



Northumberland
County Council

Narrowgate Pedestrianisation Trial

Interim Survey (carried out in October 2019):

Summary of Residents' and Business'
Responses

Published: March 2020

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1. Summary

This report outlines the results of a survey carried out in October to capture interim feedback of the pedestrianisation of Narrowgate and to see whether there has been any impact on businesses in Alnwick. The report is to provide useful information at this point in the trial to highlight any concerns, as well as providing a benchmark for further studies.

Background

A section of Narrowgate was closed to traffic on 29th July to trial a pedestrianised layout following safety concerns and to create a more pedestrian-friendly space. The trial allows the opportunity to test how a new layout would work; to monitor adjoining streets to see how they cope with any change in traffic; and to highlight any other issues and benefits that may occur.

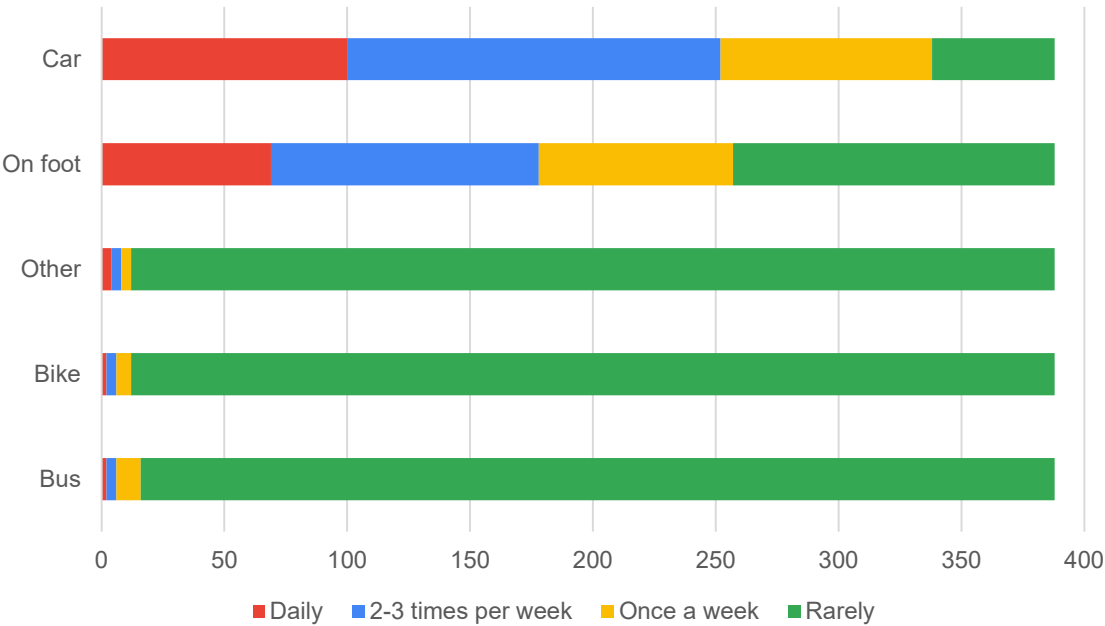
Key milestones in the trial have included:

<u>17th November 2018</u>	Alnwick Forum public event: four design options for the street were displayed with 67% of respondents in favour of a pedestrianised layout.
<u>23rd January 2019</u>	Second Alnwick forum public event: summary of results from previous event.
<u>12th March</u>	Business Survey: shop and business owners on Narrowgate and Bondgate Within were visited and invited to complete a formative survey to consult about a possible trial. 66% of respondents were in favour of some changes to the street layout, with 48% preferring pedestrianisation which was the most favoured measure.
<u>19th July</u>	Traffic counters installed prior to trial.
<u>29th July</u>	Start of trial and road closed to vehicle traffic.
<u>9th September</u>	Tour of Britain passes through Alnwick via Narrowgate. Temporary 'street-kit' is replaced with planters and seating.
<u>25th- 28th September</u>	Camera study completed to monitor traffic movements on Market St/ Fenkle St junctions and Bondgate Within turning area.
<u>3rd- 27th October</u>	Business and residents interim survey carried out.

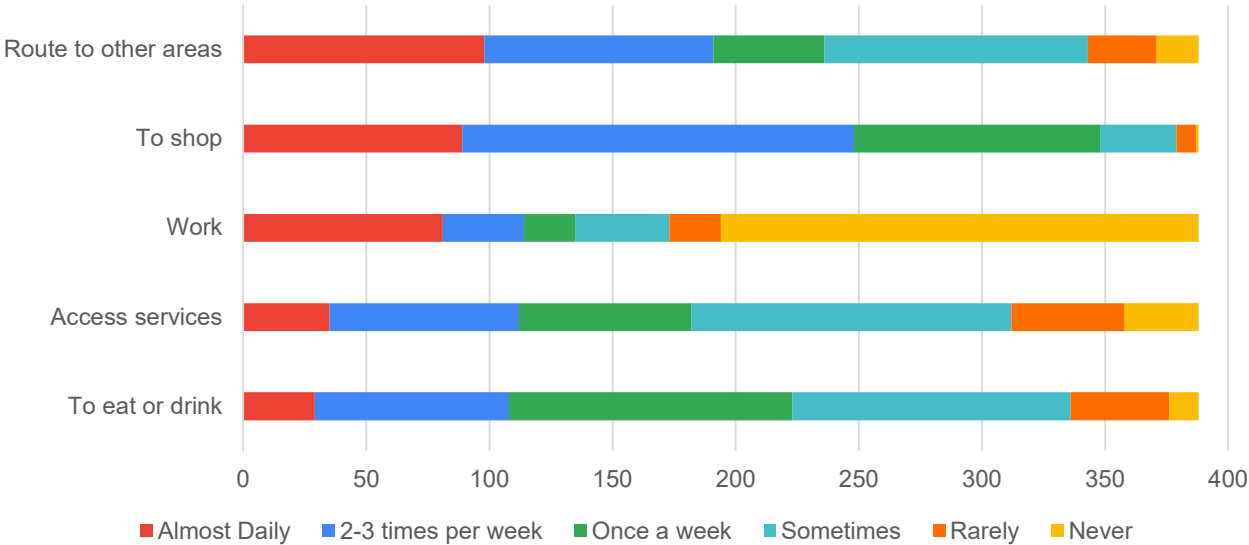
2. Residents' Survey

Town Centre Access

How do you normally travel into the town centre?

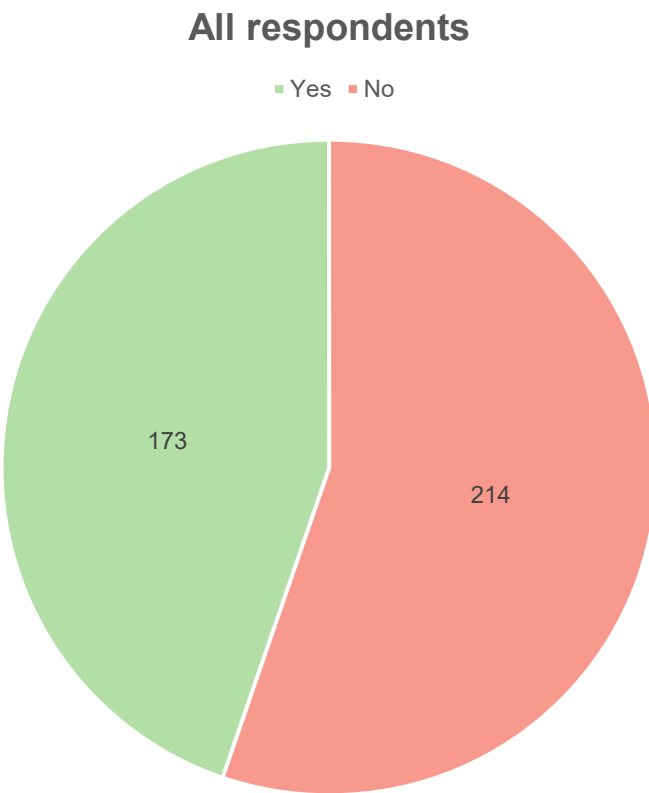


Why do you visit the town centre?

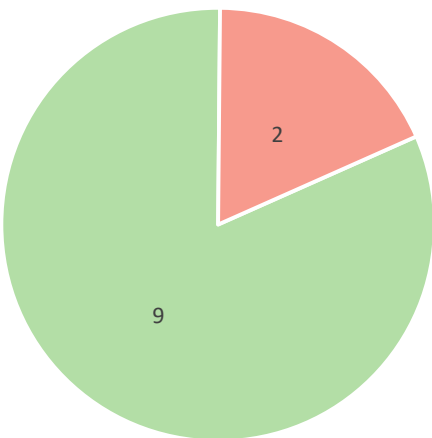


Narrowgate Trial

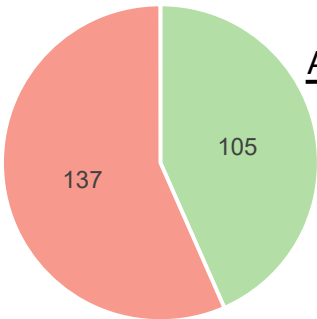
Do you prefer Narrowgate's current layout compared to how it was prior to pedestrianisation?



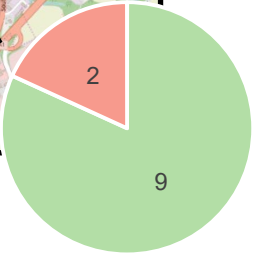
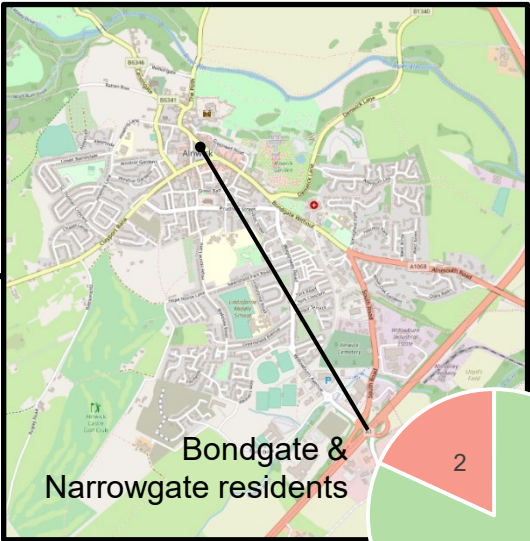
Bondgate and Narrowgate residents



Do you prefer Narrowgate's current layout compared to how it was prior to pedestrianisation?
Responses by location.



