

Public Space Improvement Project Taunton, Somerset

Making Traffic-Free Spaces in Towns and Cities
15th September 2017

Andrew Goodchild

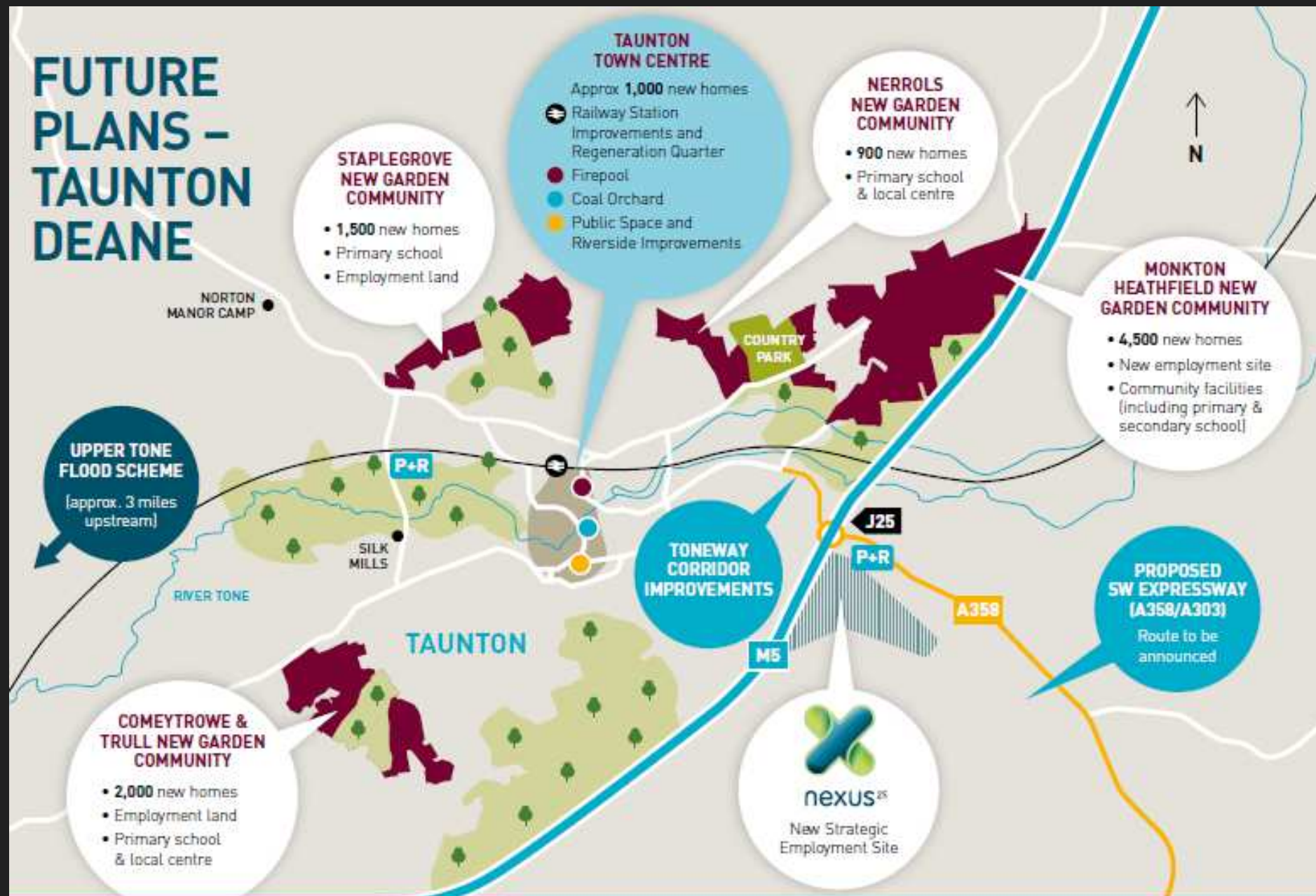
**Assistant Director for Place
and Energy Infrastructure**





