

Castletown Town Commissioners



Report

The Response to the Public Consultation

The Castletown Town Commissioners report regarding the proposals for the future use of the Castletown Market Square, Barracks Square and the pedestrianised shopping streets of Malew Street and Arbory Street.

This document is issued by the Castletown Town Commissioners in response to the Public Consultation relating to the Consultation Document issued by the Commissioners on the 15th July 2025 and sets out the basis of comments received from the public, along with the Commissioners responses.

The Report includes the Board of Commissioners final proposals for the future use of The Market Square, Barracks Square and the pedestrianised streets of Malew Street and Arbory Street for consideration and approval by the Board of Commissioners at their Public Session meeting to be held on 1st December 2025.

**Castletown Town Commissioners
The Town Hall
Castletown.**

Issue Date: 27th November 2025.

Introduction.

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The Castletown Town Commissioners published a Public Consultation Document on the 15th July 2025 which ran for 6 weeks ending at 5.00pm on the 26th August 2025.

The Consultation Document was issued on the Castletown Town Commissioners website, and many copies were collected from the Town Hall by the public. The Town Hall received 35 written comment submissions which were wide ranging with differing views, all of which were carefully considered by the Board of Commissioners.

The members of the Commissioners also received numerous verbal comments from members of the public, which were also taken into account when considering the responses.

The Commissioners are conscious that there are strong and varying views from the public regarding the future use of the Market Square.

The Board of Commissioners would wish to place on record their thanks to everyone who made comment on the proposals, which they found most helpful, some of which influenced the outcome, as proposed by the Board and set out in this report.

The following pages outline the basis of comments received, the Commissioners original proposals, and the Commissioners final proposals.

This Report should be read in conjunction with the Public Consultation Document issued by the Commissioners on 15th July 2025.

It is the intention of the Commissioners to have the changes set out in this report implemented during the first quarter of 2026, in time for all the changes to come into effect from Easter 2026.

The Commissioners will work with the Department of Infrastructure (Highways) to implement the proposals, including any adjustments necessary, as set out within this document..

The following pages set out the relevant information and the proposals of the Commissioners in response to the Public Consultation issued on 15th July 2025 for consideration, and approval of the proposal set out below, by the Board of Commissioners at their Public Session meeting to be held on the 1st December 2025.

It is proposed that:

The Castletown Town Commissioners note the Report dated 27th November 2025 and approve the Commissioners proposals as set out in column 4 within the Report titled, 'The 'Response to the Public Consultation'.

If the proposals are finally approved by the Board of Commissioners, it is intended to progress their proposals as set out by applying to the Department of Infrastructure for the relevant Highway and Parking Orders to be made that are necessary to implement the proposals.

