

## **TOWN SQUARE BARRIERS TO VEHICULAR ACCESS**

### Introduction

Since the Town Square opened to the public, the Square has been misused for vehicular access regularly, e.g. to facilitate the fit-out of the retail units and to collect the contents of the waste bins. The fabric of the surface is not suitable to support regular vehicular movements.

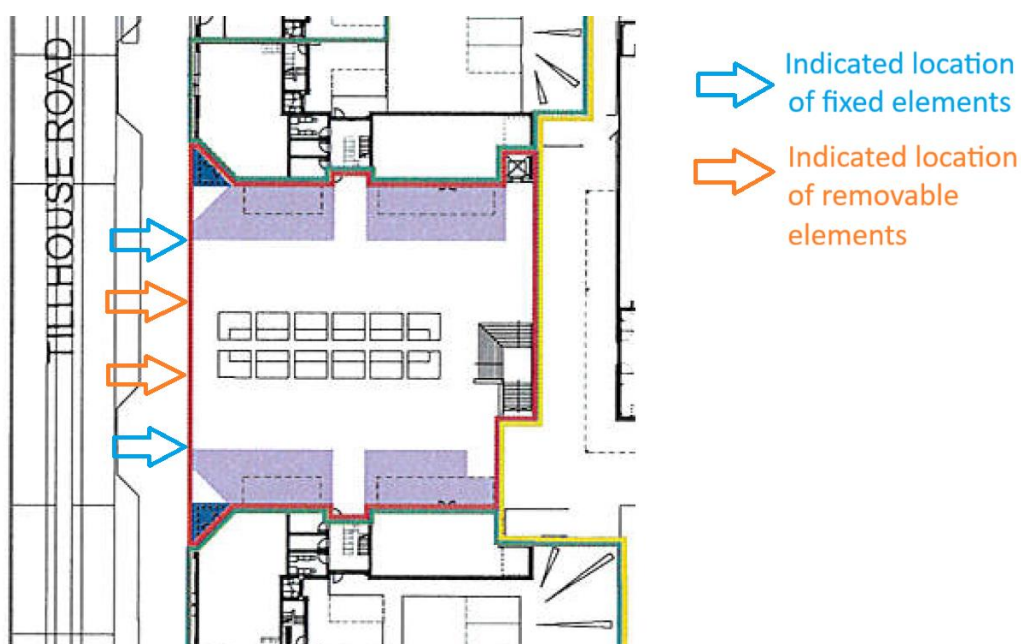
In anticipation of the land transfer of the Town Square to the Town Council, the Council is invited to consider whether it wishes to install physical barriers to prevent vehicular access.

The northern opening of the Square onto Tillhouse Road measures approximately 24 meters.

### Considerations

Any barriers installed to prevent vehicular access will need to be removable to allow access for events such as markets or the Christmas tree delivery and collection. They should also be sufficiently permeable in order to allow easy pedestrian access and movements across the entire frontage with Tillhouse Road. Fencing along that frontage is therefore not being considered in this report.

Options might be a mixture of fixed and removable elements, with the fixed elements installed towards the periphery and removable elements along the centre of the frontage with Tillhouse Road as indicated in the drawing below:



In order to prevent vehicular traffic, it is suggested that elements should be spaced 1.5m apart, resulting in the need for 16 elements in total.

### Fixed Elements

Surface-mounted concrete bollard such the below 70kg version which retails at £107.00 plus VAT per bollard could be a cost-effective solution. Installation could be facilitated in-house with this model because the installation does not require invasive works. However, concrete bollards might be susceptible to vandalism including graffiti.



Another consideration could be the installation of planters but purchase costs would be much higher and ongoing maintenance would need to be considered carefully, including how to water any plants in the absence of a water supply to the Town Square. Commercial outdoor planters range greatly in purchase costs; prices start from approximately £500 per planter for a small planter (D50cm x L150cm x H60cm). For comparison, the planters in the Younghayes Place car park measure D100cm x L100cm x H65cm).

### Removable Elements

It is suggested that removable bollards would offer an effective, simple and robust way to protect the Town Square. Removable bollards with a simple padlock system provide an easy solution for locking the bollard in place. Stainless steel products retail from approximately £150.00 plus VAT plus installation, similar to the product below.



### **Recommendation**

To agree in principle to the installation of concrete and collapsible stainless steel bollards and to submit a detailed cost proposal to the Council at a future meeting.