

Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council Newsletter
Special Edition

Leiston's Transport Strategy



August 2021

Your Town
Your Future
Make the Difference Today

What's inside:

- » One-Way Systems
- » Cycle Networks
- » Street Improvements
- » And more...



LD&A DESIGN

Artistic Impression - View from High Street to Cross Street



Your Opinion Matters...

Introduction



In 2002, Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council engaged residents to undertake a "Town Appraisal" – a series of questions about life in the town which was hand delivered to every property and 1,654 households responded. This represented a return of 75%, or 3,851 residents. Not all residents responded to all questions but with regard to parking and traffic in the town a healthy 1,800 residents gave their views.

This led to a consultation with residents which identified public support for reducing the traffic impact in the town centre by improving the pedestrian facilities and the safety within the town centre area. It was identified that in order to make any meaningful improvements, like wider pavements and a better user experience, a one way system had to be considered.

Five options were modelled for comparison purposes and views were sought on the preferred option, which were obtained through focus groups. The preferred option and recommended scheme has been taken forward and worked on over the past two years with the help and advice of Suffolk County Council Highways.

As a follow on, once the 2002 appraisal became outdated, another one was undertaken in 2011. This achieved a respectable 47% response rate covering 1,123 households and the views of 1,603 residents aged over 16 years old.

The possibility of a new nuclear power station at Sizewell (SZC) was covered in the questionnaire. It became clear (73% of respondents) that the largest problem during the Sizewell B build was traffic and this was also the biggest concern regarding the prospect of SZC. It appeared that HGVs and contractor traffic were not controlled as well as they should have been, making it uncomfortable and unsafe for pedestrians. Wider pavements and a one-way system were all supported as a way to give priority to residents and visitors, making the town centre a safer and more enjoyable experience for pedestrians, cyclists and people with mobility vehicles. Other schemes away from the town centre were also requested and have continued to be highlighted by residents to this day.

The Leiston Neighbourhood Plan 2015-2029, devised by residents and voted on by residents also covers transport and movement and the provisions of access for cyclists and pedestrians. Within the Plan, land for residential development is allocated, resulting in an increase in the population and additional pressures on the town's road infrastructure.

Along with the clear preference for one-way, there are other innovative ways of managing and controlling traffic flow included in these proposals. It is the Town Council's intention, in partnership with the Community Land Trust (CLT), to make these necessary improvements.

There is also a comprehensive cycle route proposal which is central to the road improvement plans and also forms part of East Suffolk Council's cycling strategy and Suffolk County Council's cycling plans for the wider cycling network.

It should be noted that these ambitions are not solely dependent on consent being granted for SZC, although they would most certainly be required should the application be successful. The scope, timing and ambition of what could be achieved would be far greater should SZC gain consent, as the developer would be obliged to provide mitigation for the extra traffic issues resulting from the scale of the project.

This is our opportunity to enhance our Town, please read on and let us know your views...

Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council working in partnership with...



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Proposals for Street Improvements