Alnwick residents



Christon Bank



Longhoughton



Powburn



Lesbury



Alnmouth



Shilbottle



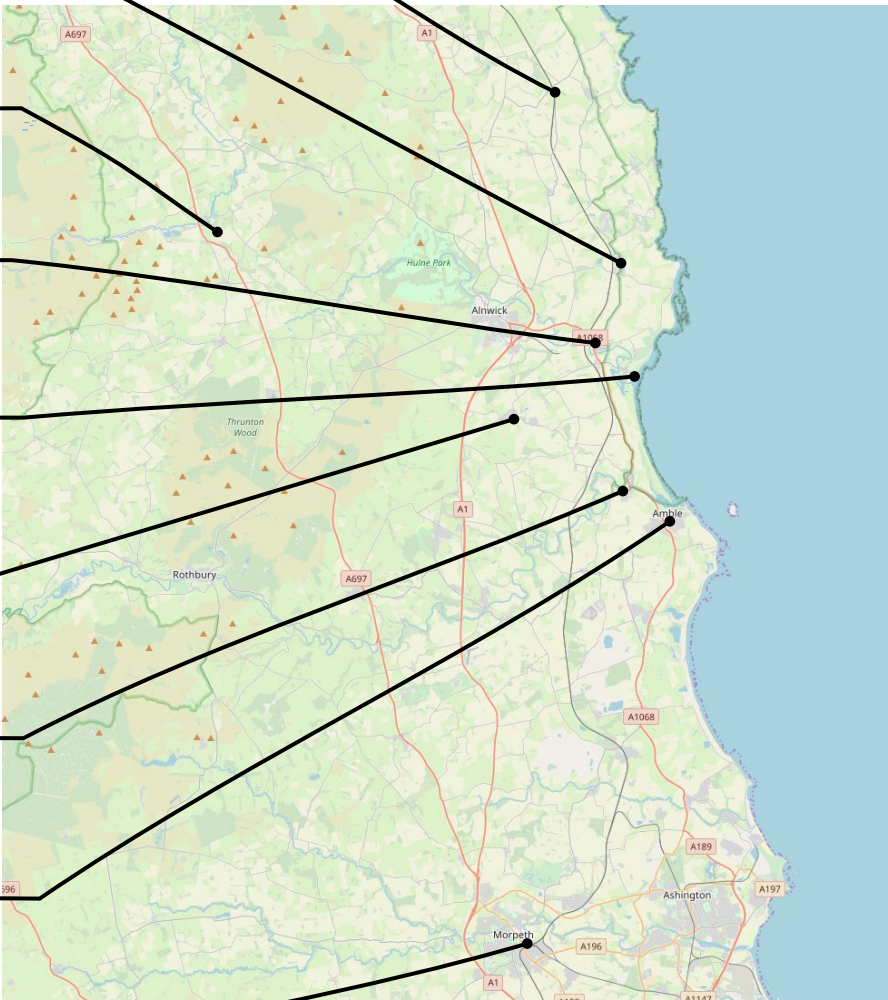
Warkworth



Amble



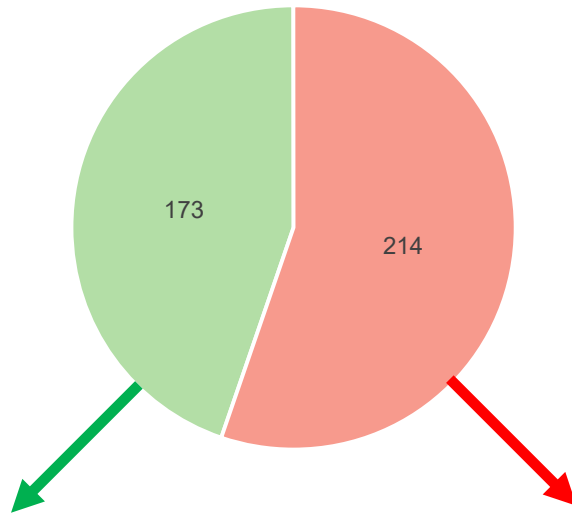
Morpeth



Narrowgate Trial

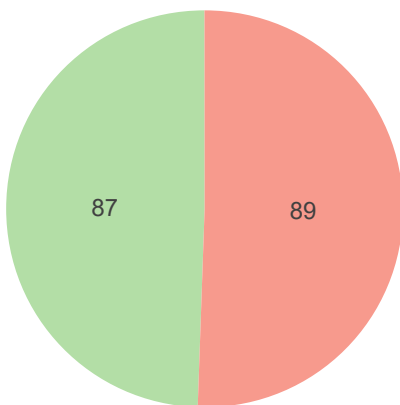
Do you prefer Narrowgate's current layout compared to how it was prior to pedestrianisation?

■ Yes ■ No



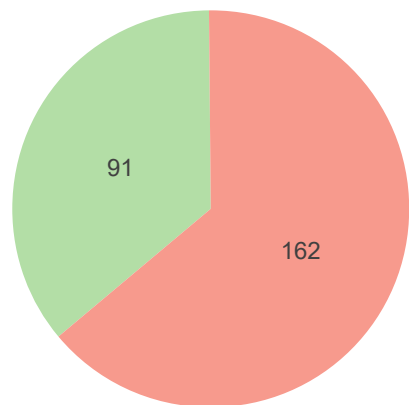
Of those that prefer the new layout:

■ Walk ■ Drive



Of those that DON'T prefer the new layout*:

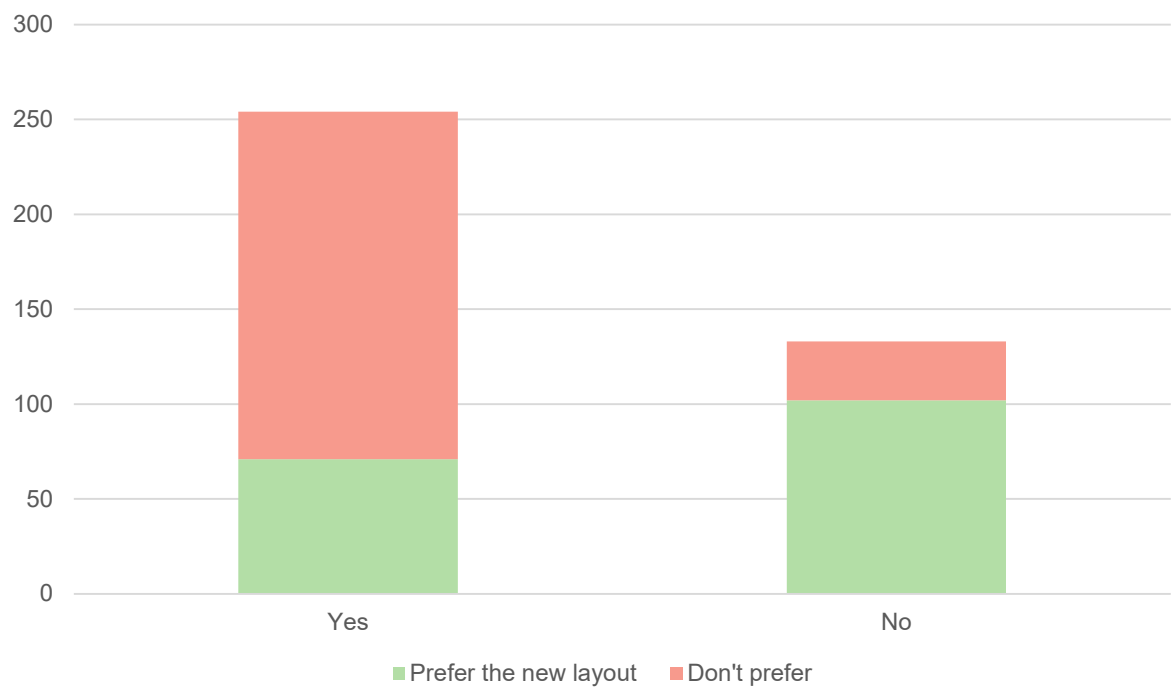
■ Walk ■ Drive



*Based on respondents that walk or drive either daily or 2-3 times per week

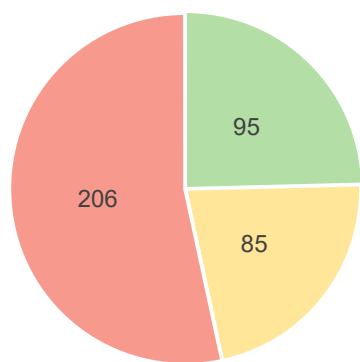
Narrowgate Trial

Has the trial affected how you use the town centre?



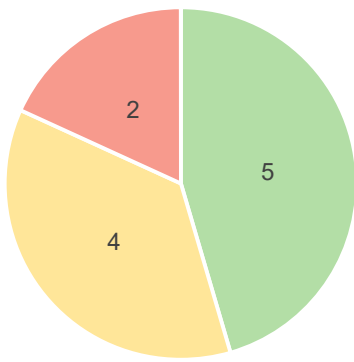
At this stage in the trial, would you like to see Narrowgate made permanently closed to traffic?

All residents



- Yes
- Yes, but with a few other improvements
- No

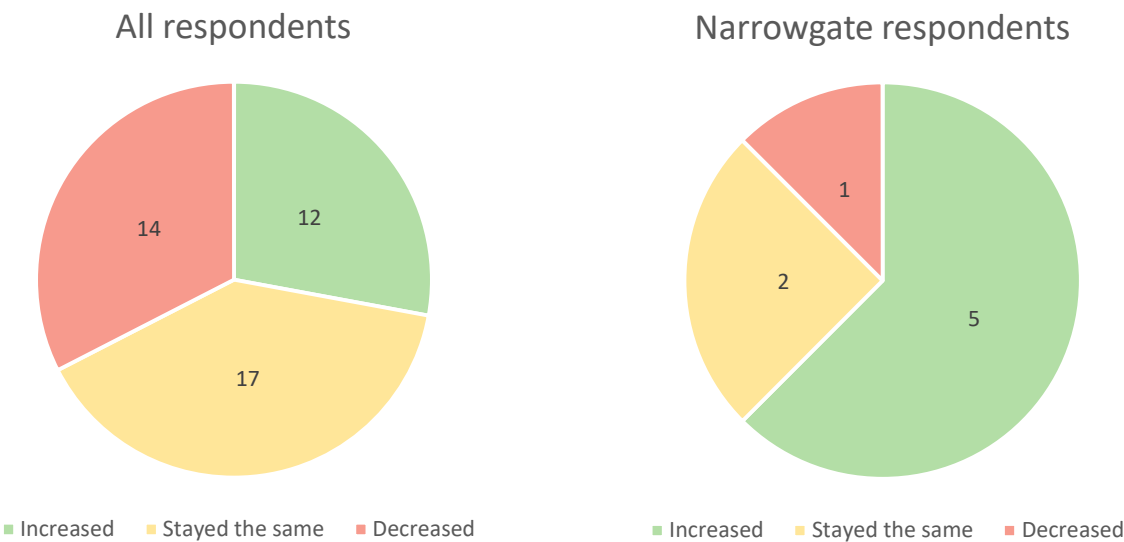
Bondgate and Narrowgate residents



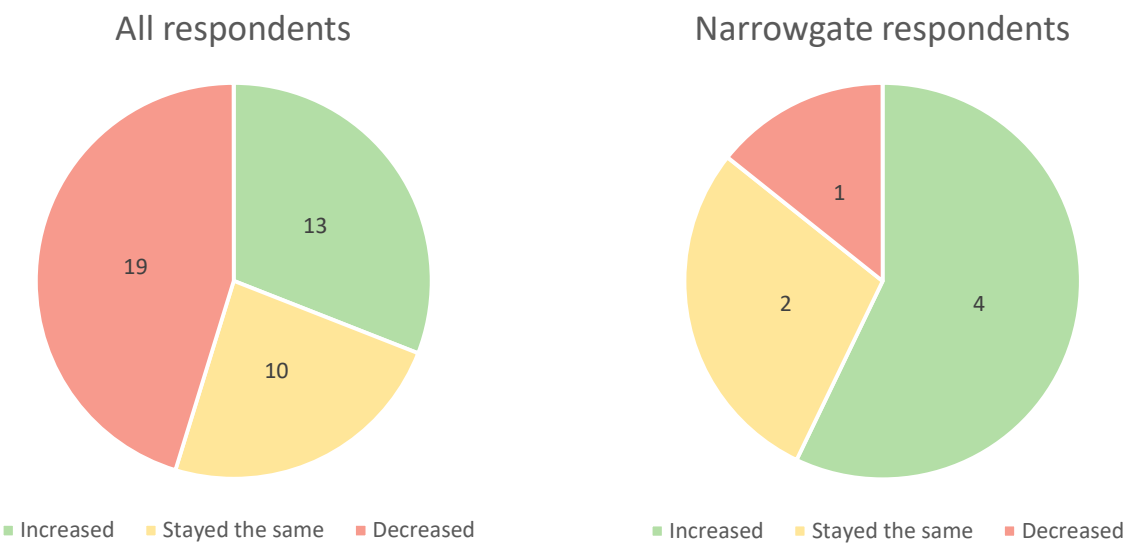
- Yes
- Yes, but with a few other improvements#
- No

