



**From Cllr. Julian Dean**  
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Dear resident,

**I am writing to update you on the experimental New Street one-way scheme.**

### **Background.**

Residents in New Street have called for improved safety for pedestrians for many years. I surveyed residents in local streets a couple of years ago based on a council study of options. Majorities in all streets supported a scheme but raised concerns about extra traffic building up elsewhere. There has also been widespread support for 20mph limits in residential streets, which I have been pressing for at Shropshire Council. The wheelie bin stickers show the strength of local feeling.

The experimental scheme we now see came about quickly as part of the response to COVID19; some emergency government money made it possible to put this plan in place sooner than expected.

Several people have also asked about the chosen traffic direction. The main reason for this is to keep the traffic away from pedestrians most effectively.

### **Tweaks and improvements.**

After hearing from residents, I asked for the one-way stretch to be shortened to allow residents to turn right out of Park Avenue.

After residents and I spoke to council staff the plan for semi-permanent bollards for the cycle lane was changed to just bollards at each end plus a painted line, to allow deliveries and pick-ups to the houses on the river side of the road. I hope this reassures you that the scheme remains flexible.

I will continue to press for further improvements on your behalf as the experiment continues.

### **Neighbouring streets.**

I have discussed the situation with Pengwern Road and Woodfield Road with the highways staff. The intention remains for Pengwern Road to have a 20mph limit and to discourage rat-running through Pengwern Road and Woodfield Road. A temporary 20mph sign was planned for Pengwern Road, but the pavement width meant that this could not be left in place. A temporary sign to discourage left turning from Copthorne Road in to Pengwern Road is now in place.

I think more can be tried out as part of the experimental scheme. I have asked for the 20mph limit to include Woodfield Road, Porthill Drive and Copthorne Drive - so making the whole area between Shelton Road, Porthill Road and Copthorne Road a 20mph zone. I will be pressing for more permanent signs to make this change. If you have other suggestions, please let me know.

We all realise that there will be extra traffic using Copthorne Road. I would like to see further measures to calm traffic here too. I am waiting for a report about a possible extra pedestrian crossing between the Barracks development and the Bricklayers Arms I can also see a case for changed priorities at the Bricklayers to make this a better pedestrian crossing point and a Give Way for traffic on Copthorne Road. Your thoughts on this too would be appreciated.

## **Having your say.**

It was great to get quick feedback from residents and to be able to get immediate tweaks. The experimental scheme could last for up to 18 months. During this time, it will be very important to hear from you about your experience with the scheme. You can do this either by contacting me directly - see letter heading - or by using the council consultation website:

[Shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/shrewsbury-new-street-experimental-one-way-system](https://shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/shrewsbury-new-street-experimental-one-way-system).

You can also make your views clear on a new website which has recently been launched and has already got hundreds of comments attached to specific spots in the town: <https://shrewsburybigtownmap.commonplace.is/comments>

## **Some final thoughts.**

Since lockdown we have seen a huge increase in walking and cycling. We also know that the town was suffering from congestion with pockets of poor air quality. So there needs to be a continued development of ways to make the area safer for everyone to walk and cycle, from kids on bikes to elderly pedestrians. This needs less traffic, travelling more slowly. 20mph limits and 'low-traffic neighbourhoods' that prevent through traffic are key ways to do this. I am using my role as chair of a road safety group at Shropshire Council to continue to press for this.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julian Dean". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cllr. Julian Dean