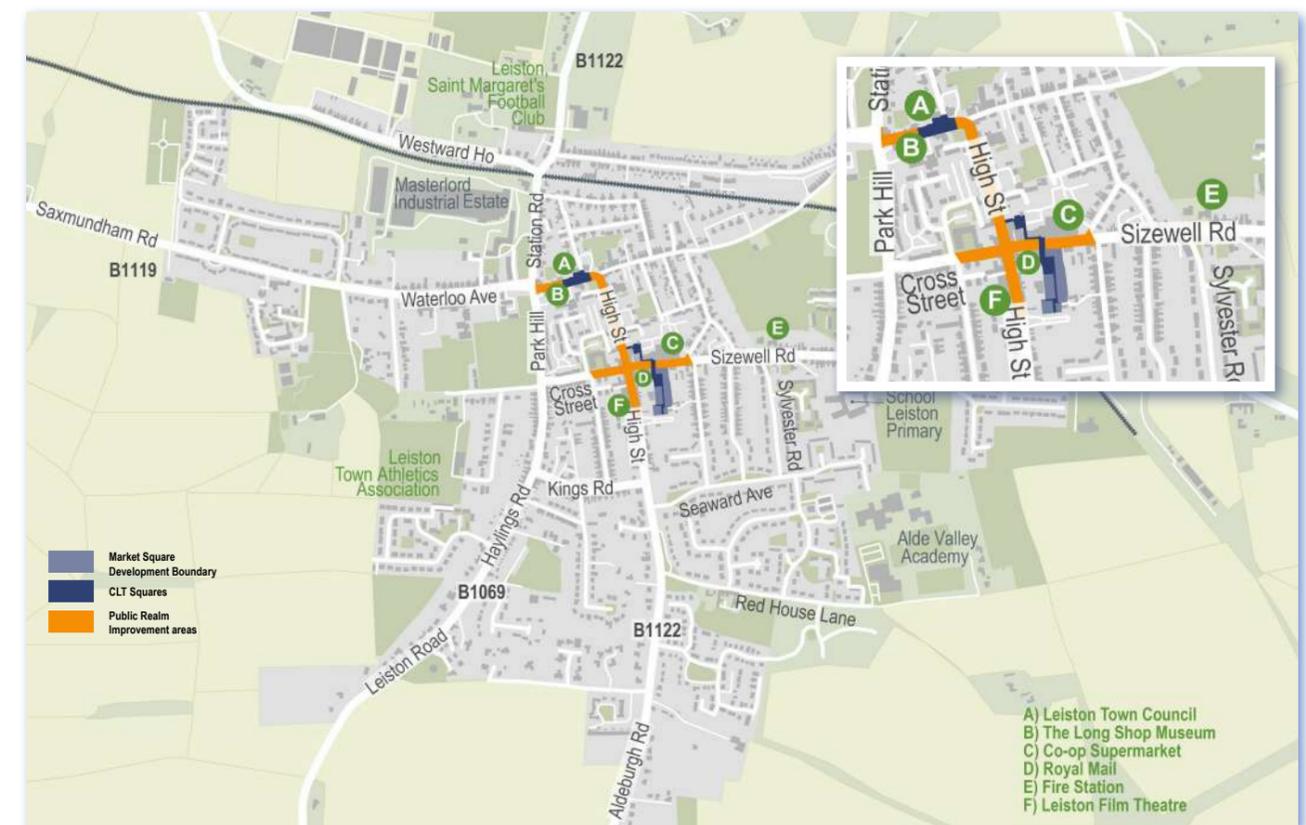
Interventions to create spaces that work in different ways

The proposed enhancements to the public realm in Leiston Town Centre focus on delivering a high-quality environment, which respects the existing character and history of the place, whilst looking forward to the needs of the community in the future. A key principle of the scheme is to make changes to the roads and prioritise pedestrian and cycle movement to enhance the experience and encourage people of all ages and abilities to linger, meet and enjoy visiting the town centre.

The proposed changes to the road network (refer to highway improvements) include the creation of one-way vehicular traffic routes with contra-flow cycle lanes. These changes will increase space for pedestrian movement and opportunities to enhance the public realm and enable safer and more sustainable ways to access and move around the town.

The proposals are focused on a series of multi-use build-outs which have the following benefits:-

- » Increase pedestrian crossings at pavement level
- » A contraflow cycle lane that highlights the contraflow arrangement, reminding drivers that they can expect to encounter people cycling toward them
- » An occupied space within the carriageway that could include trees (spaced sufficiently away from building frontages and vehicles including buses), planting and street furniture
- » A reduction in vehicle speed through changes to carriageway alignment and intervention of ramp, table and lane
- » Build-outs are located close to pedestrian entrances, adjacent to the crossroads and act as gateways to the central retail area and future development opportunities



Highway Improvements

One-way system through Leiston

A one-way system has been proposed to discourage traffic travelling through the town and subsequently avoid gridlock in the town centre, especially if SZC were to go ahead. The new plans would also enhance the pedestrian facilities with wider pavements and go hand-in-hand with the Community Land Trust project to encompass the existing history and character of the town. Traffic to Eastlands Industrial Estate and the existing power stations would be directed along Lover's Lane thus avoiding the town centre.

