



# Old Town Traffic Improvement Proposals

This leaflet contains 2 proposals for improving traffic within the Old Town and the council is seeking the views of residents, businesses, and visitors to the area on whether we should progress with either of these plans.

The aim of the proposals is to improve the Old Town for the hundreds of thousands of people that walk through the area each year. Its narrow streets were not designed for the volume of traffic currently using them and we would therefore like to look at ways of deterring unnecessary traffic whilst still allowing essential users to access the area.



**Brighton & Hove  
City Council**

## The Old Town then and now

The Old Town is the area bounded by East Street, North Street, West Street and the sea which forms the historic core of Brighton.

Originally the heart of the old fishing town Brighthelmstone, the area has been developed since the 13th Century and the current street pattern remains as it was then. The Old Town is most well-known for The Lanes, an intricate maze of twisting alleyways.

The Old Town today is the thriving, economic heart of the city. It is one of the major destinations in the city for tourists and locals alike, offering a mix of history and heritage, shops and restaurants. The area retains its busy, bustling feel throughout the year and in the summer the old Town becomes even more popular as tourist numbers swell, filling its many bars, cafes and restaurants.

## Balancing the needs of everyone

Currently it appears that a significant proportion of traffic in the Old Town is through traffic, with 40% of vehicles entering the Old Town via Ship Street leaving within five minutes.

Many people need to access the Old Town by vehicle. The challenge faced is to meet the needs of these road users while also reducing overall levels of traffic for the benefit of pedestrians in the area. Examples of those whose needs must be considered are:

- Residents with private parking spaces
- Vehicles servicing businesses
- People using on-street parking for residents, blue-badge holders, shoppers
- Taxis
- Emergency services

## Current Transport Issues within the Old Town

The history of the Old Town is one of its greatest assets, but its development around centuries-old street layouts means that the area is not ideal for motorised traffic. Over the decades, due to its popularity and the density of businesses, the amount of traffic has continually increased.

As a result the area now suffers from high levels of traffic. This volume of traffic is unsuitable for the Old Town as it detracts from the character of the area by dominating road space, creating noise and pollution, and increasing the potential for conflict between pedestrians and vehicles. For many tourists and residents walking around The Lanes is one of Brighton's highlights. However in parts of the Old Town traffic dominates the area forcing pedestrians to crowd onto narrow footways.

On a typical Saturday an average of 200 vehicles an hour drive in to the Old Town, compared with 600 pedestrians entering via East Street alone. The aim of this consultation exercise is to look at ways that we can manage traffic so that the Old Town can be enjoyed by everyone to its full potential and a sensible balance between pedestrians and vehicles is found.

## Cycling

The proposed road closures will not apply to cyclists. As part of the detailed design 2-way cycling will be considered for each road within the Old Town.

# The proposals

The plan below shows how traffic currently operates. The objective of this consultation exercise is to seek the views of all users of the Old Town on two new proposals for improving traffic management in the area.

Options A and B outline these proposals and we would like to hear from users of the Old Town in order to:

- a) **Decide whether to go ahead with either of the proposals.**
- b) **Develop details of how the proposal will work in practice.**

Many details - how access will be restricted, where and when loading will be permitted, what type of parking will remain - can only be designed once we have spoken to local people. For example some users may require 24 hour access whilst others need only occasional access at certain times of the day or week or just to certain areas of the Old Town. Therefore as well as your preference for Option A or B we would like to know how, when and where you use the Old Town so we can design a scheme suitable for everyone.



