

Cllr Richard Robertson (Cambridge City - Petersfield)
Sent: 09 October 2019

Dear Anthony

In response to your letter, the city council has the role of being aware of possible threats to our residents and visitors and taking appropriate action. Earlier this year we were made aware by the police that their assessment was that the frequently crowded area on Kings Parade could be targeted by terrorists in the same way as has happened in London ie by vehicles driven at pedestrians.

In response it was decided to install a vehicle barrier at the southern end of Kings Parade (the northern end being already blocked). Other cities on the UK with similarly busy pedestrian areas have already installed such barriers. Birmingham for example.

Unfortunately the road is not wide enough to allow for a barrier which can be opened to allow vehicles through, and for gaps on either side for cyclists. So there will be just one such gap - in the same way as there is just one gap for cyclists to enter Sidney St from St Andrews St.

Because of this it is planned to keep the vehicle barrier open during the morning peak time for cyclists. At this time the threat is much lower because there are far fewer pedestrians in the area.

The barriers to be installed will be a temporary facility to see how well it works without digging holes and erecting bollards. However this means the equipment has to be capable of stopping a moving vehicle. Other cities have followed the same process of going for temporary, moveable equipment so the effect can be assessed and amendments made if necessary.

The installation will mean that disabled parking on Kings Parade will no longer be accessible. However we have taken care to identify replacement parking spaces near by for disabled drivers.

I hope this explains the importance of the issue. The barrier will inconvenience some people but having been advised of the threat we are taking appropriate action.

best regards

Richard
Cllr Richard Robertson