

REPORT TO EVENTS AND TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

ALFRESCO DINING EVENINGS 2022



Report Reference E-21-15
Meeting Date 8th November
Agenda Item 7
Prepared by Town Centre and Marketing Officer

1.0 BACKGROUND

In September the middle section of King Street was closed for two nights and the whole of Minshull Street was closed for one night to allow restaurants, bars, and cafes to offer additional seating on the pavement. It was proposed the small section outside the Lost and Found was also closed but this was cancelled due to the venues which would have utilised the area being unable to provide additional staff. Two venues which had planned to participate on King Street also had to withdraw due to staffing issues.

Amberon provided a traffic management service each evening and each venue arranged its own equipment (tables, chairs and gazebos). The road closure was arranged by the Town Centre and Marketing Officer through Cheshire East Highways. The events were registered with the Events Safety and Advisory Group which notified emergency services of each road closure.

All three evenings were a resounding success with both the venues and the community. The response on social media was overwhelmingly in support of these trial evenings becoming a regular feature of Knutsford's summer season.

2.0 PROPOSAL

It is proposed to hold alfresco dining evenings between May and September for King Street (individually) and Princess Street and Minshull Street (together). This will cause the minimum disruption for residents and allow the venues to have an equal opportunity to maximise revenue from each event.

In addition to the contracted traffic management, it is recommended that security personnel are hired for each evening; this would be alongside any officers/volunteers managing the evenings and aim to prevent any issues arising.

The following dates are proposed.

Month	Date	Roads Closed	Date	Roads Closed
May	Friday 13 th	Princess Street & Minshull Street	Saturday 14 th	King Street
June	Friday 10 th	Princess Street & Minshull Street	Saturday 11 th	King Street
July	Friday 22 nd	Princess Street & Minshull Street	Saturday 23 rd	King Street
August	Friday 12 th	Princess Street & Minshull Street	Saturday 13 th	King Street
September	Friday 9 th	Princess Street & Minshull Street	Saturday 10 th	King Street

The committee has previously agreed the evenings should not coincide with Makers Market weekends and it is recommended that they are also not held on the weekend of the Royal May Day celebrations due to the road closures already in place that weekend and the high volume of visitors to the town.

The June dates coincide with the Music Festival.

The July dates coincide with the RHS Tatton as the venues felt this would create additional footfall in the town as well as giving the venues the opportunity to create 'RHS menus' and showcase the town centre's floral walk to visitors; tables could be decorated with flowers.

The August dates coincide with the first Food and Drink Festival as this is an obvious partnership.

The venues that will be able to take part would be:

King Street	Minshull Street	Princess Street
Evuna	Project 53	Lost and Found
Kampai Sushi Bar & Grill	Café on the Corner	Dexter & Jones
Gusto	La Casa Del Habanos	Copper 29
Rose and Crown	The Angel	Chicinos
Cross Keys		April's Kitchen
D-13		Kuckoo's
Eastern Revive		The Old Sessions House
Margao		Chicinos
Cheshire House Bar and Grill		Lost and Found
Wine and Wallop		
Piccolinos		
King Street Kitchen		

3.0 CLOSURE OF PRINCESS STREET

The closure of Princess Street is more disruptive to residents due to it providing the only means of vehicular access to a number of properties. The Town Centre and Market Officer undertook a short survey of three options for a Princess Street event:

- Full Closure – closing the extent of Princess Street
- Partial Closure – only closing the area outside Lost and Found
- Restricted Access – suspension of parking where pavements are sufficiently wide and slowing of traffic to enable pavements to be utilised

Disappointingly only five responses were received. The results were as follows:

Respondent Street	Full closure	Partial Closure	Restricted Access
Regent Street	Unsure	Support	Unsure
Church View	Object	Support	Unsure
Princess Street	Object	Support	Support
Church View	Support	Support	Support
Regent Street	Support	n/a	n/a

The following additional comments were made:

- *No concerns, just plenty prior warning*
- *I live on Church View, we need to be able to get our cars out and return them to our house. We have to put up with not being able to use our cars when the makers' market is on. I think you need to consider the residents of Church View*
- *I guess it might as well be the whole street, as then Old Sessions House, April's and Dexter and Jones can participate. Car park permits to be issued where previously agreed.*
- *Lost and found and Copper 29 serve food. Dexter and Jones is wet led and has room in the car park behind them so why close the road?*

Based on the feedback received, it is proposed that the Princess Street evenings be facilitated by closing the parking bays from HSBC to Chicinos to enable the pavement to be utilised for dining. The bays would be barriered off to enable pedestrians to use the area to pass diners. The section outside Lost and Found would also be closed. This would enable April's Kitchen, Kuckoo and Chicinos to utilise the pavement section and Copper 29 and Dexter and Jones to use the space outside the Lost and Found. The Old Sessions House could also use the space on Red Cow Yard as long as businesses who use this space to access parking are communicated with in advance.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The total cost for the five weekends would be £7,420. This covers the costs of traffic management, road closure consents and security as follows:

Item	King Street	Minshull Street/ Princess Street
Traffic Management (per night)	£357	£717
Road Closure Charge (per weekend)*	£100	£100
Security Charge (per night)	£105	£105
Total (per night)	£562	£922
Total (x 5)	£2,810	£4,610
Cost per venue for whole summer*	£234	£384

The road closure charge is £200 per weekend, split equally for the two areas. The cost per venue is based on 12 venues on King Street and 12 on Minshull Street/Princess Street.

The Town Centre and Marketing Officer has approached businesses about the idea and is awaiting responses. It is proposed that the evenings be facilitated by the council but with the cost borne by the participating venues on a recharge basis. An agreement would be drawn up for participation and where evenings are cancelled (due to poor weather) the cost would reduce.

4.0 DECISION REQUIRED

The committee should consider the outlined proposal for alfresco dining events in 2022.