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Cllr Anthony Martinelli
Chair
West Central Area Committee

30 October 2019

Dear Cllr Martinelli

Barrier on King's Parade

Thank you for your letter, expressing your concerns about the proposed barrier on King's Parade, and the views expressed at CJAC. I apologise for the delay in sending a written response.

As you are aware, CJAC supported the proposal to close King's Parade in the interests of public safety (acting on advice from the police counter-terrorism team). Whilst the scheme has been delayed by technical issues, the need to close the road has not changed and the advice from the police remains as it was in March.

Officers have engaged with local businesses individually and, at a meeting in late August, on their needs for deliveries, and their real concerns for safety in King's Parade. The briefing was arranged by Bidwells and officers were invited. I am sorry that ward councillors were not invited and that officers did not arrange an alternative meeting at that time. This was an oversight and should not have happened.

The project team of City and County officers is now in a position to update all stakeholders. Ward members, together with relevant county members, were briefed on Tuesday, 29 October and businesses will be briefed tomorrow, and written information shared with any stakeholders not at briefings.

In terms of your specific concerns about the barrier, CJAC shared those concerns for cycle safety and disabled access, and therefore officers have worked to ensure that these matters are addressed:

- **Cycle safety:** there will a single two-way opening which can allow two-way flow, but in order to reduce pressure, the barrier will not be closed until 9:30 to allow the morning peak flow through. At all times, there is no need for cyclists to mount the pavement and there would be no advantage in doing so.
- **Disabled parking lost in King's Parade** will be replaced on Trumpington Street. Depending on their destinations, some drivers may prefer to use the parking that already exists in Market Square, Peas Hill and in the Grand Arcade.

Data on footfall has been used to inform the initial operating hours.

Once the barrier is installed, city, county and police will work together to monitor the impact and to review it when the barrier has been in operation for some months. We will plan and carry out public engagement around the form and design of a permanent solution because, as you say, the temporary barrier will not be attractive. This iconic location deserves a bespoke solution but the design and manufacture of this will take some time.

I hope that you were able to attend the councillor briefing this week or, if you were unable to do so, that you take up Suzanne Hemingway's offer of a separate conversation at a time to suit you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Antoinette". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Antoinette Jackson
Chief Executive

cc: Cllr Richard Robertson
Chair of CJAC

Suzanne Hemingway