1 – Highway/Info.	2 - Comment	3 - Proposal	4 - Proposed
<p>Malew Street Pedestrianised paved area.</p>	<p>The pedestrianised area of Malew Street is already a pedestrianised area for the period of 24/7 x every day of the year.</p>	<p>It was proposed to retain the present pedestrianised area restrictions in Malew Street.</p>	<p>It is proposed to retain the present vehicular restrictions applied to Malew Street and to erect effective entrance control facilities. Access for daily vehicle deliveries will be available via Barracks Square, or by short-term unloading at the perimeter of the pedestrianised street, as permitted under highway regulations.</p>
<p>Arbory Street Pedestrianised paved area.</p>	<p>The pedestrianised area of Arbory Street is already a pedestrianised area for the period of 24/7 x every day of the year.</p>	<p>It was proposed to retain this present pedestrianised area restrictions in Arbory Street.</p>	<p>It is proposed to retain the present vehicular restrictions applied to Arbory Street and to erect effective entrance control facilities. Access for daily vehicle deliveries will be available via Barracks Square, or by short-term unloading at the perimeter of the pedestrianised street, as permitted under highway regulations.</p>
<p>Arbory Street</p>	<p>The issue of traffic entering from Arbory Road and then turning adjacent to the start of the pedestrianised area was raised by residents. There is concern that the present highway sign located at the end of Arbory Road/The Croft junction is not prominent enough to advise drivers of 'no through road' and is often obstructed by bushes.</p>	<p>The present sign only advises of a 'dead end', it is considered it would be helpful to drivers if such a sign was more prominent and advises of a 'no through road – pedestrianised area ahead and no turning area available'.</p>	<p>It is proposed that the Commissioners request Highways to provide a sign that advises that 'there is no through road, a pedestrianised area ahead and no turning area available', and that such signage to be more prominent with a request that a new sign be erected at an early date, and that the sign be erected be clearly visible without obstruction.</p>
<p>Arbory Street</p>	<p>The Castletown Methodist Church sought an assurance that they would remain to have access through the pedestrianised street areas as presently provided for special occasions when vehicles are required to travel through the areas.</p>		<p>It is proposed that the present arrangement with the Methodist Church will not be changed and will remain in force.</p>
<p>Pedestrianised Streets - Vehicle Access Permits</p>	<p>Presently Access Permits are required by drivers for vehicles to access Malew Street and Arbory Street.</p>	<p>Access Permits are issued by the Town Hall for vehicles requiring special access to the pedestrianised streets. Unfortunately, this has not been effectively managed.</p>	<p>It is proposed that the Access Permit system continues and that steps are taken to ensure it is effectively managed by the Town Hall.</p>

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<p>The Market Square</p>	<p>The future use of The Market Square is an important aspect of the proposals. The Commissioners gave careful consideration on the views received and have agreed that the Market Square should be used to benefit the Town to its best ability. The Commissioners believe that the use of The Market Square during Easter, the Visitor and Winter periods is significant to the Town, its community and to the Town centre businesses.</p>	<p>It was proposed by the Commissioners that The Market Square should be closed off to vehicles for the periods set out in the Consultation Document, which are defined as:</p> <p>Easter period: From 5.00pm on the Thursday before Good Friday until 9.00am on Tuesday after Easter Monday.</p> <p>Visitor period: From 1st May each year to the first Monday in September</p> <p>Winter period: From the First Monday in September each year through to the Easter period and then until the 1st Saturday in May each year. Views were submitted that the period was deemed too short and that the closure should apply until the end of October annually.</p>	<p>It is proposed that The Market Square should be utilised annually as follows:</p> <p>Easter period: Closed from 5.00pm on the Thursday before Good Friday through to 8.00am on the Tuesday after Easter Monday.</p> <p>Visitor period: Closed from 8.00am on the 1st May each year (if the 1st falls on a Sunday, then from 2nd May) to 8.00am on the 1st October (if the 1st October falls on a Sunday, then to the 2nd October).</p> <p>Winter Period: Open for vehicles from 8.00am on the 1st October (if the 1st October falls on a Sunday, then from 2nd October) annually, through to the Easter period and then, after the Easter period, open until 8.00am on the 1st May (if the 1st May falls on a Sunday, then from 2nd May) and then closed until 8.00am on the 1st October then open for vehicles from, the 1st October (if the 1st October falls on a Sunday, then from 2nd October) annually.</p>
<p>Parking within The Market Square</p>	<p>Presently the Disc parking within The Market Square is limited to 30 minutes with no return within 2 hours from 8.00am to 6.00pm, 7 days a week. The two spaces designated for parking within The Market Square for disabled provides for 2 hours parking 8.00am to 6.00pm, 7 days a week.</p>	<p>The Commissioners have reviewed the times and have concluded that 30 minutes is not a reasonable period, the Commissioners have also reviewed the parking for disabled persons and have agreed to change the time period of the Disc parking within the Market Square for both categories of parking to provide, what they believe is more beneficial parking times within the Market Square during the periods the area is open to vehicles.</p>	<p>It is proposed that the Disc parking within The Market Square when in effect be changed as follows:</p> <p>General Parking: to be limited to 1 hour with no return within 2 hours from 8.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Saturday inclusive. Reverse only parking to be included in the Regulation.</p> <p>Parking for Disabled: that the Disc parking for the two parking spaces for disabled drivers remain at 2 hours with no return within 2 hours, and that these spaces for the disabled parking be changed to be available for Disc parking for the disabled for 7 days a week x 24 hours a day, during the periods that the Market Square is to be open to vehicles, as set out in the Order.</p>