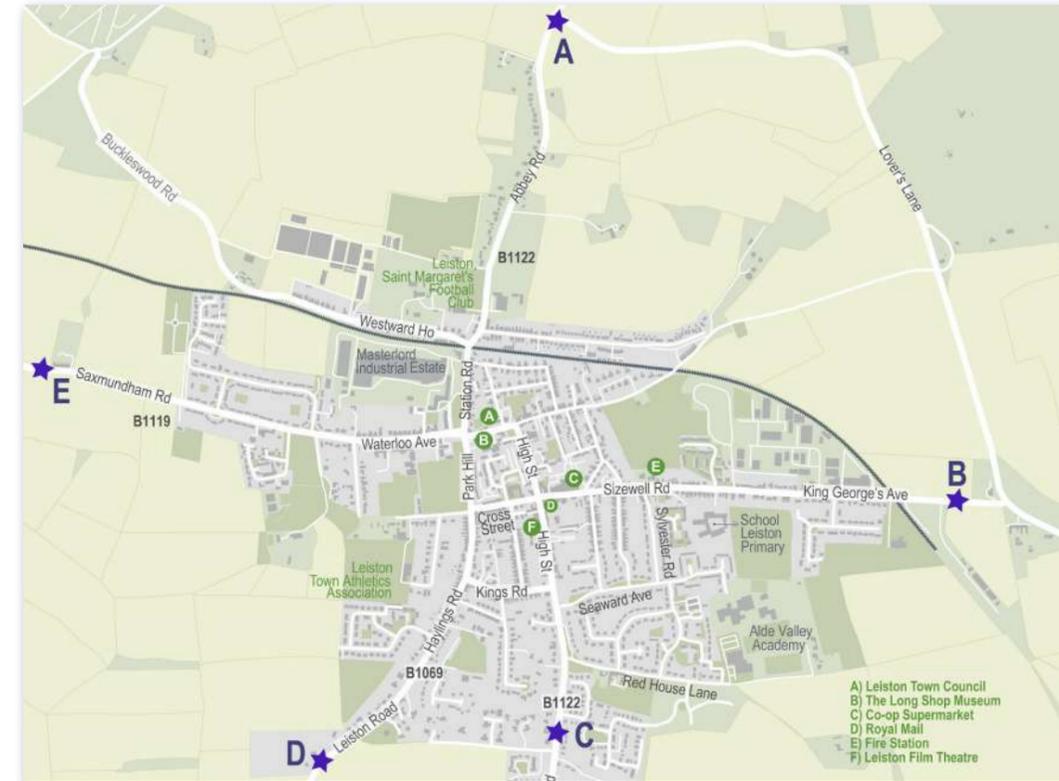


- » The one-way changes will mean that traffic to Eastlands Industrial Estate will be encouraged to travel in and out via Lover's Lane, avoiding Leiston town centre
- » The scheme seeks to balance the aims of reducing through traffic while maintaining access for residents

Gateways into our Town

Key improvements to how we enter the town

At various points coming into Leiston, we are proposing to have gateways and build-outs. These gateways are proven to encourage motorists to slow down as part of traffic calming measures and will help to indicate to drivers they are entering or exiting Leiston.



Gateway A.
Abbey Road,
B1122

Gateway B.
King George's
Avenue

Gateway C.
Aldeburgh Road,
before right turn
into Poppy Way
B1122

Gateway D.
Leiston Road
B1069

Gateway E.
Saxmundham
Road B1119

- » Creating a 'moment' space to signal that you are entering and exiting Leiston
- » A physical narrowing of the carriageway is proposed in most locations to encourage traffic to slow down
- » New white fence and gate with signage positioned to strengthen gateway feature



Artist impression of Gateway D

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Main Street

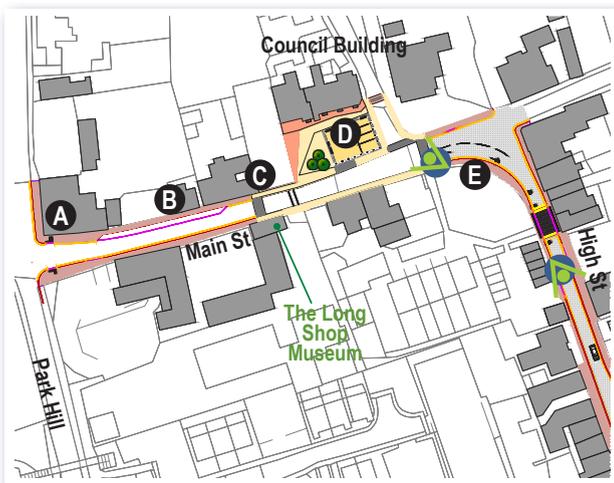
Heritage Square Project and High Street North