3. Business' Survey

Since the trial began on 28th July, have you noticed any change to your businesses trading activity? (ALL respondents)



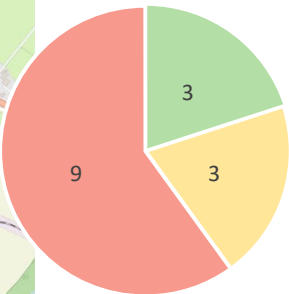
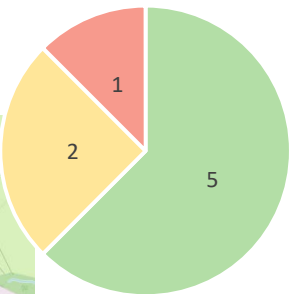
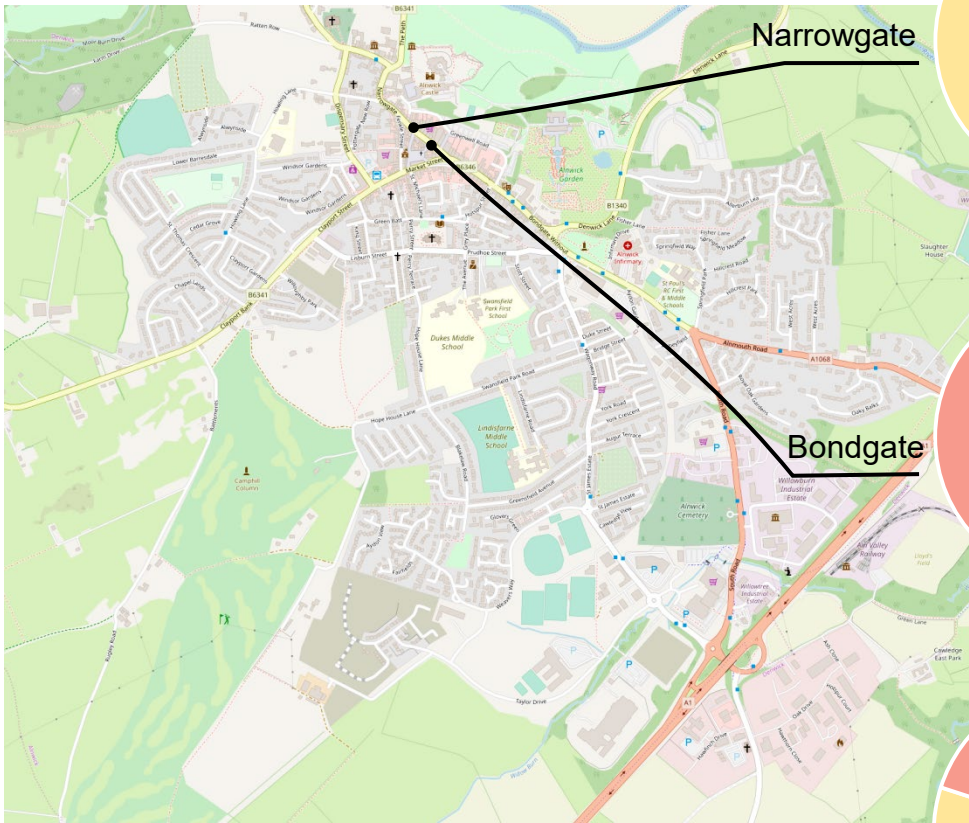
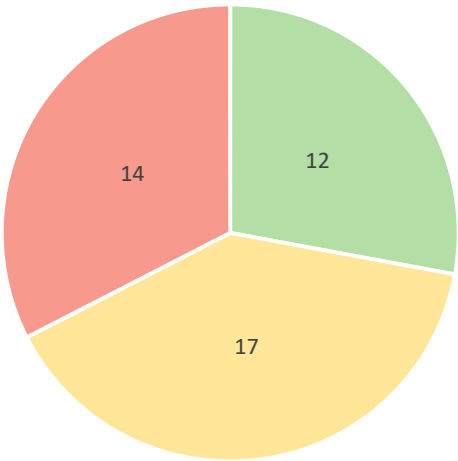
How was trading activity in August and September compared to last year? (ALL respondents)



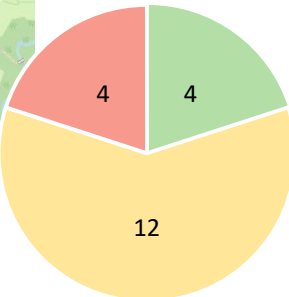
Since the trial began on 28th July, have you noticed any change to your businesses trading activity?

All respondents

- Increased
- Stayed the same
- Decreased



Rest of town



4. Survey Outcomes

Business Survey

The survey was distributed to all businesses in Narrowgate, Bondgate Within, Market Place, Paikes Street, Market Street and Fenkle Street. 43 responses were received.

The majority (67%) of those who responded stated that trading had either increased or stayed the same since the trial closure was implemented. However, the majority (63%) of businesses in Narrowgate stated that trading had increased, whilst the majority (60%) of those in Bondgate Within stated that trading had decreased.

Residents Survey

387 responses were received from residents. Overall, the majority who responded stated that they preferred the original layout in Narrowgate (55%). The majority of those who live within Narrowgate and Bondgate Within preferred the new layout (82% in favour), whilst those who live further away from the town centre tended to prefer the original layout (57%). Of those residents who stated that they do not like the closure, the majority (58%) only use Narrowgate as a route to other parts of the town.

Both businesses and residents submitted similar comments on the trial so far. Comments in favour referred to the improved environment for shopping and browsing. Comments against referred to the negative effect on trade, safety concerns associated with vehicles turning at the end of Bondgate Within and the safety of the Fenkle Street/Market Street junction.

Next Steps

In response the Council is considering ways to improve the turning area in Bondgate Within and a camera survey has been undertaken to gather information on how it is operating currently. We have also extended the double yellow lines at the south end of Fenkle Street to keep the junction clear of parked cars.

A further survey for both residents and businesses will be undertaken in the summer of 2020 and the results considered as part of the decision making process over the outcome of the trial pedestrianisation scheme and the proposed future arrangements for Narrowgate.

The full results of this interim survey are set out in the remainder of this report. Please note that all personal information has been removed in accordance with GDPR rules.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Business Survey Comments

Q1: Since the trial began on 28th July, have you noticed any change to your businesses trading activity (If possible, please provide evidence or information about how you reached this conclusion)? Q2: How was trading activity in August and September compared to last year (If possible, please provide evidence or information about how you reached this conclusion)?

I have a good footfall of visitors/local into my shop and Narrowgate has had no impact on my business
People, particularly drivers, are seeing the signage and barriers as a blockage and are not coming through, therefore not seeing window displays. Also, large vehicles, delivery trucks, refuse lorries etc. make access difficult for all road users as they have to try to navigate turning in Bondgate Within. There have been a number of occasions where we have seen traffic disruption and blocks caused as these vehicles are forced to reverse or make multiple point turns. The drivers themselves have told me that they find it 'a pain'.
I feel that with the negative effect in Narrowgate people are not staying in the town. Traffic an absolute nightmare now compared with when it was before. Someone will get knocked over for sure, and it has just moved the problem to another part of town, as the reason for moving was safety. I have been here 33 years and the A1 passed through that street and there were never casualties then, so why now.
We don't see as much traffic passing our shop as we used to. People would pull up outside the shop to quickly buy something and we are now seeing less of this happening.
I think the Bondgate car park behind the Playhouse and the one behind Yorkshire Trading now being 3 hours has been a lot to do with the increased footfall. Also last years weather was so hot people could'nt be bothered to shop as much
It provides a barrier to people, traffic is being diverted away from the main artery of the town.
I think the high street in general is in serious trouble
The general decline in business in Alnwick has been accelerating over the last two years. The move to out of town retail developments has contributed to this and changing shopping habits.
The pedestrianisation on Narrowgate is a help to my business as increased footfall and people who did not know my shop was here now call in.
Other than than factual evidence from our books and records, customers have told us that they avoid the town centre due the that absolute chaos in traffic management. Also because of the lack of footfall (due to the people avoiding the chaos) people can't see window displays or promotions, thus decreasing takings.
Our view is anecdotal rather than statistical but we consider that the impact has been beneficial overall on visitor numbers to this part of the town
People with children have said that they thought Narrowgate used to be dangerous.
From talking to people tourists say they don't realise there is shops here. Locals find it a hassle with the parking and can't be bothered.
General decrease of footfall across high streets in general
the day the trial started the figures are down on the same weeks last year
No spaces to park

Q1 & 2 (continued)

In general it's a more pleasant shopping experience - No worry about cars whizzing past aloud music, Horns & just generally more safe for children
Clients are complaining about the roads in fenkle street being too tight at corners and traffic congestion
Fenkle Street is badly congested with cars, parking around this area is an nightmare, delivery vehicles have no option but to block the road when delivering stock, frequent problems for pedestrians trying to cross the road in and around Fenkle street and top of Market Street.
People see the 'no through road' sign and assume they can't get that way even on foot. It's also quite dangerous outside WH Smith's for pedestrians as cars who haven't realised its a dead end try desperately to turn around
I think people are avoiding coming into the town centre because of the road closer down narrow gate as you can't get turned very well, which results in less footfall in the shops.
The pace of shopping on the street has changed completely. Shoppers are not having to move aside on narrow pavements as traffic hurtles past therefore they take time to stroll around the street, look in windows, wander into the shops and also the street furniture is in constant use.
There have been no discernible changes to the turnover at all. The improvements to customer experience, ambience and safety far outweigh any issues adjusting to this new layout. It has greatly improved the street.
Increased traffic on any available route has caused increased congestion
I work mobile, so has not increased or decreased my business. Just made it abit more annoying, get about Alnwick.
We were busy and hit targets before the closure and now we are not. We are'nt getting the customers in over the door
Narrowgate has become more of a destination for pedestrians with seating, floral planters and cafés and they now linger there and socialise. Previously, the noise and speed of the traffic made it unpleasant to be walking along Narrowgate.
People feeling safer when looking at shops without cars speeding by fresher air without car and van emissions over all more relaxed atmosphere down narrowgate
I think that people only walk down Narrowgate as far as the barrier unless they are heading towards the castle. So possible passing trade not heading up Fenkle Street.
The position of the shops at the bottom of Narrowgate. The parking situation is poor
I believe more people are walking on Fenkle st. due to the pedestrianisation of Narrowgate as more people are walking to the end of the pedestrianised area where it joins Fenkle St.
There is a clear increase in footfall to the shop since the trial started. Customers have commented on how much they appreciate the fact that they feel safer, have more time to browse shop windows, have more space to relax. There is a particular improvement for customers who are disabled, have small children, dogs, elderly etc as they are not having to deal with traffic and shop advertising boards on the pavements. It is clearly a much better shopping environment for tourists and locals alike (we have canvassed comments from both).
Locals less inclined to come into town and be delayed in traffic. Unfortunately in this day and age many do not have time or inclination to wait. With more out of town options now available many will take the easy option. This is not assumption on my part as the evidence is gained by customers talking to us in store.
Pedestrianisation of Narrowgate has kept visitors away from The Market Place.