Rational : Proposals :
Consultation : Next Steps

FUTURE PLANS – TAUNTON DEANE

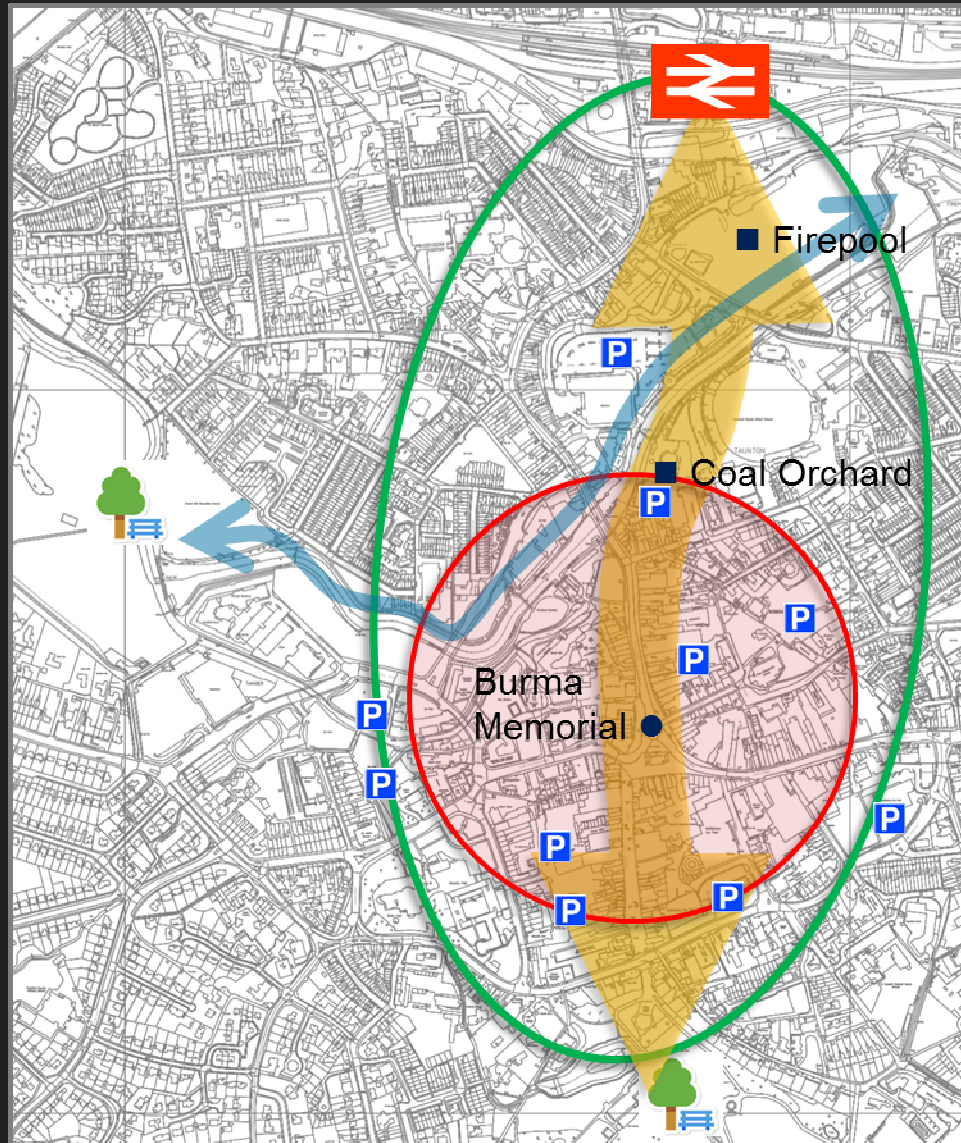


**Town Centre:
User friendly,
attractive, better
for pedestrians and
cyclists**

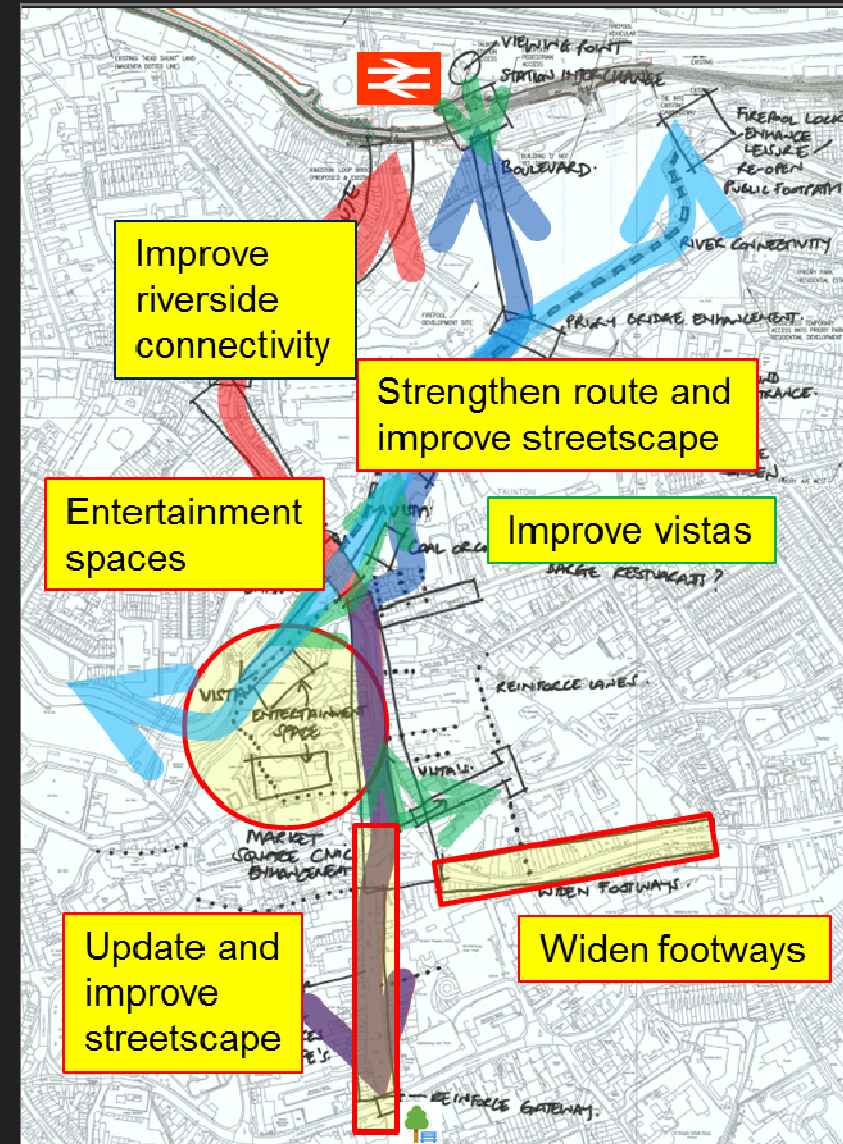
**Taunton Deane BC,
Somerset County
Council and WSP**

- Allowing people to move around conveniently and safely
- Ensuring businesses continue to thrive
- Attracting investment, innovation and tourism

