

Appendix B: Comments from individuals on Princes Circus area proposals (question 3)

Topic	Comment	No.	Officer response
Overall	Support for proposals	33	Comments noted.
Pedestrians	Great improvement – much better for pedestrians and tourists	4	Comment noted.
	Proposals should be more radical with more pedestrianisation and more shared space	4	The proposals provide a large new public space and streets that are safer and more attractive for walking. Providing additional pedestrianisation would lead to an unacceptable traffic impacts on the local and wider area.
	Improves route connecting Covent Garden with the British Museum but need better wayfinding	2	Comment noted.
	Need to retain a pedestrian crossing outside Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church	1	The crossing would be retained under the proposals
	Pedestrianise Endell Street	1	Endell Street provides one of the few traffic routes into Seven Dials / Covent Garden. Pedestrianising this road to traffic would be unacceptable as it would remove all parking and loading and make it very difficult for vehicles to access the area.
Cycling	Need a shared space route for cyclists through the plaza to reach the quietway on Coptic Street northbound and Endell Street southbound	12	Following comments in the public consultation, improvements to cycle routes around Princes Circus have been made. A high quality cycle route has been included with a new cycle crossing of New Oxford Street at Coptic Street to Grape Street. This would link with the cycle crossing of High Holborn to provide access to / from Endell Street. This would provide a direct link from Bloomsbury Way / New Oxford Street to Endell Street. Providing a cycle route through the public space would create unnecessary conflict with pedestrians.

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	Ensure safe cycle routes / protected lanes through this area	5	In addition to the new link from Bloomsbury Way / New Oxford Street to Endell Street (described above) a safer and direct route would be provided from Gower Street / Bloomsbury Street to Endell Street with minimal conflicts with other traffic.
	More cycle parking including on plant pots	3	The proposals include more cycle parking in the area.
	Support road closures but need to provide a direct cycle route through to Endell Street or route south to Waterloo Bridge.	2	The proposals include a direct link from Bloomsbury Street / Shaftesbury Avenue to Endell Street with minimum conflicts with other traffic.
Air quality	More closures lead to more congestion and pollution	4	The traffic impacts of the proposals have been assessed using an approved Transport for London traffic model which predicts that the proposals would lead to an overall reduction in traffic in the area as well as quicker bus journeys. As a result it is likely that there would be less congestion and better air quality.
Accessibility	Need to consider access for disabled people	3	Access for everybody has been considered in the proposals.
Traffic flow	Proposals will cause congestion	27	The traffic impacts of the proposals have been assessed using an approved Transport for London traffic model which predicts that the proposals would lead to an overall reduction in traffic in the area as well as quicker bus journeys. As a result it is likely that there would be less congestion.
	If Grape Street is closed, traffic has to use one-way system to return to Shaftesbury Avenue	5	Access would be maintained to Grape Street from the north via the Holborn gyratory.
	Do not close roads	4	The public space could not be provided without closing a section of the street.
	Will reduce congestion	3	Comment noted.

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	Prevent through traffic except cycles on Grape Street / West Central Street or proposal will create rat-run	1	The current proposals are not expected to create a rat-run as Grape Street would be one-way southbound and all motor traffic would have to turn left so the route would not lead anywhere.
	Close Shaftesbury Avenue between St Giles High Street and Bloomsbury Street and turn into public square	2	If this part of Shaftesbury Avenue were to close as well, it would be very difficult for any traffic to travel north-south through the area and would cause unacceptable congestion and delays on surrounding roads.
Public space	Need more trees / greenery including dividing the public space from the road	14	It is unlikely that additional trees would be planted in this space. Princes Circus already has a large number of mature trees which can make the space dark and uninviting. The tree canopies would be lifted to increase sunlight into the space.
	Public green spaces are welcome	7	Comment noted.
	Closing this street would create an impressive public space	7	Comment noted
	Support increased seating	3	Comment noted
	Stop rough sleeping here including locking at night	3	The Council's Community Safety team and local Police will keep the proposed public spaces under surveillance and take enforcement action where possible and appropriate.
Community safety	Need to deal with anti-social behaviour including drug dealing, street drinking	2	The Council's Community Safety team and local Police will keep the proposed public spaces under surveillance and take enforcement action where possible and appropriate.
Impact on businesses	Do not increase business rates before and after construction. Remove tree outside 224A Shaftesbury Avenue as it obstructs our premises.	1	Streets trees are generally regarded as an asset and would only be removed if absolutely necessary for the requirements of the scheme.
Loading	Grape Street should be maintained to allow traffic / access / loading e.g. Shaftesbury Theatre	1	Access to Grape Street would be maintained under the proposals. Further discussions would take place with the theatre at detailed design stage, if the proposals were to go ahead.

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	Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church would like loading bay outside main entrance for hearses and wedding cars	1	Following consultation, it is proposed that a loading bay be provided for the Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church on Bucknall Street, between Dyott Street and Shaftesbury Avenue and Dyott Street, which would require the residents' parking to be relocated to the section of Bucknall Street between Earnshaw Street and Dyott Street.
Waste of money / lack of support	Waste of money	7	The proposals would provide much needed public space in the heart of the West End outside an important theatre and help to provide a better connection and safer for pedestrians walking between Seven Dials and the British Museum. The proposals would also provide safe and attractive cycle routes as part of the Central London Cycle Grid.
	No support for proposal	7	Comment noted.