Old Post Office Square Proposals

- » Retain existing heritage layout, but renew footpath and highway surface finishes
- » Relocate car parking bays (see B below) to create a new central square for community focussed events and meeting place. *Note: Limited parking will continue to be provided but managed when events are planned*
- » New seating and planting to enhance the space and encourage the community to visit, stay and enjoy the space
- » Bespoke series of bollards demarcate the central square and manage parking whilst allowing good access into the space. The bollards are to be developed by an artisan and inspired by the engineering heritage associated with the town



Artistic Impression -
Viewing from Main Street to Old Post Office Square



- A.** White Horse junction reconfigured from two-way traffic flow to eastbound only one-way traffic flow. Footpaths widened and new crossing to improve pedestrian access and movement
- B.** New on street parking bays created to mitigate loss of parking in Old Post Office Square
- C.** Cyclists will be able to cycle in both directions along the entire length of Main Street with westbound cycle contraflow and eastbound with traffic on carriageway

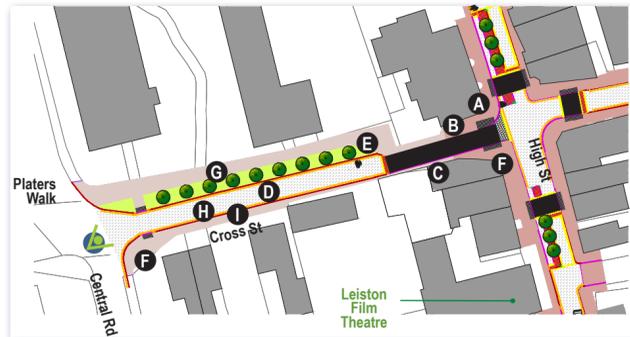


Artistic Impression -
View of High Street

- D.** Heritage Square - developing the Old Post Office Square and Long Shop museum area as a special part of the town, reflecting our history and providing a versatile and welcoming space
- E.** On carriageway cycle logo symbols will be provided to alert other road users to expect the presence of cyclists

Proposals for Street Improvements Cross Street

- A.** Conversion of the High Street / Cross Street junction to restrict westbound access for vehicles into Cross Street, pedestrian and cyclist access will be permitted. Vehicular access will be provided into Cross Street from the west at the Park Hill / Cross Street and Central Road / Platers Walk junctions
- B.** Pavement widening to improve pedestrian facilities between Central Road / Platers Walk and High Street junctions
- C.** The existing raised table from the High Street / Cross Street junction will be extended to the west of La Vita Pizza car park



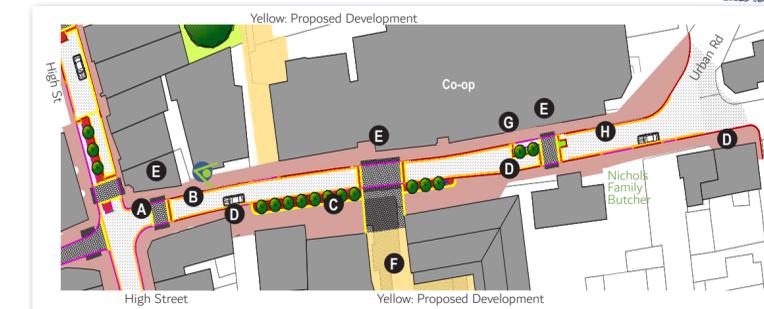
- D.** Cyclists will be able to cycle in both directions along the entire length on carriageway
- E.** On carriageway cycle logo symbols will be provided to alert other road users to expect the presence of cyclists
- F.** Pedestrian crossing points to be upgraded to improve visibility and accessibility for pedestrians
- G.** New street tree planting will enhance the quality of the street and town centre environment
- H.** Double yellow line parking restrictions will remain as existing
- I.** New bus stop

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Artistic Impression - View of Cross Street