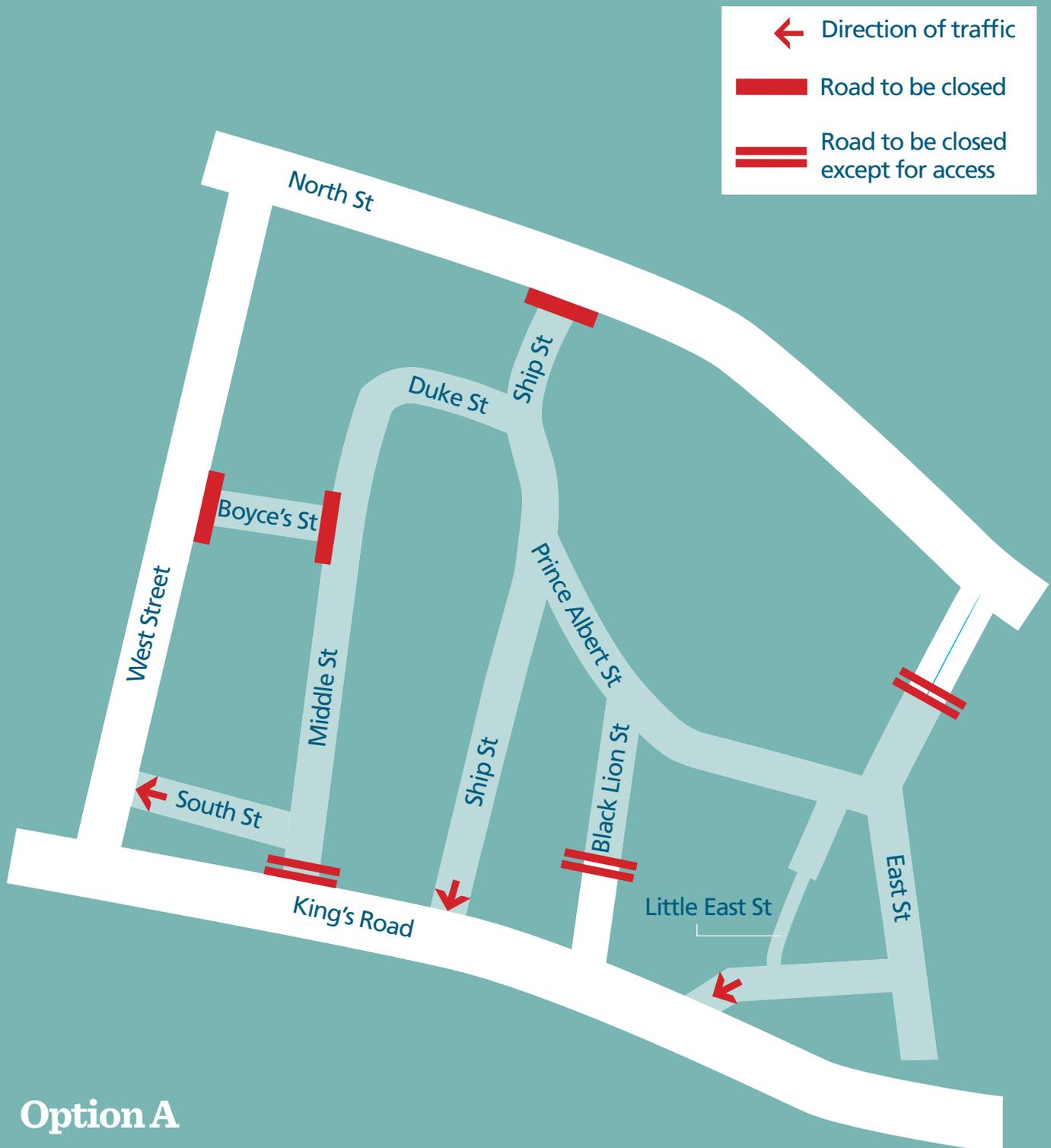
**Existing traffic layout**

# Option A

This option will restrict vehicles from accessing any of the Old Town unless they have a specific reason to be there. This will significantly reduce the amount of traffic in the area, and the effect could be increased by limiting access to certain times or days.

There are several potential methods for controlling access, including barriers, CCTV or permits.

Access to the Lanes car park via Black Lion Street will still be permitted.



