

Update on the Magdalen Road One-Way System

My post bag has been bulging since the temporary traffic system was implemented in Magdalen Road, and I want to thank all of you for sending me your many thoughts, views and ideas. I am delighted that my motion to allow a full consultation with stakeholders and residents, has now been agreed by Devon County Council. This will allow the whole community to consider what should happen in Magdalen Road as we begin to look beyond the immediate needs of the current pandemic.

The consultation will allow everyone to have a say in how we can 'Build Back Better' in St Leonard's. Of course, it is possible that a majority will want Magdalen Road to go back to how it was. I very much hope, however, that this will not be the case. We have an amazing opportunity to think very carefully about what we feel Magdalen Road should look like in the years to come, and whether there are changes we would like to see that would enhance Magdalen Road's unique character as a high quality shopping experience within the locality. Changes, for example, to footways and landscaping to improve the 'feel' of the area, as well as changes to the traffic flow which appropriately reflect the needs of St Leonard's and the surrounding area over the coming years when we will all be encouraged to use our cars less, and to turn to other more sustainable methods to get about wherever possible.

I do not yet have a date when the consultation will take place other than that it will be over the autumn/winter of this year. The SLNA, myself, and DCC officers will make sure that it is widely publicised so that everyone who wishes to can participate.

Magdalen Road is a very special part of St Leonard's as so many of you have been keen to impress on me. I hope that together we can ensure that it loses nothing of its charm and benefit to the people it serves.

I am particularly encouraged that we are welcoming two new shops into Magdalen Road. Can I encourage all of you to think about 'Buying Local' and making as much use as you can of the terrific array of independent shops and businesses on our doorstep in these difficult times.

Carol Whitton
Devon County Councillor for St David's and Haven Banks