Proposals for Street Improvements Sizewell Road



- A.** Conversion of two-way traffic flow to westbound only one-way traffic flow between High Street and Urban Road junctions
- B.** Cyclists will be able to cycle in both directions along the entire length of Sizewell Road with eastbound cycle contraflow and westbound with traffic on carriageway. On carriageway cycle logo symbols will be provided to alert other road users to expect the presence of cyclists
- C.** Repurposing of lay-by aims to enhance the street environment and soften the appearance of the building facade to the south with tree planting, whilst providing space for seating and street furniture underneath the tree canopy. The layout also aims to work with and strengthen the gateway into the proposed CLT redevelopment site
- D.** Pavement widening to improve pedestrian facilities at localised narrow sections
- E.** Pedestrian crossing points to be upgraded to improve visibility and accessibility for pedestrians
- F.** CLT Market Square development site: a mix of affordable residential and business units focused around a market space, based on the Neighbourhood Plan
- G.** Build-out feature with potential to incorporate trees, planting, benches, and street furniture create places to sit and linger. A segregated contraflow cycle lane is provided at footpath level
- H.** Double yellow line parking restrictions will remain as existing



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Artistic Impression - View from Sizewell Road



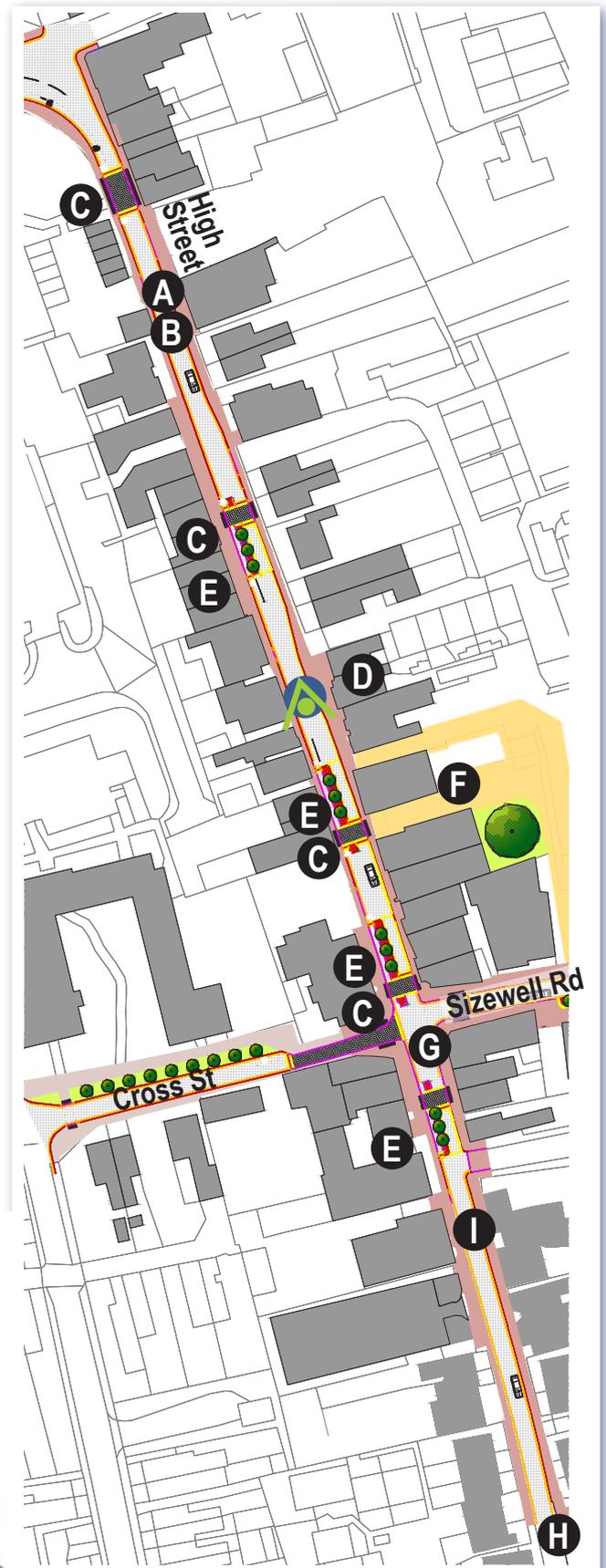
Concept Design by Simon Merrett



Proposals for Street Improvements

High Street

- A.** Conversion of two-way traffic flow to southbound only one-way traffic flow from Main Street to High Street car park
- B.** Cyclists will be able to cycle in both directions along the entire length of High Street with northbound cycle contraflow and southbound with traffic on carriageway. Cycle logo symbols on the road will be provided to alert other road users to expect the presence of cyclists
- C.** Pedestrian crossing points to be upgraded to improve visibility and access for pedestrians
- D.** Pavement widening to improve pedestrian access and movement
- E.** Four build out features with potential to incorporate trees, planting, benches, and street furniture create places to sit and linger. A segregated contraflow cycle lane is provided at footpath level
- F.** Church Square: a pocket park on the south of the United Church, giving a green and public space through to the High Street shops (due to commence September 2021)
- G.** The High Street / Sizewell Road / Cross Street junction will be modified to restrict westbound access for vehicles into Cross Street except buses and emergency vehicles. Vehicular access will be provided into Cross Street from the west at the Park Hill / Cross Street and Central Road / Platers Walk junctions
- H.** Bus stop will be upgraded to include an on-carriageway bus markings
- I.** Double yellow line parking restrictions will remain as existing