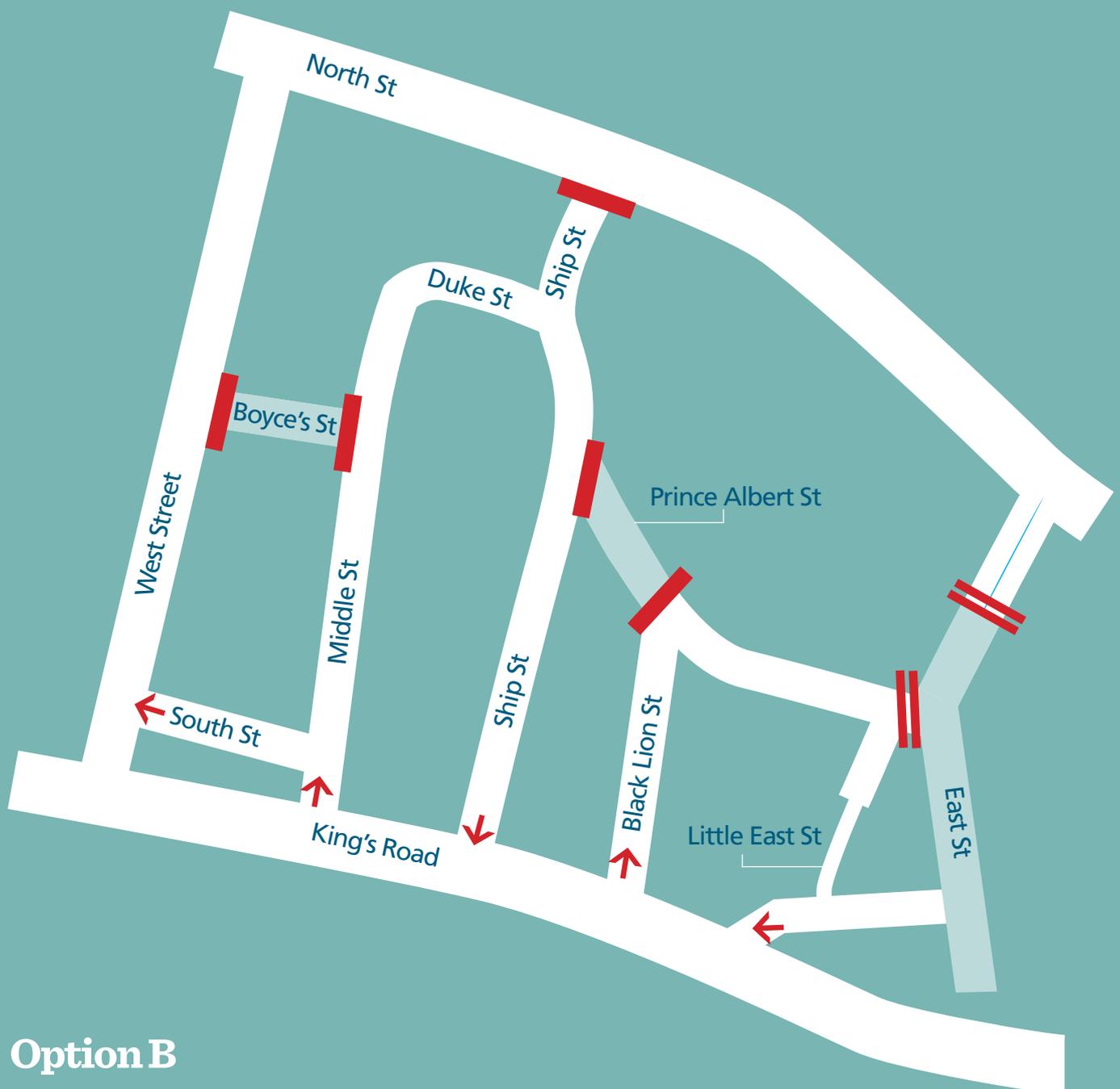
Option A

## Option B

Under Option B drivers will retain the right to access the Old Town, however overall vehicle flow will be reduced through the use of restrictions designed to deter through-traffic. In addition the section of Prince Albert Street between Black Lion Street and Ship Street will become traffic-free, and East Street will become an 'access only' area.

The 4 proposed restrictions will be:

- The Ship Street / North Street junction will be closed so there will be no access in to the Old Town from North Street.
- Prince Albert Street will be blocked between Black Lion Street and Ship Street. This will effectively create two 'loops' for vehicles- one loop will enter through Middle Street and exit through Ship Street and the other loop will enter through Black Lion Street and exit through Little East Street.
- An 'Access Only' restriction will be placed on East Street.
- Boyce's Street will be pedestrianised.