Q3: How could we improve the trial scheme?

I think Narrowgate should be one way traffic to keep the flow of traffic moving through the town, the turning outside W H Smith is dangerous and the level of traffic turning out from the Fenkle Street junction is really heavy
To be blunt - end it!
Do as the Chamber of trade recommended in the first place one way, if it needs to be altered. It makes sense to keep traffic moving easily through the town. Fenkle street not the answer for main traffic flow, buildings leaning into the street for high vehicles will always stop traffic, as they cannot get past with going across the road. I heard putting a junction on clayport street.... Another bizarre thought, pedestrian crossing 20 metres away, and then a junction. Coming up the way, imagine the scenario,unloading vans, then cars trying to go west, go past them then round Fenkle street corner. To compile that the dray wagon at the Market tavern on a wednesday for 20 minutes, how would this work, it will cause carnage with cars trying to get round and away. Just cannot see rime nor reason for shutting Narrowgate, shops are struggling down there, many closed, a turning circle thats not wide enough for big lorries, and for what, some second rate coffee tables that detract form the town image, for a few people of 3 months of the year, and in the shade.
Initially the road closure had a very temporary look to it since the bike race it has a better look . The main problem i have witnessed several times is that cars exiting the top of Fenkle Street are having difficulty turning right as the Chocolate Shop is situated a bit further out into the road so there have been some near misses and horns used due to the speed of traffic coming downhill into Alnwick , possibly make the northern approach 20 mph.
Stop it immediately
Something needs done with the traffic on the corner of Fenkle street and Market street, it is very difficult to get out of this junction at busy time. I avoid it at all costs
Better street furniture and signage should have been available from the start. The plastic seats gave a poor impression and the overly large 'Road Closed' signs gave the impression the inner part of the town centre could not be accessed. Increased traffic on Fenkle Street caused problems and there was a bottle neck for traffic trying to emerge onto Market Street due to the lack of visibility for drivers trying to make the turn. Consequently traffic got backed up on Fenkle Street and cars could not get out of parking spaces on the cobbles. Queued traffic also made it difficult for delivery lorries to access Fenkle Street for drop off and collection. The area of pedestrianisation was relatively small and did not warrant the huge impact on the rest of the town. No one really wants to sit down in Narrowgate as it is too dark and gloomy - therefore the seats were never used. People want to sit down in The Market Place which is where the pedestrianisation efforts should have been concentrated.
The signs need to be more informative and show what businesses are in Paikes Street.
SCRAP IT!
Good quality street furniture, paving and public realm - would like to see this extended to other parts of the centre with pavement widening and car free areas.
Make the turning into Fenkle safer. Make turning round in Market Street easier.
I personally don't think anything you do will improve it. My opinion is it needs ended and re opened.
Review junction into Fenkle Street or maybe 1way system down Fenkle Street around Balifgate up to Morrison's
I am particularly concerned about the Fenkle St/ Clayport St junction .
Still keep a road in with bollards which can be dropped for things such as delivery drivers or emergency services.
It was fine before. We have lost the passing trade totally, making a crucial difference to business. This is not a trial for me, it is a disaster.

Q3 (continued)

Extend pedestrianisation to junction with Market Street
Make a one way system
There is plenty space in the market place for tables and chairs...I don't see the need for it in Narrowgate
One way system
Make Narrowgate one way keep the traffic flowing to prevent current bottle neck in and around fenkle Street.
Go back to normal or make the street a one way system
Better signage
Take it away
replace planters at Fenkle St end with bollards.
If there is some money available to ensure that the pedestrianisation is made as attractive as possible during the approach to Christmas - Small Christmas Trees, lights etc that would enhance the already improved ambience.
Open road again to road traffic, market place is ideal area for cafe/eating places, not in shade in Narrowgate
Open the road. The theft on narrowgate since the closure has been rife day and night. No passing cars no threat of being caught at night. No chance of police driving past so the shoplifters are just stealing morning noon and night. I'm frightened as a shopper now I know what's going on.
Get rid of parking outside of costa and turn it to a safe place where cars can turn. Road-about.
You can't.
Changing the street to look like a pedestrian zone with no kerbs-it still looks like a street for cars.
If the shops use the out side space more and the turning bay was a lot better more activity's organised would help also
Either go back to how it was or put in a one way system . Traffic down Fenkle Street has increased but not footfall of customers. Everyone is just driving around more trying to park .
Surely it would just be a case of putting up a railing along the pathway. I personally feel that rather than closing the road down is if it was made into a oneway system going out from Bondgate into Narrowgate and increasing the pathway on the left-hand side down to the left side parking bays. This would also give access again for the ambulance that uses this road and there would be a flow of traffic, but something would need to be done with the bottom of Narrowgate.I feel that this would possible please a lot more people.
Extend it to Fenkle and Bondgate
Clearer signage around town, possibly brown signs indicating 'Castle Quarter' for independent shops and crafts.
Clearer instruction to businesses on Narrowgate, especially cafe owners, about how much street space they can use, not to block other businesses and to keep existing pavements clear (there have been issues around this already).
Turning circle marked out clearly on road in front of WH Smith for vehicles
Clearer traffic signage showing 'through routes' before vehicles enter Bondgate Within
Needs improved traffic management on Fenkle Street/Market Street/Clayport street junction. Need better layout of parking and turning on Bondgate Within (outside Costa).

Q3 (continued)

In my opinion it is not an area that the trial can be improved on. To maintain the vitality of the town centre we need to have easy flow of traffic throughout the town centre which this does not provide in fact creates the exact opposite.

Using the Fenkle Street junction as a main junction is not a good choice. We now have increased traffic being forced to use this junction including emergency services. Not acceptable in my opinion.

Fenkle Street is not suitable for the increased traffic. When delivery wagons are parked opposite the Market Tavern and cars are reversing out of parking spaces the through traffic comes to a standstill. The junction with Market Street is dangerous both for traffic and pedestrians trying to cross opposite Turnbells. When Turnbells receive a delivery the situation becomes impossible.

Q4: Any other comments?

The road on Narrowgate should be clear so that pedestrians can wander freely around.
As stated previously, the losses, which I can back up with figures, are not sustainable over an extended period. As Christmas approaches, I am unable to make calculated decisions on stock levels based on previous years due to drop in footfall. I know I am not alone in believing this closure is nothing short of a disaster.
Yes, Town Council and others County possibly lost £1.5, on Youth Hostel, The Northumberland Hall is losing £45 k per annum, the Market place is a dead duck, and then now the latest pantomime is Narrowgate... Why not sort the Market place first, enough empty shops there already, nothing to see or do, parking should be back to an hour there for people to circulate and get quick shops, but we will see the deterioration of the historic narrowgate very soon. WH Smith struggling, could shut, Costa Coffee struggling, if they go, these shops will take some replacing. People can compare Alnwick to other places that have made pedestrianization try to work, most of these towns have big multiples, Alnwick does not, and enticing people in is key, not making them queue to get through the Hotspur tower (unless you knock it down), is a very poor experience, and very little parking in town anyway. So please don't suggest taking more spaces away like on Fenkle street corner. Places were taken away on Clayport street, with now 3 car bays, when the original way had 6 spaces. Plenty to look at, and i would imagine plenty debate, its not the answer, been tried before twice i believe, and doesn't have a place in this town. Unless you have an investment in a coffee shop, many other shops will struggle financially with this, and i hope they do this survey and get listened to.
take away the lego bits , there are far too many and nobody uses them , possibly a couple of benches but not for the next few months
An ill thought out idea which is affecting traders in the town. These things have been tried in the past and are proven not to work. It needs to be scrapped otherwise there will be a glut of empty business premises.
Consultation with local businesses and people who know and understand the town should have taken place before the scheme started which would result in less disruption and less wasted money and effort.
Lighting at corner of Paikes Street and Market Square leading into Paikes Street could be better especially in darker winter months
The narrowgate area was previously unattractive to shoppers and visitors, and with restricted pavements had highway risks when busy. It inhibited pedestrian movement between the town centre and the castle which is the town's most significant visitor attraction . All of our most successful towns have safe and attractive pedestrian zones which should be expanded in Alnwick.
Pedestrianisation is so much better. Hope it becomes permanent.
The disruption caused together with the extended out of town retail availability (M and S etc) will further decimate the town centre which now has too many prime positioned shops (Yourmove, Thomas Cook ,Tui , ex Fish and chip shop and soon to be second Boots, ex bank whose vacancy and the attraction of the town is not helped by no marketing , (For Sale/ To Let board etc)being empty. What is to attract people/shoppers to the town center ? There is currently nothing other than normal day to day retailers.
It does need nicer street furniture. It increases opportunity for street events. Improve the junctions close to Narrowgate as part of the project.
I was told at the forum that if businesses suffered financially the road could be opened 'overnight'. I and most of the other businesses in Bondgate Within have told you frequently that we are suffering badly now, but still the 'trial' goes on. Soon we won't be able to carry on. It is causing irreversible financial damage now. Please open the road before it's too late.
Fenkle street and clayport street the traffic on an already bad junction is now significantly worse. We see near misses often and traffic is often at a standstill when deliveries are taking place. The summer was horrendous
great scheme which I hope will be made permanent however the streetscape can be vastly improved, support from NCC to create permanent lighting / decor would be appreciated.

Q4: Any other comments?

It is extremely difficult to comprehend the negative reactions to this pedestrianisation trial. Narrowgate, whilst cars were still using it was a potential death trap and we have witnessed countless near misses/accidents with pedestrians nearly clipped by wing mirrors, customers stumbling on narrow pavements. Narrowgate was not designed for 20th / 21st century car drivers. Our business hasn't had any negative impact whatsoever. Trade is what it is in retail and continues to be challenging and up and down. That has nothing to do with the pedestrianisation trial at all. IF it remains and is aesthetically pleasing and welcoming it can do nothing but benefit the town. It needs to be a feature. It can only also benefit the businesses on Fenkle Street now they more cars will use it and therefore people will be more aware of the businesses on Fenkle Street. Anyone saying there has been a negative impact on sales, would need audited proof.

Open the road. Fenkle street is blocked up. No disabled parking. Cars parked along Fenkle st on yellow lines. Difficult to get along the street as so much traffic giving way to oncoming traffic and queueing to get out onto Clayport.

People can't get to us as the traffic is a nightmare

Great for the town once people get used to it I'm sure everyone will benefit from it

No i feel that i have shared my view and hope that something is done soon to resolve the problem and try to please a lot more of the shop owners, as we are the people that keeps Alnwick high street alive, unless you would like more closures of the shops and more Charity shops and will kill the high streets like many around the country.

Good initiative and very supportive of more pedestrianisation

In general the scheme is a positive experience and change for Alnwick. It does I think need managing and possibly changing a little - possibly the winter months (November to February half term) it could revert to a one way system with European style barriers that can rise from below ground level and red light the vehicle access. There are businesses that I'm aware of in Alnwick claiming to be affected badly financially due to pedestrianisation. I don't buy into this personally, particularly those businesses further down towards the pubs (Dirty Bottles etc) as traffic still passes by their front windows and there never was any ability to stop and impulse purchase there anyway. I suspect any financial downturn could well be due to wider national economic uncertainty caused by factors such as Brexit (which is also what we hear from our customers). In summation, schemes like this always take a while to bed in and I feel the positives far outweigh the negatives. I understand the Castle also has plans to develop the area behind Narrowgate (Bow Alley) which could put even more business to this end of town so it would be good to try and link the two.