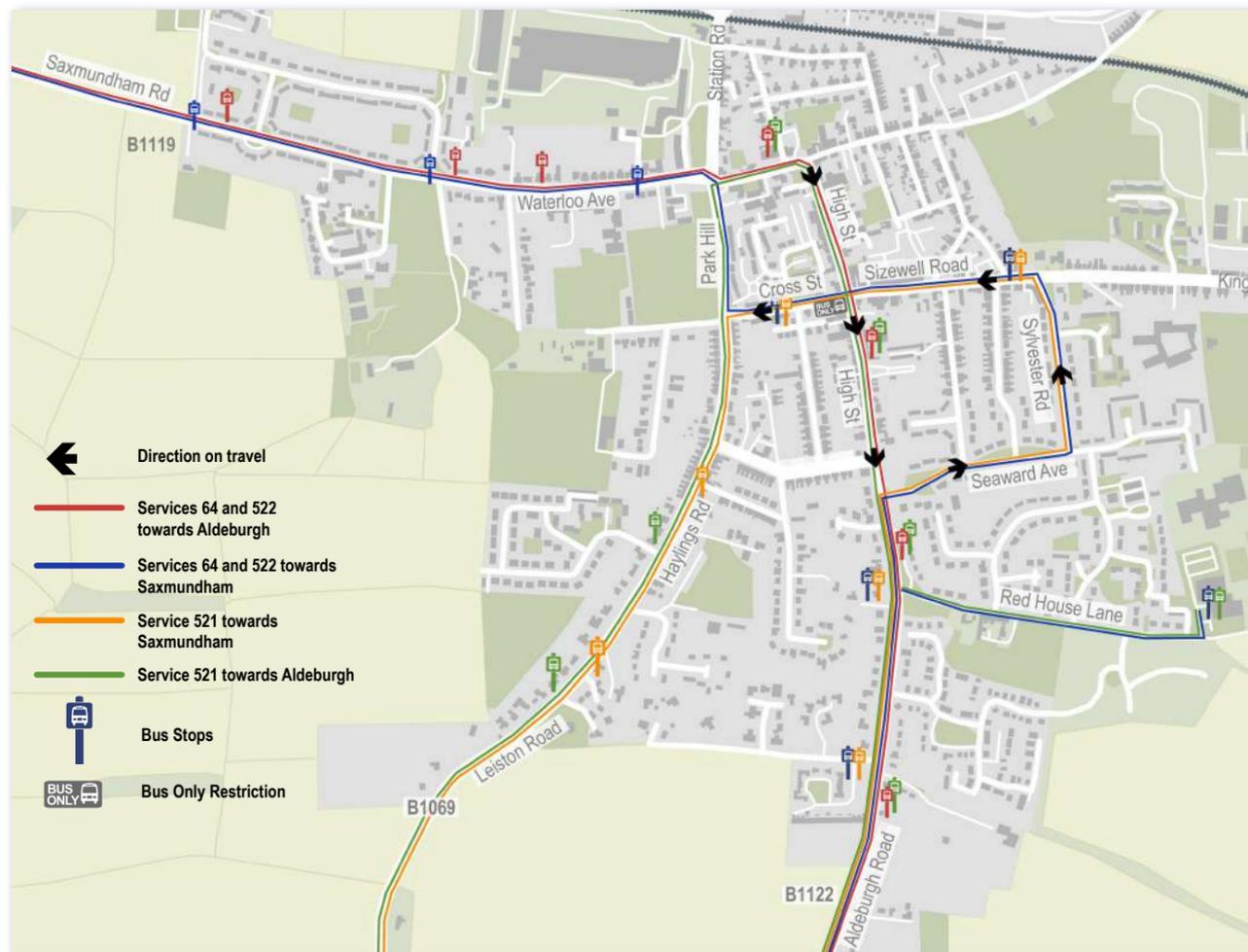


 Artistic Impression -
View from High Street



Bus Services

Proposals for a new route for buses travelling from Aldeburgh have been suggested to work with the proposed one-way system. This means buses would now turn into Seaward Avenue, and down Sylvester Road with a bus stop on Sizewell Road, offering residents on the east side of the town better accessibility to a bus stop. Buses would then continue along Sizewell Road and over to Cross Street with a new central bus stop for the town which will then follow the old route to Saxmundham or Knodishall. The return journey will remain the same as present.



