and want to work with the local community during the next few months to develop the ambitious new vision for our city”.

Information on the first phase of the scheme, including details on how to make comments and ask questions, is available on the Healthy Streets Truro section on the Let's Talk Cornwall site: letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/healthy-streets-truro as well as on the Truro City Council and Truro BID websites.

Leaflets and posters will also be available from the Visit Truro Visitor Information office in Boscawen Street, Truro bus station, and local shops and businesses.

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