Option B

# Public Exhibition

An exhibition of the proposals will be on display between 8.45am and 4.45pm Monday to Friday in the foyer of **Bartholomew House in Bartholomew Square, Brighton** until 29 June 2012.

In addition staff from the city council's Transport Planning Team will be available to discuss any issues at the following times:

**Friend's Meeting House, Ship Street**  
Thursday 14 June, Midday – 8pm  
Saturday 16 June, 9am – 5pm

**Bartholomew House, Bartholomew Square**  
Thursday 28 June, 8.45am – 4.45pm

## For more information

If you would like any more information on these proposals please visit the council's Old Town webpage at [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/oldtown](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/oldtown).

Alternatively you can email us at [old.town@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:old.town@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or speak to someone on 01273 290487 .

## What happens next

All comments received during the consultation will be carefully considered and the results reported to a future Transport Committee Meeting. If there is sufficient support for one of the proposals then it will proceed to the next stage of development with a view to implementation commencing in January 2013.

**Translation? Tick this box and take to any council office.**

ترجمة؟ ضع علامة في المربع وخذها إلى مكتب البلدية. Arabic

অনুবাদ? বক্সে টিক চিহ্ন দিয়ে কাউন্সিল অফিসে নিয়ে যান। Bengali

需要翻譯? 請在這方格內加剔, 並送回任何市議會的辦事處。Cantonese

ترجمه؟ لطفاً این مربع را علامتگذاری نموده و آن را به هر یک از دفاتر شهرداری ارائه نمایید. Farsi

Traduction? Veuillez cocher la case et apporter au council. French

需要翻译? 请在这方格内划勾, 并送回任何市议会的办事处。Mandarin

Tłumaczenie? Zaznacz to okienko i zwróć do któregoś z biura samorządu lokalnego (council office). Polish

Tradução? Coloque um visto na quadrícula e leve a uma qualquer repartição de poder local (council office). Portuguese

Tercümesi için kareyi işaretleyiniz ve bir semt belediye burosuna veriniz Turkish

other (please state)

**This can also be made available in large print, Braille, or on CD or audio tape**

# Old Town Traffic Improvement Proposals

## We want your views

Please use this questionnaire to tell us what you think about the proposed changes to the Old Town. To make sure your views are considered please return the questionnaire by **9 July 2012** using the FREEPOST envelope enclosed. No stamp is required. Or you can complete this online at [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/OldTown](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/OldTown)

### Q1 Are you:

- a) A resident of the Old Town
- b) A resident of Brighton & Hove who does not live in the Old Town
- c) Owner or manager of a business in the Old Town
- d) Other, please state

### Q2 Of the two traffic proposals, which is your preferred option?

- a) Option A
- b) Option B
- c) Leave as is

### Q3 If access to the Old Town was restricted, would you prefer:

- a) Vehicles requiring access are permitted in the Old Town at all times
- b) Vehicles requiring access are only permitted in the Old Town at certain times of the day, or days of the week. (please specify which times or days)

- c) Other (please specify)

*(please note that vehicles requiring access to private car parks within the Old Town will not be covered by these restrictions)*

**Q4** Would you support the pedestrianisation of Boyce's Street?

Yes

No

**Q5** Do you have any other comments about why you need access to the Old Town, or how you would like traffic to be managed in the Old Town in the future?

We want to make sure that our services are available to everyone in the community and that everyone is treated fairly when they use our services. We will only use this information to help us improve services and to identify gaps or barriers. Please fill in as much of the information as you feel comfortable with. It is anonymous and confidential.

## About You

What age are you?   I do not wish to disclose this

### Gender

Male  Female  I do not wish to disclose this information

**Are your day to day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months?**

Yes  No  I do not wish to disclose this

Please state the type of impairment which applies to you. People may have more than one type of impairment, in which case you may indicate more than one. If none of the categories apply, please mark 'other'.

Physical Impairment  Sensory Impairment  Mental Health Condition  
 Learning Disability/Difficulty  Long-standing illness  Other (please state)