The Market Place is a large, mainly unutilized, outdoor space more suited to pedestrianisation and regeneration, a place for outdoor entertainment - it should be the centre of Alnwick - not Narrowgate. Pedestrianisation of Narrowgate keeps visitors away from the rest of the town.

Appendix 2: Residents Survey Comments

Q1: Has the trial affected how you use the town centre and why?

Now i would avoid the town centre due to traffic. the scheme is an absolute disgrace.
Disabled but not a wheelchair user and simply cannot access the shops now
The detour by car is dangerous, especially at the Fenkle St Corner with Market St. The trial has put much more traffic on other roads making the other roads dangerous to pedestrians.
the travel flow which has created more problems at the junction on fenkle street corner to market street, also vehicles having to turn outside wh smiths causing more danger to pedestrians
On the way home by car, I would often stop and pop into the Coop or other shops, now I don't. It has also caused problems with how I use the junction on Fenkle Street on a daily basis
Have to detour by car. Have to turn right out of market place to Fenkle St instead of left to Narrowgate to exit town to the north avoiding hotspur arch
Before pedestrianisation my wife and I found it difficult to shop on Narrowgate, having to be wary of vehicle traffic.
More pleasant walk, quieter, more pedestrians having snacks outside
feel safer free from traffic in a narrow place
Safer and less noise
The only disabled parking bays are in the approach to Narrowgate. These need placing elsewhere to allow room for a proper turning circle. At the moment disabled people are at risk of trucks/vehicles turning.
We never go near Narrowgate now because the street is now dead and uninviting
Easier to walk through narrowgate, too narrow before in a car anyway!!
I no longer visit shops in the Narrogate area and now do majority of my shopping at the out of town retail park Sainsbury. Argos. Homebase. Now that M&S are also coming into this area why would I come into town again.... I attended a consultation in Northumberland Hall and the general consensus was against scheme but was then told most were in favour.... Hmmmmm
I tend to avoid Narrowgate now, the street is deserted, the looks run, down shabby & dead!
I am now much less likely to go along Narrowgate due to the amount of cars trying to reverse out of spaces, whilst others try and do a u-turn to head back onto the main road. Previously traffic could drive down to the castle and turn near the auction houses, now you are forced to do it there. Beforehand I could get close to where I needed to be, now I park as far away as possible to avoid idiots reversing into me.
I cannot drive through to the park and when shopping there it feels empty
I avoid driving towards the main street and as a result I avoid using certain shops that I used to use. It feels uncomfortable people sitting at the tables watching you walking past, it doesn't feel right and looks out of place. I don't like to use the shops down there anymore when I used to. People have rarely used the tables etc since the weather has gotten cooler and it just looks awful even with the new planted pots. I love the market square and feel that's a much better friendly environment. The narrow gate looks out of place, feels uncomfortable, doesn't have the community feel and it never will. I feel the work being used on narrow gate should be used in the market square. It's a waste of time, money and effort and will affect businesses as I for one avoid shopping on the shops there now.
Me and my wife avoid walking down narrowgate now, it feels intimidating especially when there are people sat at the tables. We used to shop a lot down that street but now avoid all businesses there as it just feels uncomfortable and awkward.

Q1 (continued)

Don't like junction that has to be used at fenkel street on to the Main Street it's a dangerous junction
Used to drive down Narrowgate occasionally on way to St Michaels school, enjoyed seeing what was in shop windows, often resulting in my coming back to park and buy. Now can't see anything on offer so don't tend to go to that part of town at all.
I feel safer walking in and around that area as the traffic has reduced
Unable to park to access other shops traffic flow stopped traffic hazard wagons unable to turn having to reverse back danger for all road users
There's a delay in getting anywhere due to drivers unsure of the new layout. It's dangerous as pedestrians walk out without looking. Alnwick is congested enough without having the need of back log of traffic.
I just avoid the pedestrianised part altogether.
I drive a different route to get to the Pottergate/castle end of the town - the negative knock on effect it's had on the corner at the top of Fenkle street is quite noticeable
increased traffic on market street has changed my routes to main shopping and service areas
Disabled parking now more difficult so tend to go at quiet periods and not on weekends
Avoid the area now
Use the town centre less as fenkle street is tricky to turn out, town is getting bottle necked more, parking is more difficult, cars turning at the start of pedestrianised bit of road, more cars parking on the road there as know they are not blocking traffic makes it hard for these cars turning.
Different route to meetings
Now have a coffee in the street and browse shops more as no chance of being hit with a car
I find myself much more willing to walk into town now, and enjoy the freedom of walking in the road through the pedestrianised area, including use of the cafes there.
complete waste of money
Difficulty in turning car around.
Visit the little shops more as more pleasant as very narrow paths & sat outside a cafe to eat as change to busy market square on Saturday. Walking around with dog easier too down there now as dangerous walking in road if busy.
Use the shops and cafes more as it feels safer.
Lack of parking
Awful redirections via fenkle street, the street is not suitable nor is the junction. Unable to access certain shops near the road closure because parking is a nightmare.
Fenkle street is not able to handle parking and all the traffic that not tries to use it.
It's made the corner of Fenkle street and clay port street a death trap and an accident waiting to happen
Have a lot further to walk. A lot less safe when crossing the road outside costa with the kids as it's crazy with people turning cars around all the time. Much worse, an accident waiting to happen.
Safer when walking down there and coming out of shops
Longer route has to be taken to get to where I need to be. There are now traffic issues at the top of Fenkle Street
Longer time to get to destination. More congestion

Q1 (continued)

Can't drive down Narrowgate to access easy way home. Have to turn and drive back up Clayport. It is sometimes difficult to manoeuvre past the junction with Fenkle Street because of the extra traffic.
Use it less as traffic more congested
Nice to see people enjoying the town centre and sitting on the seats in Narrowgate
Don't like the way it's been set out and find it unsafe when walking with a child
I take more time shopping in this area, it's more relaxing, and I shop more in the 'nicer' shops like the Beehive. I even occasionally stop at a cafe for a drink now, which I never really did before.
More likely to spend time in the Narrowgate area - improved without traffic and more suitable for visiting with children.
I find it more difficult to access shops that are on Narrowgate, and having to drive up and down Fenkle Street instead of coming through narrowgate is quite frankly dangerous. There will be a serious accident soon at the Fenkle St/Clayport junction unless this trial ends or is changed.
I have stopped using the coop and costa down the street
makes travelling through town more inconvenient as the junction at Fenkle Street is not good enough to cope with the amount of traffic
More traffic on alternative roads plus it cuts off my route to return home
The traffic is now directed around Fenkle street and then on to Clayport Street, this makes the traffic in this area heavier. I was in favour of the pedestrian scheme but have changed my mind since the introduction.
Caused congestion and reduced traffic flow
Avoid it with a car. I believe Fenkle Street is a death trap waiting to happen
Far less traffic while crossing the road from Market Place alleyway onto Bondgate Within - good thing
Fenkle st is a Nightmare to Turn in and leave Junction, Disable Parking which I seen Emergency Vehicles stuck Wagons trying to Unload, Narrowgate was a perfectly good Street more People about now Emergency Vehicles can't use it which is putting time on there journey . As for the poor person who could be needing there help „hope there is never a fire in that area. Please return it to how it used to be it' was such a lovely street
The traffic flow on Fenkle street is not good enough with the current closure - I don't disagree with the closure but I think more has to happen to manage traffic
Tend to walk through that way more, feels safer and more 'foot' friendly
Don't use the shops and cafes as much
I now don't use narrowgate shops as I find the clutter of tables and people eating puts me off. I access shops below the area from Morrison's car park and I dont walk up the street to browse at all now. It hasn't changed my regular shopping but has definitely altered my browsing for gifts etc. No one wants to walk through people eating - it's awkward. Plus I think it would be difficult with a wheel chair or pushchair to negotiate the clutter. The area outside costa is dangerous with cars trying to turn round once they realise there Are No parking spaces and people wandering about in the middle of the road - seemingly oblivious to the pedestrian area ending at the bollards.
More space so I walk on the road!
It is a lot easier to walk down Narrowgate / stop to look in the shop windows / stop to have a chat. It is great not to worry any more about accidentally stepping in front of traffic when I had to step into the road to get past people, etc. Before, I didn't like stopping in case I blocked the pavement.
Petrol fumes from turning traffic

Q1 (continued)

As a blue badge holder having to visit the chemists I am often unable to park to pick up medication
Walking along Narrowgate now is far safer due to narrow pavement it now provides greater safety and larger pedestrian safe area
Its harder to get to work, and dangerous when trying to turn right onto fenkle street, the road isn't wide enough and the vision is poor at the chocolate spa when vehicles are parked.
just take a different route to church / north of town
Just go around the back of Alnwick or down Northumberland Street instead, which isn't a problem.
The main route through the town has been cut off and the other routes we are forced to use by car are not fit for purpose - Fenkle Street is dangerous, the entrance/exit onto Clayport street is difficult to use - you have to pull right on onto the road to see if there is anything coming down the street and if you are turning right to go down Fenkle Street you have to negotiate parked cars and the road which seems to lie the wrong way and lots of parked cars on double yellow lines! Northumberland Street is also difficult to negotiate with a line of parked cars at all times. I also know that a lot of the businesses are affected because of this closure which is not ideal when the town has lost so many shops/businesses over the last few years.
Put off by the lacking of parking, congestion caused by the lack of a thoroughfare.
Difficulty getting turned and parked and it seems more congestion
Have to use a different route by car
Easier with the baby buggy as paths are too narrow.
More likely cafe and Shops
The traffic has been worse, particularly due to the blind corner of Fenkle Street. It's more dangerous to drive and takes far longer to cross the road on foot due to increased traffic.
Much better shopping experience, opportunity for street events and entertainment space, outside eating and seating, much improved!
Obviously I avoid taking my car when using the shops on Bondgate Within, it is always impossible to park anyway, but I would have to take a roundabout route to get there so not worth the journey.
I no longer go into Narrowgate area, it feels like a ghost town. I avoid the town centre because the traffic is pretty chaotic, in particular the top end of Fenkle Street which is now taking so much more traffic from all direction. I think its an accident waiting to happen.
As it's difficult to access
After parking having to turn around at the top of narrowgate to go all the way back through alnwick to access the a1 rather than down and past the castle to get back onto the a1.
I don't drive as much because I used that road as a through road and the alternate route is a pain ... bad junction, delivery lorries parking etc
It's just a bottle neck of cars turning an accident waiting to happen,would have been much better a one way system
Don't go down that far as like the top street to many thinks I'm path in front of shops not enough room on paths actually saw some one with a a walking frame going up path towards Glendale paint and used ramp to get on path and was not enough room why do shops have to.put things out side shops you know what they sell should consider Parms walkers chairs elderly
Avoid town just for a day out and only when necessary.

