From: [redacted]
To: David Bartlett
Subject: High Street Pedestrianisation
Date: 30 April 2018 15:09:24

Whilst it is important to be open to ideas to rejuvenate our town,this seems to fail on a number of counts:
1 If the aim is to encourage a "cafe" ambience it does not address the issue that the proposed area receives very little sunlight even in the summer and is quite chilly. The four storey structures on either side of a narrow road contribute to even the lightest of winds becoming quite brisk and uncomfortable. It is unlikely that your planned target population would even consider sitting out even on the very few days of the year when you wouldn't need overcoats and blankets. The sunshades are quite fanciful. Residents and tourists are more than happy to frequent the current indoor provision. We have a lovely sunny south facing Esplanade which fulfills the need for a cafe culture and is a successful venue. These proposals would be to its detriment in directing trade away from the town.
2 The structure of the narrow town streets make the suggested traffic schemes totally unworkable for coaches and lorries. Unfortunately your options do not show the roads to scale! Is there an intention to ban these vehicles? Try getting a coach or lorry out of the junction of Dudley Road and Albert Street.
3 Is it really the intention that traffic from Shanklin and Sandown will be directed up Spring Hill and away from the town. I'm not sure even the attractions of the Esplanade are sufficiently attractive to make it worth while to travel along Mitchell Avenue and then back into town running the dodgy gauntlet of Gill's Cliff Road and Church Street. Has anyone making these proposals tried to travel along Gill's Cliff recently? It relies totally on the courtesy of drivers to give way every few yards. Island drivers on the whole are tolerant. That all changes in the school holidays! Mainland drivers tend to be far less considerate, focused on time constraints. There are some double yellow lines, would parking be totally banned in Gill's Cliff Road to allow for increased traffic flow?
4 What happens to the disabled parking provision outside both doctors surgeries if Albert Street becomes two way and still needs to accommodate lorries and coaches?
5 The traffic problems associated with either option will lead to increased levels of pollution. There are currently very few hold ups in the proposed pedestrian area and traffic and pedestrians co-exist comfortably. If these proposals are adopted the town centre will quickly deteriorate along with the businesses.
On this occasion these proposals are sadly impracticable.

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