



# VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

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DESTINATION VENTNOR

CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION

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The first stage of the year-long conversation about the future of the Town Centre launched by the Mayor on 29 January was to answer two critical questions: pedestrianisation has been widely and successfully implemented in many coastal towns but would it work in Ventnor and would the town want it?

Ten meetings with 300 attendances, 669 pre-paid cards returned, 179 completed survey forms and 90 emails later, we know the answer to both: it won't work because the roads that would have to carry the diverted traffic aren't suitable and, on balance, the town doesn't want it.

All the meetings were strongly opposed to it; the 669 cards that included the judgement of 1,100 residents split two 2:1 against it; and the 90 emails were divided 3:2 against it.

The notes of all the meetings, a detailed analysis of the returned cards and all the email responses are now available in this section of our web site and are well worth reading.

Although both the responses and our assessment of the impact on the town's other roads rule out the possibility of a traffic-free town centre, there is also a clear message that *something does need to be done*. And we agree with that.

So our work will now focus on what that *something* could/should be, bearing in mind that Island Roads are due to carry out their major works on the town's central area next year. We hope to bring developed proposals to the October meeting of the Town Council and will continue the conversation with stakeholders during the preparations for that.

Alongside this stage of the conversation, we also commissioned a professional *Accessibility Risk Assessment* of the Town Centre. It clearly identifies the access difficulties and dangers of the area and that is also available here.

If you would like to comment on the findings of the first stage or make suggestions about the next please feel free to use the 'contact us' form of our web site, email me directly on [townclerk@ventnortowncouncil.org.uk](mailto:townclerk@ventnortowncouncil.org.uk) or write to us at Salisbury Gardens, Dudley Road.

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