Q1 (continued)

I try to avoid the town centre if possible due to the amount of cars having to turn around on the main street due to the closure. I feel other streets, such as Fenkle street, is struggling to cope with the diversion. I also feel there is not enough traffic going through the town centre which I think will effect businesses in the long term.
Don't feel comfortable waking around especially past pedestrianised area as all the cafe tables are out so hard to get past plus everyone staring as you pass. Think it looks like a eyesore so don't want to go down to that part of town if I can
I used to park in Fenkle St to do a big shop as I dislike Morrisons car park. The new scheme affects the parking as the street is now so busy and at its junction with Clayport is an accident waiting to happen. The crux of this is now I often shop in Sainsbury's, and can't see myself coming back into town until this layout is sorted!
Like being able to sit and have a coffee outside
Don't go in as often - it seems much busier and not getting through Narrowgate is a pain.
It's too dangerous now as too many cars turning as they can't get through. Just think it separates the down.
I go into town less now, it's more inconvenient and takes longer, so is easier to go to the retail park or order online
Don't shop so much in that area coop smiths etc
Now avoid the town centre
Taking alternative route to drive through
Different road and shop use
Don't use most shops as it's a pain now
Not worrying about squeezing down pavement or crossing the road
alnwick is bad enough to travel around without this hair brained idea making it harder will be easier going to another town or the new one outside of alnwick. as usual no thought into it .
I find myself in Narrowgate more often than I ever did. It's safer to walk down there now.
It has added time and cost onto taxi fares it has caused unnecessary congestion due to wagons turning outside whs etc also I have witnessed blue lighted vehicles obviously on a call having to turn around and follow diversion. Why change a fully functional accessible road to only pedestrianised the portion that is what 4 car lengths in total, I cannot see the justification of this to be permanent.
Don't use the shops as much there anymore because of little access and parking. Terrible idea the road has been used for many years why change everything just put lower speed limits if possible. Becoming too much like Morpeth!
Think twice about stopping and go through to Sainsbury's
Walk further which is good for health and feel free to let children shop more independently as traffic is slower and safer
I avoid Fenkle Street for driving because of the bad junction at the corner. Also avoid for parking as it proves to be difficult when getting out again.
I take an alternative route to a friends house but it doesn't inconvenience me
Drive an alternative route
It now takes me longer
Much better to get around on foot. Feels safer. Market stalls etc on the road are an improvement and are good for pedestrians and the atmosphere of the town centre.

Q1 (continued)

Dropping heavy bags of at charity shop
Access to and from Bailifgate is now awkward, for no obvious gain to anyone.
Never come into the town centre now unless absolutely necessary.
Hate the fenkle street junction both for getting in and out of it but also have nearly been hit twice with people coming out in front of me.
I dont go near bondgate within or narrow gate now like I used to.. too dangerous with cars turning out side wh Smith's.
More difficult to get from one end of Alnwick to the other, I have reduced the amount I come in to the centre of Alnwick. Difficult to pull out of fenkle street particularly as often vans etc pulled in unloading next to Northumberland hall
Now have to use other now more busy routes to get to Bondgate Within
Very dangerous around the top end. Cars pulling out onto main road from fenkle street. Diversion might be better up Northumberland street or make narrowgate one way, entering at the castle end and leaving at yorkshire trading
I find I avoid the town a bit more now, and the town seems congested. I've been stuck for 25minutes while a pub on Fenkle street had a delivery. Infuriating.
Can't access local shops /chemist yet another sample of planners being out of touch with reality
It's not long enough and the parking is not adequate
Used to travel through Narrowgate to get to car parks
It makes you dodge the centre as much as possible. Getting out of Fenkle street onto Clayport is a nightmare and accident waiting to happen. I find now on Narrowgate end beside the pedestrianisation , people are walking out in front of my car alot more then anyone ever did, which was rare to begin with. People aren't looking they just seem to think now one bit is pedestrianisation that they can just walk wherever. On the high street itself, it is just chaos. You have cars turning around all over, more people parking on double yellows that trying to reserve out beside costas is hell if someone have parked on the double yellows. For the amount of road that is pedestrianisation, it is pointless for such a tiny bit. There was never any trouble anyway.
It is quite frankly a pain in the backside, I now find myself driving round in circles to get where I need to be, parking is also affected as traffic now blocks the 2 disabled access spaced by Costa
It's become a bottleneck in the centre, cars, vans & delivery trucks turning around on the street when people are crossing, it's only a matter of time until someone gets hurt. Also Fenkle street is to narrow at each to take the extra vehicles making it dangerous at the clayport end.
I've actually started to visit more of the shops on the outskirts of town it less hassle.
Driving in Alnwick is a nightmare the junction at the top off Fenkle street isn't wide enough and you can't see up Clayport street due to pedestrians on the path. I've seen cars being reversed into and emergency services going through Bondgate within and then have to turn around due to the small section of road that's closed.
If driving through narrow gate I saw anything interesting I would return to investigate and buy it. Do not like the traffic chaos at the pant at top of Fenkle Street
Pedestrianisation gives more opportunity for coffee and dining outdoors, I visit more often
Congestion. Time added to my usual town-based activities.
It's hard to find a parking space so I now shop in Morpeth
It makes this area much more pleasant to shop and eat in

Q1 (continued)

I have spent time sitting in the middle of Narrowgate with my children.
I avoid going into town as much as possible now. Bondgate Within from Bailey's corner to Narrowgate has become very dangerous to both pedestrians and car users, due to lorries and vans having to turn in the road alongside parked cars. Driving along Fenkle Street is a nightmare as the corner is a blind spot and parked cars jut out into the line of traffic.
Avoided town centre due to traffic on corner of fenkle st
Less parking for work on fenkle street, much busier road now
Shop out of town now
If using the car to shop I would rather drive to Sainsbury's or Aldi as parking is easier
Ptobab;y vosot the shops in Narrowgate more
Night mare trying to get down fenkle street
I now avoid trying to park anywhere along this part of town and as a result, find alternative shops to get products from
It's harder to drive through the town centre
Having to navigate around the town safely using a car. The blind spot at the top of Fenkle St by the Chocolate Spa is impossible turning left or right. I would not like to sit out in Narrowgate for a drink it is a wind tunnel at the best of times. What will this all be like in the height of summer with the amount of cars and visitors alike. I use a dentist in Alnwick and have great difficulty in finding somewhere to park. The roads in Alnwick are clogged up with cars etc parking
Made the town centre more congested
Pedestrianisation has made an area which is more sociable and safe and it makes you wander into near shops. Yes there are times when you forget the road is closed but if made permanent this would be very obvious and people would get used to it.
More congestion for residents around the Morrison area
Think twice about using shops in bondgate within...plan journeys .. visits must less frequent .. stress levels heightened !
Reroute to get where i want
Since the trial has begun I have used the town centre so much more. As a parent to two young children (1 in a pushchair, 1 who is not) I found narrowgate a very difficult part of town to access. Due to the paths being narrow and shop owners using the paths to place signs etc outside of their shops (which I fully understand they do to advertise their business) it made it very difficult to pass through the part of town safely as often i'd have to try to go onto the road with my two children especially if someone was coming towards me on the path. Since the pedestrianisation on narrowgate I have used the street so much more, and also have been more inclined to use the shops & cafes on that street too as it's so much easier to access.
Rarely go on Main Street now, by pass's all shops on narrowgate because of road blockage
I don't come in as much because it's harder to park and to drive through the town
Did not like walking down that street at all. The "temporary" traffic cones and huge road closed sign made it look like a crime scene! In my opinion the coffee tables and chairs aimlessly scattered across the road just made the street look untidy.
Just with regards driving around town
Cant easily collect prescriptions

Q1 (continued)

It has stopped me using that section of town as much as I have found parking to be worse on the Main Street and Fenkle street than it used to be. It's made it less convenient to pop to that area if I'm in a hurry.
Narrowgate now a lot more attractive to pedestrians
Just very in convenient
I don't pass the shops there and see what's in the windows to be drawn in.
No parking and difficult to cross market street ,cars turning at entrance to narrowgate
Park in a different place so don't walk down Narrowgate anymore
Choose not to use that part of Alnwick now for shopping, Fenkle street junctions are not good either
I don't visit certain shops as frequently
I avoid Bondgate within near to Narrowgate as it has become a dangerous area due to more cars turning and many people struggling to cross the road because of this.
Always stuck in traffic coming into/leaving the town. I try to avoid the centre as much as possible. When vehicles are loading/unloading it is much worse as no alternative route. Bondgate tower has always been bad but noticeably worse.
More likely to shop
I don't go down Narrowgate any more.
Reduced my use of narrowgate shops due to restricted vehicle access. Avoid driving through Fenkle street due to increased traffic congestion. Reduced my overall use of town centre.
Not able to drive down Narrowgate
Bottleneck at bottom of narrow gate. Cats having to turn in the street as there is no where else to turn. Safety reasons make it dangerous.
I now avoid the town centre
We use more frequently as a family now & my little boy enjoys the freedom of it now. It is also lovely to sit at a cafe there now. Feels more like a community too.
It's very inconvenient to have to turn around in my car every time I have to drive down the main street. It was so much easier when you could drive straight through. I dont really see the point in it.
It's caused congestion and extended travel times to shops and amenities
Alters routes I would normally take.
Can quickly drive that way without the on coming traffic
Completely avoid the area
I make deliveries to various business around town. I have noticed that there are always spaces available to park outside the Boots to where the Banks are situated and noticeable less footfall as you walk around. It must be having a detrimental effect to business in that area, also the one or two cafes that have taken advantage of the pedestrianisation by placing tables in the former road will surely knock this on the head when the council up there business rates as they must do.
Its a pain trying to access certain shops and areas of the town, this system is terrible, open up Narrowgate again
I would of used this road to access other shops

Q1 (continued)

That section of Narrowgate used to be very dangerous for pedestrians and was best avoided. The pavements were too narrow for the number of people walking on them, especially with shop A-frame signs standing in the way. Now this has made it incredibly pedestrian friendly, with extra seating as well. It is safe for those on foot. Crossing the road at either end of the pedestrian zone is also much easier and safer now.

As a car user also, I find the Bondgate Within side of the road block much better. It used to be very difficult to get into parking spaces there because of the difficulties with visibility and speed of through-traffic, particularly when reversing down the slope into the road. Now that area is perfect for parking up for quick errands to shops in the town centre.

adds extra time to journey.sometimes impossible and dangerous to get out at Fenkle st junction

more likely to stroll along Narrowgate and look in shops

Being able to drive

I go into the centre less and tend to use shops outside the centre or elsewhere

He parking has become more difficult and even just having to turn around in narrow gate is terrible as pedestrians now walk all over the road. You can't simply nip into town any more

Feel safer shopping as not watching for speeding cars as pavement so narrow

Put off by lack of access, unsafe turning outside WHSmith, emergency vehicles not being able to get through and on numerous occasions cars have pulled out in front of us causing us to stop in an emergency

Effects access to some of the shops

If you need to get from one side of Alnwick to the other, all the traffic now has to travel down one section of road up passed the market place. If businesses are getting deliveries it's very congested as one lane is blocked. Narrowgate is so awkward to access now and turning around after parking is dangerous. The flow through the town is now is now stunted. Now more traffic is going passed Morrison's it's more awkward getting in and out, especially if you have idiots parking outside Wilco. I think this will be the the finish of our town centre. It needs to be easily accessed or people will go to other towns. Businesses in the town will soon have the new retail park to compete with.

Longer route to work

In my opinion it has closed part of the town by not allowing vehicles , causing traffic chaos both in that area and at the junction of clayport and fenkle street.

It was totally unnecessary and should be discontinued. It is not enhancing the centre of alnwick at all.

Have visited these shops more

Too many cars turning and causing chaos on the roads. Makes everybody not want to go down that way.