Scope



Opportunities





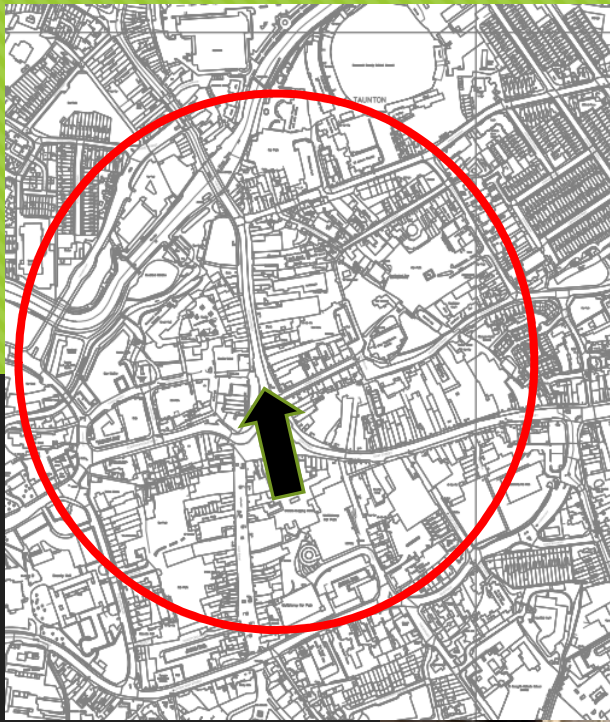
East Street





Market House





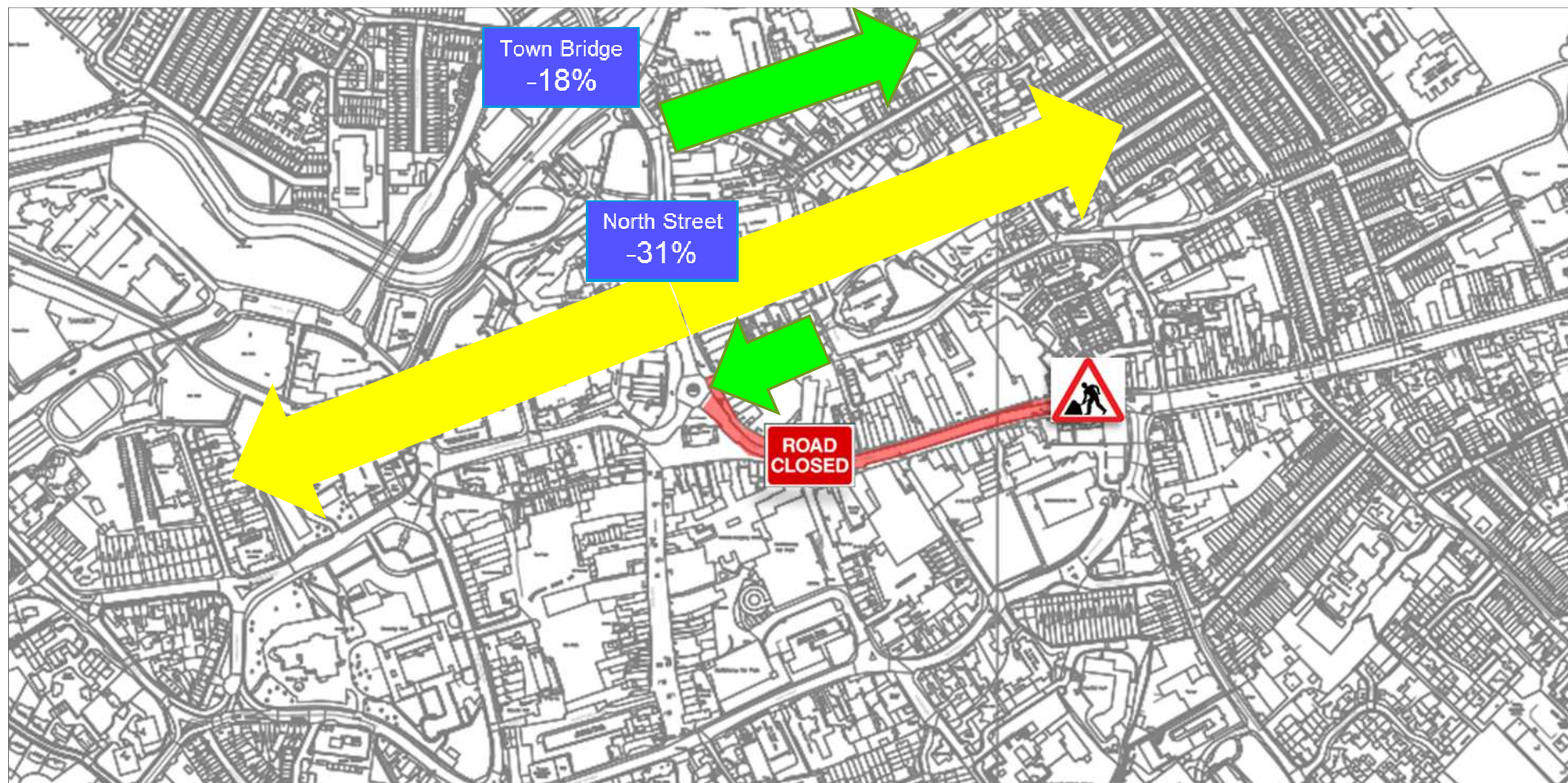
