

Question to be raised by Mark Record at the Chichester City Council Meeting in North Street 5th December 2018

Two of Chichester's great attractions include:

- A well established and extensive pedestrian precinct.
- Excellent cycle ways leading people towards our city. Salterns Way, Centurion Way, Bognor Regis Cycle route and the National Cycle Network South Coast route.

Although cycling in the city can be a mixed experience, by comparison to many other towns and cities in Southern England, Chichester provides a veritable paradise for sustainable transport users. Also, we are blessed with living in a relatively flat region that naturally encourages cycling. We should exploit Chichester's benefits for cyclists and pedestrians to promote our city.

Would it be possible to organise, one Sunday a month when motor vehicle use is minimised/restricted within the city walls? Perhaps between the hours of 6AM and 6PM. Essentially a traffic free day within the walls of the city. This could deliver the following advantages:

- Local individuals and families will be persuaded to travel to town without using cars and realise it is a relaxing fun way to spend the day without risk of collision or having to breath toxic exhaust fumes.
- Tourists may see car free days as a specific reason to visit and explore our city, bringing trade to local shops pubs and restaurants. We might become a Sussex Mecca for many Lycra wearing pilgrims.
- Publicity highlighting Chichester as a Environmental Green City will boost our cities image.
- It will help establish a culture of people visiting our city centre without relying on a car. People who enjoy car free days are likely to adopt the habit of using alternative forms of transport throughout the year relieving congestion in our city.

Notes.

Promotion idea:

- Enjoy a care free family day on Chichester cities car free day!

Examples of car-free days in other cities.

[Paris](#) is leading the way in promoting itself by declaring the first Sunday of each month a car free day! Many other European cities have annual car free days.

For example, [Brussels](#), [Leuven](#), [Hasselt](#), [Istanbul](#), [Antwerp](#), [Ghent](#), [Bruges](#), [Turnhout](#), [Kortrijk \(practically every city in Flanders\)](#), [Bordeaux](#) and [Cardiff](#).

We have a long way to catch up with the [Netherlands](#) cycle provision.

[Bristol](#) city has experimented with monthly car free Sundays since latter half of 2013.

[Oslo](#), [Madrid](#) & [Copenhagen](#) are planing to become permanently car free cities.

Exemptions! Most cities staging car-free days allow certain motor vehicles users an exemption. This might be considered for:

- Emergency vehicles, fire brigade, ambulance service, police.
- Disabled people and nurses and carers assisting them.
- Elderly people attending religious services.

Traffic free day (within the walls of the city) could provide a wonderfully opportunity to get families and groups exploring these alternative transport routes into our city.

Getting between the city centre and the surrounding area on a bike is a mixed experience (details):

- Several sections of cycle way in the city are first class. Eg Station to Chichester College Path and Centurion Way.
- Some cycle provision is imperfect but highly useable. Eg the North st.- Midhurst roundabout, West street traffic calming with gaps for cycles. All Twenty is Plenty areas feel much safer for cyclists than other streets.
- Cycle provision is absent in parts of the city. Eg the Hornet and Eastern side of the City.