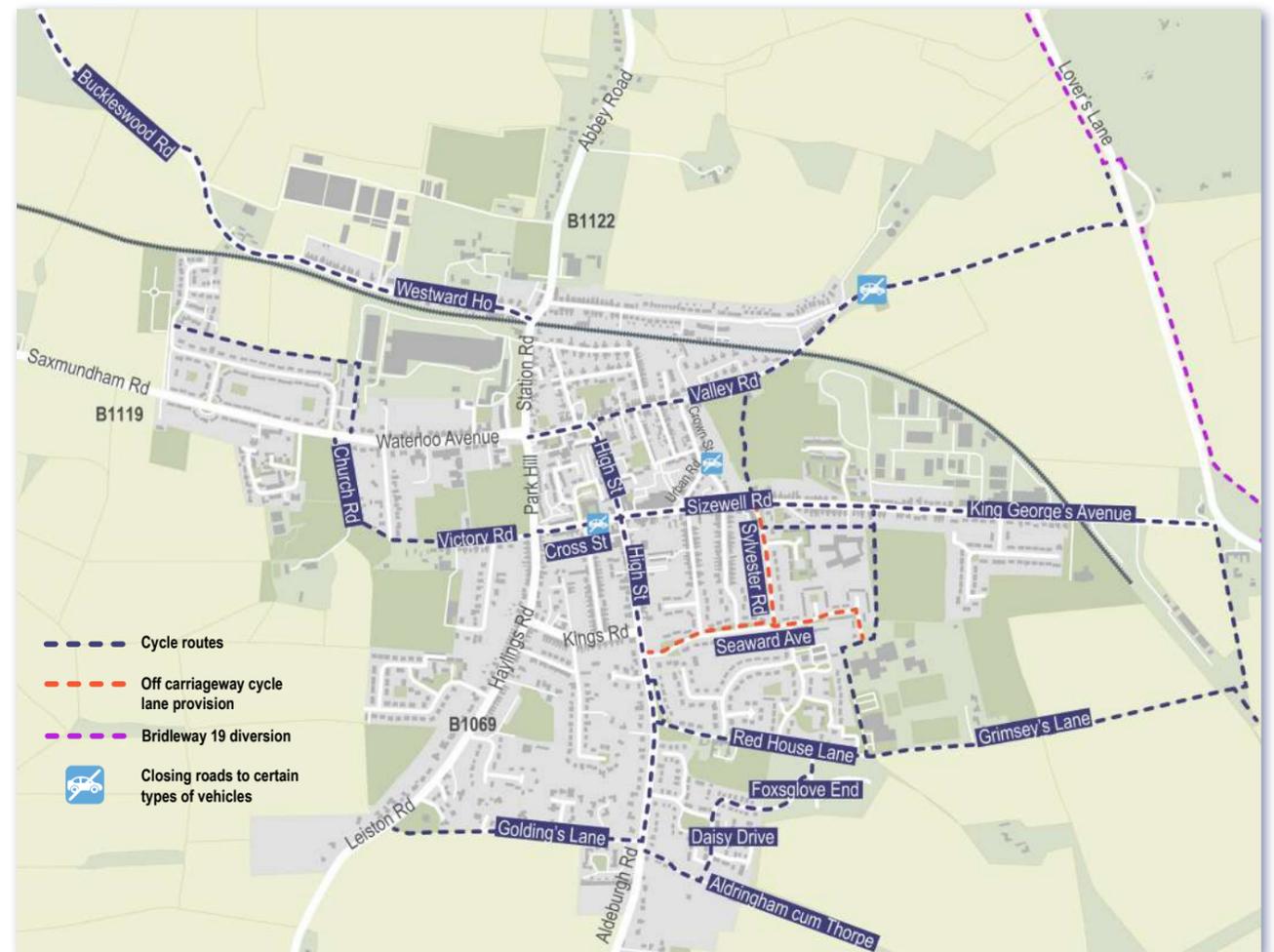
- » Buses (64/521) which currently travel northbound along the High Street will be diverted via a new route
- » Buses from Aldeburgh will travel along a new route via Seaward Avenue, Sylvester Road, Sizewell Road and Cross Street, before proceeding towards Saxmundham or Knodishall along their old route
- » Cross Street will also be open to westbound buses
- » New bus stops on Sizewell Road and Cross Street will be served by routes 64, 521 and 522
- » Scheme will deliver improved bus stop facilities at the Library

