

<b>SWALE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD</b>	<b>Agenda Item:</b>
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<b>Meeting Date</b>	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> December 2012
<b>Report Title</b>	Petition – Faversham Pedestrianisation Scheme
<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	Cllr John Wright
<b>SMT Lead</b>	Brian Planner
<b>Head of Service</b>	Brian Planner
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Brett O'Connell
<b>Classification</b>	Open

<b>Recommendations</b>	That Members consider the report and petition received and decide whether the experimental scheme should be terminated immediately or continue for six months as previously agreed.
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## **Purpose of Report and Executive Summary**

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of the extension to the pedestrianisation scheme in Faversham and a petition received recently regarding the scheme.

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 Central Faversham has been a pedestrian only area on a Saturday for many years. Concerns were raised at the Faversham Local Engagement Forum over the volume of traffic in the town centre on other days of the week and the impact this has on pedestrians, particularly on market days.
- 2.2 A consultation progressed with residents, businesses, market traders and visitors regarding the possibility of extending the scheme to include Fridays between 10am – 4pm as per Saturdays. The results of the consultation were submitted in a report to the Joint Transportation Board in June 2012 for a recommendation. The JTB recommended that the scheme be implemented on an experimental basis and run for 9 months with a review after 6 months.
- 2.3 The scheme was implemented at the beginning of August 2012 and a review/consultation is planned to be carried out in January 2013.
- 2.4 A petition asking for an immediate end to the scheme has been received by a business owner in the town centre. The petition states that *“Faversham town shopkeepers and other businesses request the immediate end of the Friday road closure. Our losses are not sustainable and the severe inconvenience to our customers is not acceptable”*. 74 signatures have been included in the petition, 4 of those are market traders.

2.5 A copy of the petition minus the signatures/names can be found in **Annex A**.

### **3 Issue for Decision**

3.1 The original consultation showed that 80.5% of the consultees were in favour of the scheme being extended to include Fridays and 19.5% objected to the proposals. The scheme has now been in place for 3 months. The petition is asking for the scheme to be terminated as soon as possible as it is affecting businesses and they are worried about the possibility of lost trade over the festive period that could have a negative affect on small businesses.

3.2 Members are to consider the petition and decide if the trial should be terminated now or continue and reviewed after six months as originally planned.

### **4 Implications**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Implications</b>
Corporate Plan	Improving Community Safety through safer Highways.
Financial, Resource and Property	Costs associated with Traffic Regulation Order, and necessary signing.
Legal and Statutory	Traffic Regulation Orders to be made.
Crime and Disorder	None at this stage.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	None identified at this stage.
Equality and Diversity	None identified at this stage.
Sustainability	None identified at this stage.

### **5 Appendices**

5.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report

- Annex A – Copy of the petition

### **6 Background Papers**

6.1 None.