It hasn't affected the way I would use the town centre as a pedestrian; that's a massive improvement on Narrowgate, especially with it being so narrow and dangerous.

The only difference, which is minor, is not driving all the way down Narrowgate to go to Bailifgate, which is still easily accessible via Fenkle Street or from the road near the bus station.

Other routes through the town are overcrowded, walking along Bondgate Within is dangerous because so many cars make a mistake and have to turn round and retrace their steps. It is a totally stupid idea, and when it was tried before it didn't work - it won't this time either.

It's great, feels safer. We just need it permanently pedestrianised then councillors can start planning a Morpeth-style arcade down there.

I park elsewhere

Happier to use as pedestrian.

It has made it challenging to get my disabled mother access to the shops.

Q1 (continued)

Yes Fenkle st is blocked up.
Makes it awkward and I think it is affecting businesses
I avoid the street when possible as the cars parking and turning is dangerous
I no longer drive through the town centre to go north on the A1
never visit Narrowgate now
Access to churches and north restricted. Unsafe turns created
It's making traffic through the arch to back up right past the market place
Less likely to walk down Narrowgate and browse shops since the trial began
Deterrent from using Bondgate Within shops
Less tempted to drive through
I have to drive around the long main road and do a u turn at the small boots Chemist instead of being able to continue through. Which can sometimes be a nightmare as some people don't care and just step out whilst you're reversing.
Because cars are turning around left right and centre nearly causing accidents and I do not want to walk through when it's raining or have to drive all the way around!
I have authoritis and cannot walk very far! I don't bother going down the norrowgate anymore
Fenkle Street is extremely busy with congestion at Market Street .In my opinion it is hazardous.
I have to travel all the way round Alnwick to be dropped off at work
Can't drive through
Have to drive around the town when trying to access services and places of interest. Have to park elsewhere and access services on foot which quite often stops me from using businesses on the street. 30 minutes parking is not good either and once again lowers the chances of me accessing services.
Travelling around Alnwick is more difficult and dangerous especially entering and leaving Fenkle Street. Tourist are lost and unsure of how to get through. On one or two days the bin lorry was working and met a coach causing chaos. I helped a disabled tourist who parked on Fenkle Street only to find it nearly impossible to access the town. Parking if anything worse.
Find it awkward if driving as getting turned is difficult with the road being shut off. Also table littering the closed road makes it awful to get past people when I have the dog. Have to zig zag through it all. Not a pleasant walk.
Linger longer
It's much easier to view the shop windows as you walk through the pedestrianised area, so it is easier to see what shops there are. Also there are 2 cafes where you can sit outside which is great.
I feel safer walking through Narrowgate, which encourages window shopping/browsing
I have to think to remember I cannot drive through Narrowgate!
The road is much safer and cleaner, the air quality much improved, it's pleasant to be able to stroll with family and friends and enjoy shopping without traffic noise drowning out conversation and its lovely to be able to rest on the new benches . The pedestrianisation of Narrowgate really makes Alnwick an even better place to visit for shopping and eating out.
I use fenkle street now & cars are parked on both sides which stops the flow of traffic

Q1 (continued)

Restricted mobility
Very difficult to access and turnaround by COOP, WH Smith etc. as cars often stopped in front of these shops. Now use Lisburn Street, Prudhoe St but this is also bad as it is used by more traffic trying to avoid chaos in town centre. Summer was horrendous as traffic backed up to Fenkle Street junction to get through tower, obviously had to leave a gap for traffic to turn into Fenkle St but then traffic coming out just turned in front of any coming down Clayport Street
Feel safer crossing the road
I now only occasionally go along Narrowgate as it no longer feels like a thoroughfare.
I prefer the quieter area of Narrowgate and Bongate Within with less car movements. It is safer, quieter, more relaxed and there is less vehicle pollution
I tend to avoid going there
Not effected as I tend to go where I need to go but when you go to that part of town by M&Co, Beauty Box, Dorothy Perkins etc. there is a lot less foot traffic it seems to have had a negative effect on the shops on that street and now we are putting shops on the outskirts of town which I don't disagree with but will it make the town centre worse ?
less likely to use town centre. traffic turning in front of Costa / WhS is very dangerous and frustrating.
walking in the area now closed to traffic is so much more pleasant
traffic much worse in rest of centre, more dangerous trying to cross Market Street
I have to go up Fenkle street to get to where I need to go
Fenkle street is primarily a parking area and has the danger of people reversing into the main stream of traffic and has a dangerous t-junction at the end of it. Traffic flow previously was facilitated by the pedestrian crossing lights which allowed traffic flow through the town reducing the possibility of collisions, all of which is lost at the end of Fenkle street, complicated by traffic tuning into Morrison,s Wilkos and car parks etc.
Some of the shops and services which I use in Narrowgate are difficult to get to and parking has become even harder. 2 hours free parking is now limited to 30mins in certain areas and there is more traffic with cars having to try and turn round which in turn makes it harder to get into a space if your lucky enough to find one. A road that had a steady flow of traffic now regularly becomes grid locked with visitors and locals trying to park !!
Avoid narrowgate as too many cars turning around to much hassle and too much traffic around fenkle street very poorly thought of much better the way it was ...killing the town centre
Access by car.
I have had to change my 'through town route' using the car. Although I regularly cycle through the closure with care I don't feel comfortable about it! I would like to see it specified as shared use for pedestrians and cyclists with care.
Disabled parking is poor. Difficulty in reaching some of the shops.
Miss it tend to go on the outsirts, homebase mark Spencer will kill the main town used to like coming in good shops, not know shame for the good shops left
it has increased my use of fenckle street and my appreciation of its shops and potential.
Easier to stop and browse
It is more welcoming
Traffic leaving Fenkle street onto Market Street and the ever worsening jams on that street
It takes a slower than it used to

Q1 (continued)

We now use the Narrowgate shops more frequently and more comfortably.
Less likely to visit the stores like boots, coop, Dorothy Perkins, etc as it's affecting the traffic. It's more dangerous to pedestrians now that cars are turning or trying to park.
Only in terms of access to my home. I am concerned for Bondgate within, with no turning circle, no exit point and car access limited. I don't see why this can't be opened through the week, with pedestrian access only at weekends in the summer.
Easier to go to put of town time poor going around wastes time
much more enjoyable to stroll along the shops and not worry about traffic. makes me more likely to spend longer here
Only go into Narrowgate to visit Chemists now, no longer park there due to difficulty of restricted access. Was totally avoiding Town Centre during tourist season due to traffic congestion and the dangerous junction at the top of Fenkle street.
Now drive up Fenkle street instead of Narrowgate
I now avoid Narrowgate completely.
Made it more difficult to park near required shop if on my way back from or going on to somewhere else.
when driving around the town we are forced up around the bus station
Causes traffic confusion and the tables look ridiculous in the middle of the road, also in periods of inclement weather (quite often) the seating area would be pointless.
Much better environment for shopping.
Takes longer to get into and negotiate town centre due to increased traffic. Easier to shop at the out of town development which is detrimental to the town centre traders many of which are independents needing our support many having been providing excellent service long before the out of town developments were built
Makes travelling about Alnwick more difficult, have to go past a busy night club where people are on the road at night time, the alternative road is hard to navigate at any point of the day due to traffic.
It is not as convenient to drive and park in Alnwick.

Q2: Please use this space to tell us how we could improve the trial scheme.

It should never have been closed. the 100+ people how voted for it, do NOT represent a majority of the population. only those that were fortunate enough to attend the farce of a meeting in the first place.
You can't, it discriminates those who have walking difficulties
At the start all the road closed signs and the hideous plastic furniture looked awful and must have put people off going down there. Much better now that they have been taken away. The flow of traffic turning outside W H Smith is dangerous and also the volume of traffic in Fenkle Street coming out into Market Street is a nightmare most of the time.
Cancel it altogether.
open it back up it serves no purpose
Extend it to cover the length of Narrowgate,from Fenlke St to Market St
make it one way into the town heading South, make fenkle street also one way heading North
By taking it away
Maybe a very small kiddies area so mum or dad could pop into the shops?
Disabled bays need putting elsewhere. Proper turning circle needed. Deliveries need more control. In Whitby they have a scheme whereby Baxtergate is closed to traffic from 10am - 4pm. All deliveries have to take place outside of this time and it works. This could be introduced to avoid problems of deliveries both near the present disabled bays and also on Fenkle street.
Reopen the road and breath life back into Narrowgate.It was tried once before and didn't work ,so why trial it again. Who's benefiting from this?.Not the traders if reports are accurate.
End it ASAP
Stop it immediately it is not in keeping with the town. If this is to continue a full study of traffic flow is required. Higher quality of street furniture, road closure structure & adequate signage. The new furniture is an improvement on the hideous plastic furniture we had previously!!!!
By closing the street off from baileys/the card factory. Too many cars/big vehicles getting to the bottom and having to turn around. I watched an ambulance do the exact same thing. Either make the street all pedestrainaised or none of it.
I think the pedestrianisation has been fantastic, the increased footfall on Narrowgate is obvious to see and it's great to see businesses with tables etc on the road. I'm not sure I can quite believe the stories of dramatically reduced trade. There are however a few obvious improvements I'd like to see made. The junction at the Turnbull's end of Fenkle Street has become very busy. Particularly with cars waiting to turn right at the end of this street, if a car is waiting to turn right to go down Fenkle Street there simply isn't the room. Whilst this obviously was the case previously, the increased traffic here often brings the main high street to a standstill. Would a mini roundabout be a better option here? Also on the Costa side of Narrowgate, it's frustrating to see cars struggling to turn around. The width of the road should allow for a proper turning circle to exist, in the form of maybe a roundabout which allows you to turn around properly. Also, would limiting time spent parking on the cobbles on Fenkle Street, 30 minutes like those outside Costa, allow an increased amount of trade to this area because of quicker turnarounds in parking spaces?
Remove the junk lego furniture. But best of all cancel trial. What was the problem? Where now the benefit?

Q2 (continued)

The most logical thing is to widen the path outside the business there (as yes it is narrow) and have a one-way system in place.

Traffic is now forced to come up Fenkle street, wait for ages before then trying to quickly pull out onto the B6341.

Easiest thing to trial would be to have Fenkle street one-way along with Narrowgate and situate the junction outside the chocolate spa so cars could position themselves to see traffic coming from the direction of the bus station as that is a blind spot.

Whilst closing Narrowgate may seem like a good idea currently, the headaches it creates for 2 cars meeting together at Fenkle street trying to turn in and out are just ridiculous and holds up traffic right through the town. Far more sensible if the traffic wanting to go down Fenkle street comes up through the town, past Morrisons, down Lagny St and Pottergate before either using a one-way system straight through Narrowgate or up through Fenkle street.

Makes it easier for parking/access and maneuvering, whilst at the same time keeping the flow of traffic on the B6341 without causing bottlenecks as happened so often during the summer.

Perhaps just try it during the summer months when the weather is better and the tourists can benefit from it as they walk up to the castle.

It'd be in everyone's best interests to just get rid of the scheme and idea. It's awful. It's a road. It will always be a road and an important one at that. I have seen cars dangerously turning by Costa due to this road. I have seen road blockages. I have avoided Narrow gate and I avoid shopping at places I used to shop. It feels uncomfortable, patronising when people sit at the tables and I'd prefer to avoid.

It needs scrapped not improved, time to get rid of this idea. It is a hazard, dangerous traffic wise, we have seen cars being ruthless and dangerous due to this change as well as blockages. We avoid going to certain areas of town now due to the road being shut off.