North Street



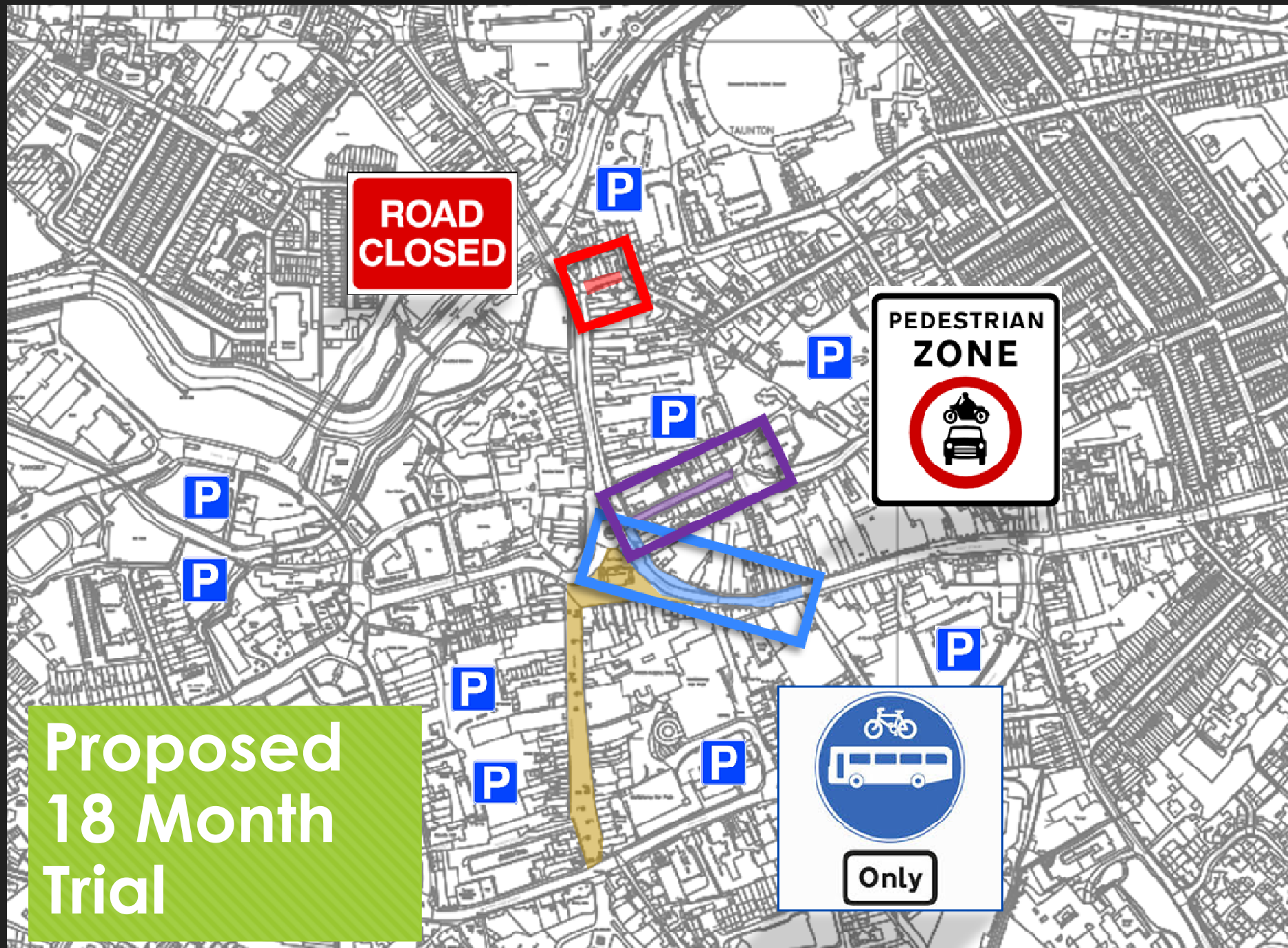


High Street





East Street Closure – 8 Weeks Summer 2016



ROAD
