

**Cobham Parish Council Suggestion****Kent County Council Response (20/09/21)**

**Closure of The Street to motor vehicles, with a retractable road block for public transport and emergency services (RGP option)**

Automatic bollards / access control is no longer used in Kent due to maintenance issues, not least problems with reliability. It would also be difficult to implement this when there is a legitimate need for access to properties for deliveries, visitors, business customers etc. Any system using technology would require exemptions for particular vehicles, but it would be virtually impossible to implement this when access is required on an ad-hoc basis for vehicles who may not be registered for an exemption. Examples of this could include (but are not limited to) visitors to the pubs, businesses and cricket ground, residential care visitors, takeaway and online order deliveries (which are often made using private vehicles) and private visitors to properties. A physical restriction would create significant disruption to these services.

There is also the strong possibility that motorists would take an alternative route (such as through Sole Street) which could create another problem.

**One-way with traffic allowed from West to East only (RGP option)**

Traffic needing to travel from East to West would need an alternative route, and there are not any suitable options. In addition, for example, buses would only be able to serve the village in one direction. A one way would also likely increase the speed of traffic as they would have no reason to keep their speed down (with the available data suggesting that existing speeds are low).

**Toll road using intelligent technology**

Unfortunately, we do not have the legislative powers to do this, and there would also be the same issues created as a closure of The Street with a retractable bollard.

**Traffic lights between Meadow Rooms and the school**

This has been extensively explored but the number of accesses within the proposed traffic signal-controlled area make it prohibitive. There would be no way for drivers to know from which direction traffic is coming and could lead to a safety issue with collisions or vehicles blocking the road and needing to reverse.

**Access only signage, effective if enforced, otherwise not (RGP option)**

This is unlikely to be enforced and is ambiguous as there is no legal definition of 'access'. There would also be the same issues created as a closure of The Street with a retractable bollard.

<b>Build out both sides of The Street to create genuine single file traffic, with priority give-way at either end</b>	As discussed, this is being progressed.
<b>Village gateway features with speed reduction surface treatment (RGP option)</b>	Features such as this are unlikely to impact traffic flow, which I understand to be the main issue. The available data suggests that high speeds are not a significant problem, so this is not likely to make any real difference to the existing situation.