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Barracks Square	Presently Barracks Square – the parking area behind the Civic Hall – is not controlled by regulations and therefore is not managed to provide regulated car parking.	The Commissioners have considered how to maximise the use of this small car park area, to provide short-term parking and parking for disabled drivers.	It is proposed that the area be made a Disc parking area with 3 (three) spaces to be designated for the parking of vehicles for the disabled. This would be available as follows: a maximum of 2 hours parking with no return within 2 hours. That the parking spaces for the disabled to be available 24/7 every day. That the remaining area of the car park (subject to the delivery area as set out below) be available for general parking with Disc parking for a maximum period of 1 hour with no return within 2 hours, from 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Saturday inclusive.
Barracks Square Commercial parking	Access for vehicles making deliveries to some businesses is provided through Barracks Square although there is no dedicated parking bay or parking time restriction for such vehicles.	It was proposed by the Commissioners that a short-term commercial delivery bay be provided at the gable end of the Union Hotel. The parking bay to be a Disc space available for a maximum of 1 hour with no return with 2 hours from 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Saturday inclusive.	It is proposed that a short-term commercial bay for commercial delivery vehicles only, be provided at the gable end of the Union Hotel. The parking bay to be a Disc parking space available for a maximum of 1 hour with no return with 2 hours from 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Saturday inclusive.
Barracks Square – Union Lane	Presently for some larger delivery vehicles drivers park within the Union Lane, which they access through the pedestrianised streets often without a permit.	The Commissioners proposed that larger delivery vehicles should, when necessary, access the Union Lane to make deliveries, with access being through Barracks Square from Farrants Way.	It is proposed that access for regular large vehicle deliveries to businesses and residencies within the Pedestrianised area, should be provided utilising the Union Lane. It will be necessary for delivery vehicles to implement appropriate safeguards to advise and ensure pedestrian safety along this Lane when such vehicles are unloading.

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Bank Street	The provision of a parking space at the top of Bank Street was raised with the Commissioners. There had previously been a proposal to create a parking space at the top of Bank Street abutting the Castle Pharmacy building, which had not been pursued to conclusion.	The Commissioners have considered this proposal and have agreed that a Disc parking space should be provided for at the top of Bank Street to help ease the present parking situation at the top of Bank Street, and that the space be designated with a maximum 30-minute waiting period, with no return within 1 hour.	It is proposed that a defined parking space be provided at the top of Bank Street abutting the Castle Pharmacy as originally proposed. That the space be designated a Disc parking space with a maximum 30-minute waiting period, with no return within 1 hour from 8.00am to 6.00pm daily.
Emergency Services Access	The issue of access into the pedestrianised street areas and into The Market Square for the Emergency Services was raised.	The Commissioners considered this issue and are satisfied that the present arrangements continue to be valid, in that the Emergency Services will continue to have 24/7 access into the pedestrianised areas of the Town centre.	It is proposed that no changes to the present arrangement be made to provide 24/7 access for Emergency Service vehicles. That arrangements will be confirmed relating to accessing into the streets at the point where barriers are located.
Short term closures of The Market Square for special events	The short-term restriction of access to vehicles into The Market Square during what is defined as the Winter Period for special events was recognised by the Commissioners. For example, (i) Remembrance Sunday. (ii) Christmas Lights 'Switch-On' Community event.	The Commissioners proposed that whilst The Market Square is a public highway, it no longer provide a through highway into Arbory Street and Malew Street as they are pedestrianised 24/7 throughout the year, that the Minister of the Department of Infrastructure be requested to make a formal Delegation, under the Ministers powers, to delegate the control of the area of The Market Square that is defined by car parking spaces to the Board of the Castletown Town Commissioners. It was proposed by the Commissioners that procedures be implemented within the delegation to ensure that the Commissioners cannot close of The Market Square to traffic for extended periods. The Commissioners propose that such a Road Closure shall only be applicable for a maximum period of 48 hours. That the Commissioners cannot implement another Road Closure within 48 hours of the opening of a previous Road Closure. That the Commissioners must give public notice of	It is proposed that the Minister for the Department of Infrastructure be requested to make a formal delegation to enable the Castletown Town Commissioners to manage such a Road Closure provision, to enable The Market Square to be closed off to traffic for special events held within The Market Square for the reasons set out and on the basis indicated and using the procedure set out in column 3.