Sustainable Cycle Network

Proposed infrastructure improvements

The Leiston Neighbourhood Plan set out a policy of improvements in cycle routes and our proposals will build on these in order to provide a network of routes around the town. Many are already used by residents for walking and cycling but we have an opportunity to improve their quality, safety and connectivity within the Town making it easier for us to leave our cars at home, travel more sustainably and improve our health and wellbeing.

It is also the intention that these routes will link into the wider cycling network being planned by East Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council to support tourism along the Suffolk coast.



- » The general approach to highway improvements and interventions within the town centre aims to prioritise pedestrians and cyclists. In particular a reduction in traffic on the streets through introduction of a one-way system and slowing of vehicle speeds using build outs, changes to road alignment and additional crossing points will all help make a safer environment for cyclists and pedestrians
- » Sections including Seaward Avenue and Sylvester Road will have off carriageway cycle lane provision
- » Modal filter on Valley Road will create a traffic-free route
- » The eastern end of Cross Street will be closed to all motor vehicles except westbound buses and emergency vehicles

Next Steps

The consultation runs from 2 August to 30 August 2021. All the proposals and plans will be available on our website and also in this transport newsletter which every household should have received. You can submit comments on the feedback form within the newsletter, via our website page (details below) and hard copies of the feedback forms will be available at the exhibitions and clinics.

Exhibition Dates

We are holding exhibitions detailing all the proposals on:

Saturday 7 August 10am - 6pm at the Community Centre, King George's Avenue

Tuesday 24 August 12noon - 8pm at the United Church, High Street

Clinics

We will also be holding clinics at the Town Council offices on:

Tuesday 10 August 10am - 12noon

Thursday 19 August 6pm - 8pm

It is very important you contact the Council offices on **01728 830388** to make a 15 minute appointment for the clinic dates to ensure resources are available and you will be allocated a time slot. Unfortunately, we will not be able to receive people coming in without an appointment.

Feedback Forms

Feedback forms must be received by **Midday on 30 August 2021** and the Town Council will review all the comments and inform residents of the findings.

Getting in Touch



Website: www.leistontowncouncil.gov.uk/leistontransportstrategy



Email: feedback@leistontowncouncil.gov.uk



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Leistontowncouncil/>



Feedback Form

Leiston cum Sizewell Town Council is committed to delivering the proposed improvements to our town centre for the benefit of our residents, our retailers and our visitors. We have been working hard with Suffolk County Council, East Suffolk Council and EDF to develop these road improvements and town centre enhancements. It is our intention to implement this project through a series of various funding streams, including funding from Sizewell C should it gain consent.

It is important that before taking these plans further, we share the proposals with our residents, to allow you to offer comments and/or suggestions. Please complete all or some of the boxes below and thank you for taking the time to respond.

Q1. Please provide comments on the proposed overall plans for traffic improvements in Leiston

Q2. Do you have any comments/suggestions relating to any specific sections or areas of the proposals?



Q3. Are there any other areas, where you think road improvements are needed?

Q4. Any other comments relating to the proposals. (e.g. What do you like about the plans?)

Thank you for your assistance and taking the time to fill in this form.

Please add your postcode here: _____

(detail held in accordance with GDPR)

Please return this form by 30 August 2021 to;

Leiston Town Council, Main Street, Leiston, IP16 4ER or you can send it via email to:

feedback@leistontowncouncil.gov.uk

Online Feedback forms available @ www.leistontowncouncil.gov.uk/leistontransportstrategy