CLOSED

P

P

P

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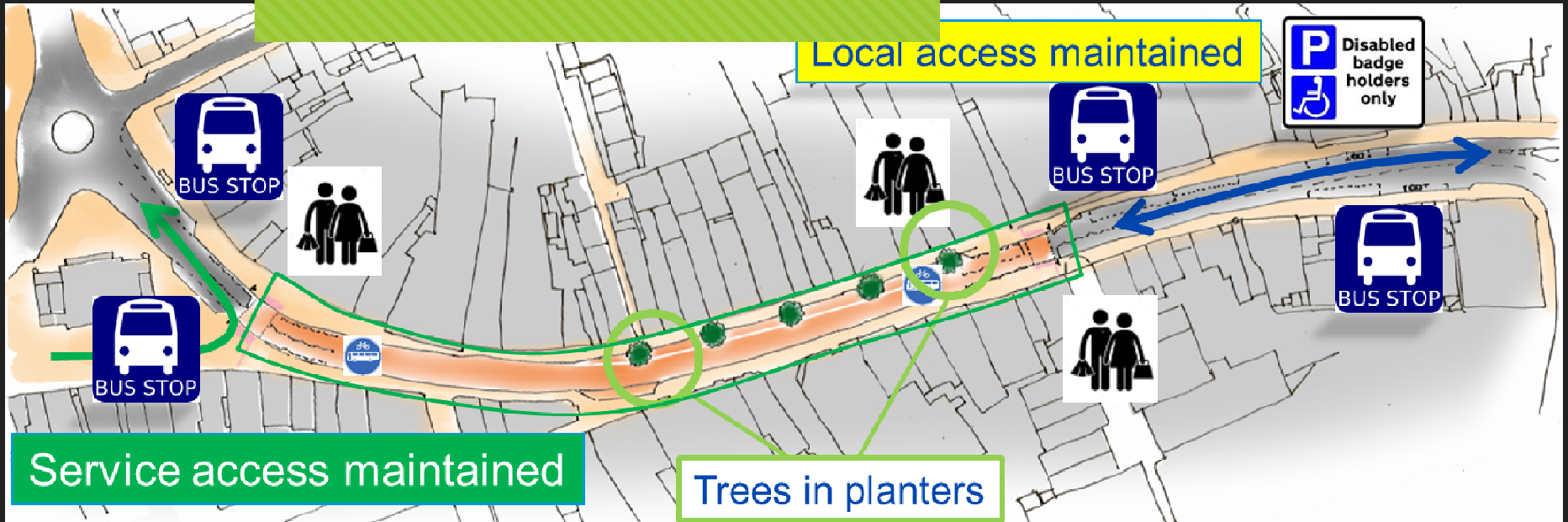
Proposed
18 Month
Trial