		<p>their intention to close off The Market Square to vehicles by way of displaying a eligible Notice along with a proposed Order on a Board adjacent to the vehicle entrance/exit into the parking area within The Market Square for a period of at least 24 hours prior to such a closure taking affect.</p> <p>The Commissioners shall provide a copy of such an Order to the Department (Highways) and to the Police immediately after the Order is made.</p> <p>Such an Order shall be signed by the Town Clerk or a Clerk of the Authority authorised by the Commissioners.</p> <p>A copy of the Order shall forthwith after being made, be prominently displayed within the Town Hall foyer, and displayed through any electronic means, as determined by The Commissioners.</p>	
Barriers and their Location	<p>The Commissioners believe it is important that the pedestrianised areas need to be effectively closed off to vehicles by the inclusion of an appropriate form of barriers.</p>	<p>The Commissioners have indicated the location of barriers to control vehicular access into the pedestrianised areas.</p> <p>The Commissioners proposed that some form of barrier which would permit pedestrian access and restrict vehicular access is important and necessary to safeguard pedestrians.</p>	<p>The Commissioners propose to liaise with the Department of Infrastructure - highways - to identify and implement an appropriate type of barrier to secure the pedestrianised highway areas.</p> <p>The Commissioners propose that suitable barriers are located at the following points: Entrance to The Market Square adjacent to The Smelt. Union Lane bounding Arbory Street. Arbory Street near No25 and, Malew Street near No14.</p>
Entrance Barriers	<p>The entrances/exits into the pedestrianised highway areas require appropriate and an effective form of barriers to stop unauthorised vehicles from driving into the pedestrianised areas, as for several years. inadequate barriers have been in place or no barriers have</p>	<p>The Commissioners consider that the need for an effective form of barriers is important to ensure pedestrian safety within the pedestrianised areas and to maximise the pedestrianised areas for the benefit of the pedestrians and people enjoying the areas.</p>	<p>The Commissioners propose that appropriate movable barriers be located at the points indicated within this report.</p> <p>The Commissioners are to liaise with the Department of Infrastructure - highways - to identify an appropriate form of barrier.</p> <p>The barriers to be in a form to permit authorised vehicles to access the area for residential access to their properties when necessary, and</p>

	<p>been in place, which has resulted in numerous and unnecessary vehicles driving illegally within the areas, which are shown on the map in the Appendix of the report, creating a danger to pedestrians.</p>		<p>for the delivery of large items to premises located within the pedestrianised areas. The Commissioners will continue to issue from the Town Hall, access Permits on request. Permits <u>shall</u> only be issued if there is a proven need for vehicular access to be granted into the pedestrianised areas.</p>
<p>Temporary Advance Notice Signage</p>			<p>It is proposed that appropriate temporary advance signage be put in place at the entrances to the pedestrianised areas, to advise motorists of the change of highway management within the pedestrianised streets and The Market Square. The Commissioners will liaise with the Department of Infrastructure - highways - to arrange and implement such temporary advance notice signage.</p>