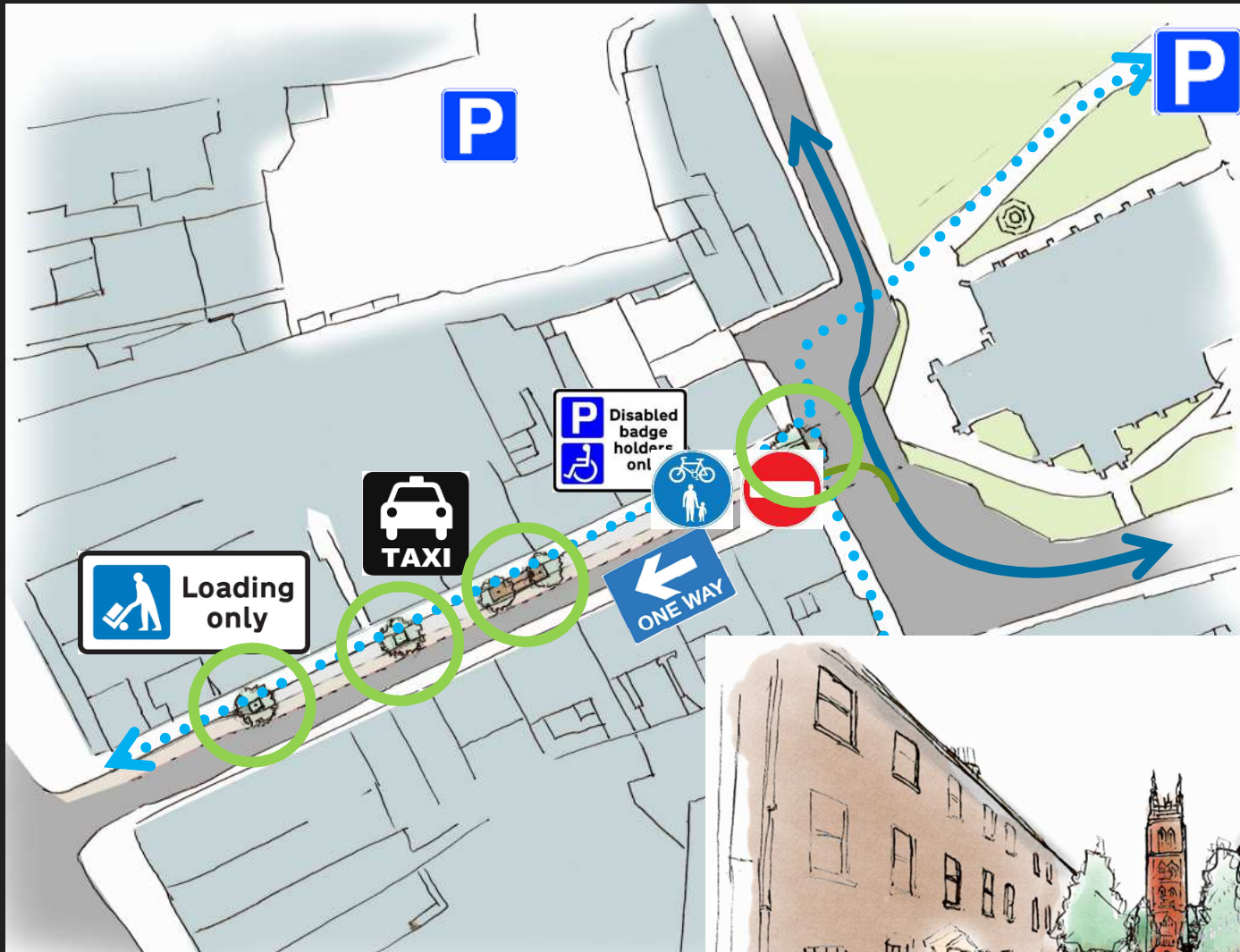
PEDESTRIAN
ZONE

Only



East Street



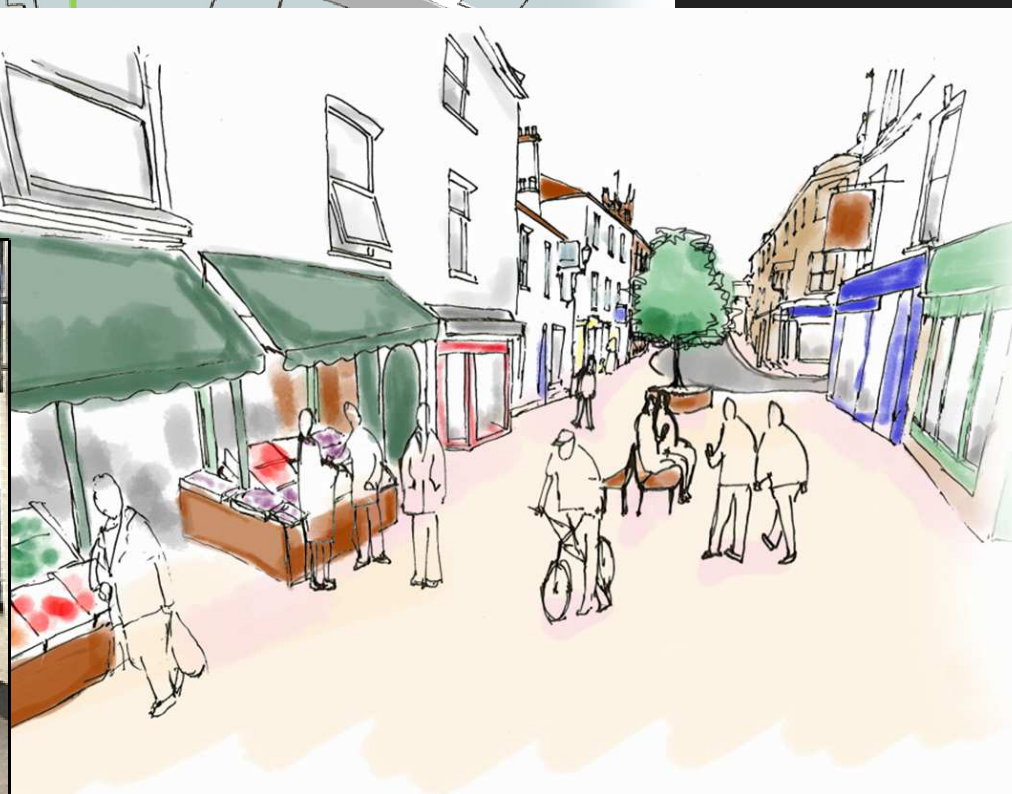


Hammet
Street

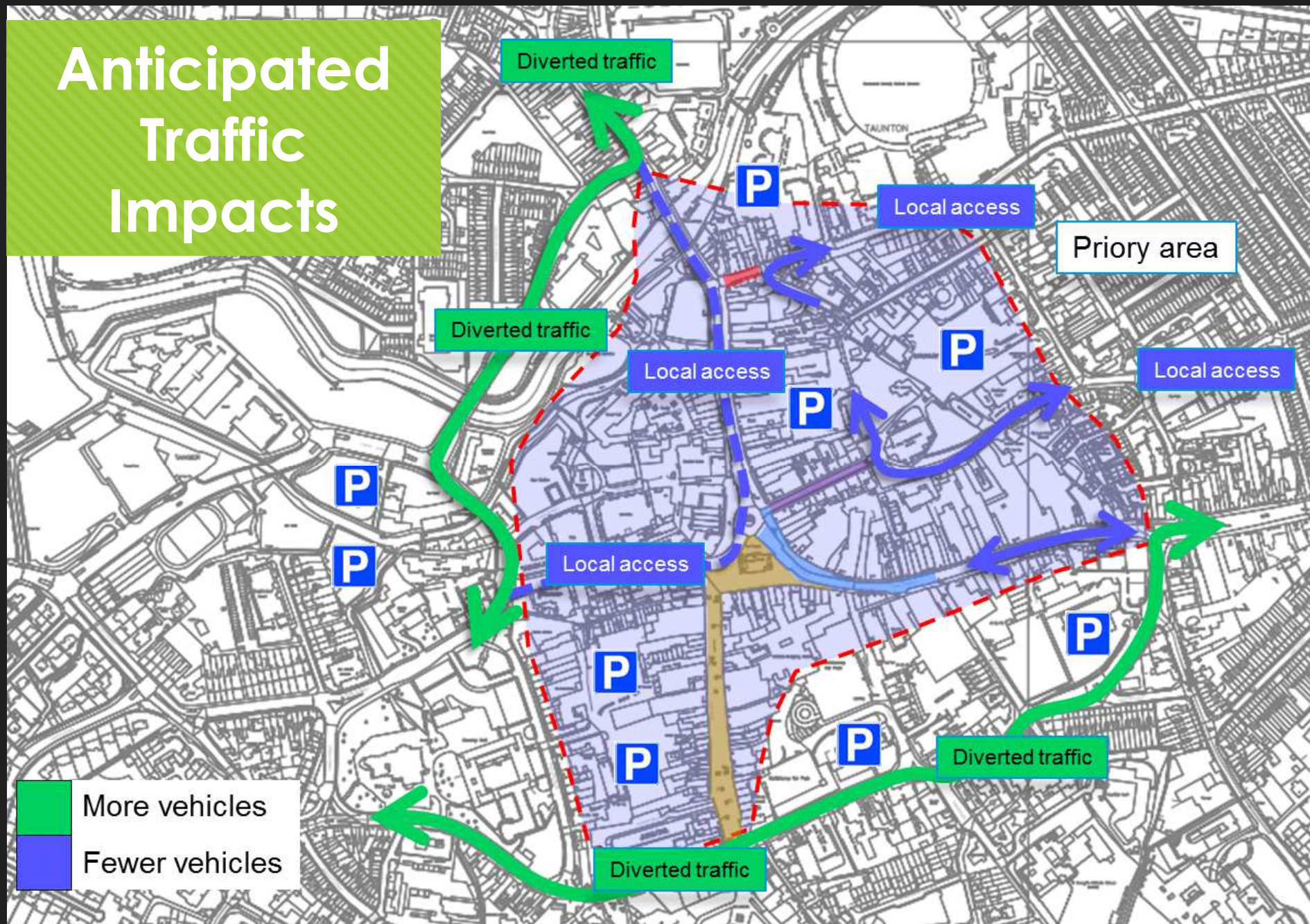
**ROAD
CLOSED**

St James Street

**ROAD
CLOSED**



Anticipated Traffic Impacts



Consultation and Engagement February & March 2017

- Permanent Exhibition with Key Stakeholder Preview
- Staffed Events
- Postcard Invites
- Website and Newspaper Adverts
- Video Animation
- Facebook / Twitter
- Good +ve Media coverage – TV, Radio and Print
- Leaflets and Questionnaire (paper and online)

Responses:

416 questionnaire responses

50% from the TA1 postcode

47% over 65 vs. 7% under 34...

- 65% Agreed that improvements needed for pedestrians and cyclists
- 75% Agreed that improvements needed to public spaces
- 59% Agreed that traffic restrictions would improve road safety



Responses:

- 47% Agreed restrictions would boost the economy
- 43% would stay longer in Town Centre

Concerns over:

- Congestion on other routes
- User conflict (pedestrians, cyclists and buses)
- Access to on street parking
- Reduced accessibility for those with restricted mobility
- Must link with improvements to car parks – Variable, dynamic signage



Next Steps

- Strong Political and Officer **Support** to proceed with trial, broad public support
- **Finer details** of trial being developed – TRO's, junction improvements, signage etc.
- Launch of trial scheme to public end of 2017
- Implementation of trial **Spring 2018**
- 6 month reviews – room for improvement
- **Defining 'success'** – footfall, economy, environment etc.
- Development of **funding package** for permanent scheme

Questions?

Andrew Goodchild

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