I don't think permeant barriers are the answer as it could affect events like the cycle races.

The road closers signs make it look a mess and looks like a building site.

One way traffic if something has to be done but personally didn't see any problem with before. Why change it ? It is a lovely quirky feature of Alnwick and a beautiful street. Called Narrowgate, so it's narrow, makes sense, traffic doesn't go fast as a result of this so natural traffic calming already in place. Pedestrian had made it a no go area of town.

Reopen the road

I can see why it was put in place but it hasn't done the town centre any favours.

Close all street to Dirty Bottles

The only comment I have would be to improve the way the road signs are when driving up towards narrowgate from the castle. Otherwise i think it is ideal as a pedestrianised area.

It is stupid nothing would improve. Not needed, never been an accident there in 20years and traffic managed adequately.

Perhaps changing the road surface to make the pedestrianisation more obvious. And extend it to the junction with Bondgate Within (the Bailey's cafe junction)

If it were permanent, make it cobbled. Make the area outside Costa stretching down the turn off at Bailey's a nice, functioning efficient car park, a la Tynemouth Front Street (cars parked in the centre, one way route around, possibly anti-clockwise)

Q2 (continued)

my main problem is crossing market street when shopping for a house-bound friend: my mobility problems make it difficult and painful to traverse the hill between the pant and the pedestrian crossing (steepness and differing cambers of the pavement) so i try to use a route taking me along stone well lane, across fenkle street and through the market place, especially when burdened with shopping from wikco's and morrisons. i notice many other people having the same problem. some kind of traffic control would be of great help (eg a central refuge between the pant and the west entrance to the market place) which would afford the luxury of missing out the incline and avoiding having to traverse the cobbled areas on both sides along the south face of the northumberland hall. the vista along bondgate into narrowgate has been much improved following street furniture changes since the bike-race perhaps a cul-de-sac sign could be put at thompson's corner instead of the one declaring narrowgate closed (visitors to the town won't know where narrowgate is so the closure sign is of no use to them).
One way traffic through Alnwick particularly Fenkle st and Northumberland Road. Also if made permanent, change the surface of narrow gate to male it more pedestrian and disability friendly.
Capitalise on extra space for parking in Bondgate Within, improve turning circle. More positive signage. Artworks / greenery (in the spring) on Narrowgate to brighten the street. 20mph limit elsewhere in town
One way system trial
Remove it - it has had a negative effect on local residents going about their business.
I dont think it could be improved, i just dont think this space works being used this way
The current scheme is an eyesore that detracts from Alnwick's historic beauty. The «lego» blocks are ugly and are not readily recognisable as a form of seating. If closure is the future solution then it needs to be achieved in a manner which is sympathetic to the surroundings.
Road closure should go all the way back to Market Street. Signage should be more in line with the town's aesthetics. Traffic control and pedestrian crossing measures are absolutely essential at the top of Fenkle Street due to heavy traffic and poor visibility.
scrub it and go back to what it was
Scrap it
Change the traffic issues & make sure road users know they can only park if they go Down there
End of Fenkle Street wants looked at ASAP
Remove it. Open the road again and put speed restrictions in place or
Scrap it, only a couple of businesses (cafes) seem to be benefiting. Stops the flow of traffic and makes Fenkle street dangerous by the chocolate spa end, nearly been knocked off a motorbike a few times due to being a bad/tight corner.
More outside seating.
Back the way it was before the trial.
More visual area with plants making it attractive
Open the road back up to cars or make it's one way only
Stop it immediately
Scrap it
Make sure the pedestrianised part is kept clean.
Stop card turning in the road by WH Smith and don't let wagons down there at certain times of the day

Q2 (continued)

Clearly define this area in a cohesive way, avoiding the use of features that look cheap and tacky. Planting, seating and lighting, but keep it simple and classy, perhaps reflecting the history of the area. It looks a bit messy at present, which may be putting some people off the idea.

You began the trial as a disaster. Everything about the appearance from the direction of Boots was wrong. It said Don't Come Near Here-so no one did. I saw visitors myself who looked and turned round. The appearance is now much more like a boulevard but in the meantime we have suffered a twin disaster in that Tui and Thos Cook have both gone, so again the street begins to look like it holds nothing beyond there. What we need are eye points- a banner across between both sides of Narrowgate announcing stuff, bunting, maybe even some sort of trader with a portable barrow selling something. Go look at most cities on the continent - Barcelona, The Hague, Paris and you'll get the idea. The other end is also a problem in that cars are zooming past Grannies fast enough to frighten people off stopping down that end. Maybe a camera that it is assumed can catch speeders? Or even a real one..

Higher quality street furniture. Resurface road to be consistent with paths.

Some street lighting, perhaps permanent signage and seating, maybe even some trees would be nice.

By stopping it. It's causing traffic chaos, traders are feeling the effects with less footfall. It's a good gimmick, and the thought behind it is commendable however it's proven a poor idea and should be stopped before businesses close and accidents happen.

One way system for Fenkle street

No plastic and proper pedestrianised landscape

Making the road more attractive and open to pedestrians, e.g. through using plants, nice benches etc. This part of the town could be made a 'feature' helping to promote what is an area of local business.

By stopping it and let the town get back to normal.

I now favor a one way system to ease traffic on alternative roads

I now favour a one way system to improve traffic flow.
Better signage from Bondgate Within would allow people to understand the road closure.

Scrap it

Convert Bondgate into a shared space to improve pedestrian activity, similar to the market place.

Open the road it will never be an improvement just a waste of Tax payers and Council Money
Should Survey not have been done before you closed the road and voted for by shop owners and residents

Instead of road signs stating Road Closed why not bite the bullet and use signage stating Pedestrianisation in progress. Let's be positive and tell people what we are aiming for.

I think a one way system allowing people to travel down narrow gate in one direction and then use fenkle street in the other direction.

Rather than closing it to traffic maybe one way and stopping shops from blocking pavements with signs and tables. A notice type sign to show shoppers what shops are down narrowgate to encourage shoppers to continue down the street while shopping.

Launch a competition for landscape architects to produce quality scheme

Stop it it does not compliment Alnwick at all

Somehow improve the signage as an ambulance with blue lights tried getting through last week, presumably a crew from out the area. The amount of vehicles of all sizes that now use it as an excuse to turn round at high speed is noticeable and dangerous for everyone. I've witnessed a number of near misses due to vehicles reversing.

Q2 (continued)

Pedestrianise the whole of the main street. Use it for markets etc. Use market square for marking instead.
This has been tried in the past and rejected for mainly road safety issues together with other traders losing business
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires good quality street furniture, seating, paving etc (Newcastle Town Centre with the Astro turf and deck chair seating area is really eye catching and I think would work well in Narrowgate it is easily changeable for summer/winter) • Opportunity for street events, entertainment space in summer months
If it is to be permanent, then either end of the barrier needs to be permanent - perhaps with planters and a raised kerb. Better street furniture and upgrade the entire pavement surface on either side of the road from the Yorkshire Trading Company to the West end of the street.
traffic lights and better traffic management
close as far as M&Co/Clarks and provide more seating and street entertainment
Improvement to Fenkle Street/ Market street junction
I think it might be even better to extend the pedestrian area to the whole of Narrowgate and close off the access down Fenkle Street.
If the area is permanently closed to traffic, the pedestrianisation should look intended rather than a blocked off road. Also adjustment needs to be made to the junction between Fenkle Street and Market Street to improve traffic flow.
Not sure what was wrong with the old road system, it was in operation for many, many years - might be worth considering making Alnwick a one way system and not close off any streets.
None. Return the area back to traffic.
Also close Bondgate Within from Bailey's cafe to ease traffic turning problems.
Remove it
<p>The start was a disaster - first impressions really make a difference. I think the scheme is preventing very many shoppers from accessing not just the pedestrian area but also shops outside its fringes eg Boots, Smiths. It is really awkward having to turn round at end Paikes St and consequently shoppers are not bothering to try driving up Bondgate Within, where they could park for a very quick visit to the relevant shops.</p> <p>No action has been taken to improve the Fenkle St /Market St/Clayport St junction, resulting in more delays and danger here. The corner could be eased and double yellow lines extended along F St</p>
Setting is now fine for trial
I think the whole of Narrowgate should be included in the pedestrianisation. There are still too many cars. It would look more attractive with additional good quality benches, a clearer delimitation of the area (ie. paving?) and some trees and/or large planters. Perhaps some bike racks to invite people to cycle more?
Better quality street furniture, and if it is permanent a better surface treatment to make it fully pedestrian friendly - ie no road kerbs
The junction at the top of Fenkle Street turning onto Clayport Street/Market Street, is impossible to get out of and with cars parking very close to the junction makes it difficult to turn into Fenkle Street if someone is waiting to come out, it is a real bottle neck.
I think the trail should be abandoned
If made for pedestrians then investment should be made to resurface the road, improve lighting and incorporate other aspects such as planting or free WiFi.
You could make it one way

Q2 (continued)

It is good being able to walk down narrowgate feeling safe with my children but all the cars turning around at the top of narrowgate is an accident waiting to happen!
A one way system. Also traffic lights on the tower would stop a lot of congestion and there are still people turning right from the car park behind the playhouse
It is such a small section closed if it was a bigger section maybe from Bailey's maybe don't know how it would affect buisness
Would prefer a one way system
Better signs
I'd have trialled this during a quieter part of the year.
Scrap it so more people go down to that part of town
See above
Have it open at night
You can't for me.
Safety improvements Fenkle Street/Market Street
I think the only thing needed is a right of way where the road narrows at the fenkle street junction, just like at Hotspur tower
Put it back the way it was
Make pedestrian areas more clear
Conclude the test
Better road layout around the town. More seating and table areas in the Narrowgate area. Safer turning area.
Turn it back to how it was. You extra space in market place to put up seat and such
Traffic lights at the top of fenkle street, that's a poor visibility junction to send cars to
Parking and cars and lorries and vans turning by Boots needs fine tuning
If it gets opened again, then there should be a one way system and suitable crossing for people to use and stop all the parking on the yellow lines as it's very hard to cross with children! In the winter I can't see it getting much use for the outside cafe seating etc, so maybe it should just be seasonal closure?
I would extend the perception of Narrowgate round to the end of the road. Improve road markings especially at the Fenkel Street junction. Extend the double yellow lines outside the Chocolate spa as far as the full size parking spaces.
Remove it earlier than intended
If it has too stay get rid of the double yellow lines, provide more parking. And don't use ugly features looks like a childs play ground. Alnwick is different to anywhere else and features of the historic town need to be added and be remembered .
Do NOT close it during winter or it will kill off the town centre
Closing ONLY the small portion of Narrowgate is pointless. Having seen many other very busy shopping streets closed off for pedestrianisation schemes, the best way forwards is to expand it along the entire piece of Bondgate Within to where the Yorkshire Trading Post is now sited. Small pedestrianisation schemes always fail. Larger ones prosper and become visitor and shopping attractions in themselves.

Q2 (continued)

One way system would reduce traffic and aid surrounding areas.
I think it should expand to include all the way down to the junction outside Yorkshire trading with exceptions for deliveries only and or after 6-7pm TIL 6am Once that area is closed off there isn't much need for anyone to drive along there and parking is limited to 1 hour anyway.
It should be made one way. Traffic in alnwick is horrendous Abd the road system is ridiculously poor
More cafes with tables outside. Encourage more market stalls.
Better/nicer signage that is more welcoming/informative especially for those that are tourists, not aware of this scheme.
Try working with Alnwick inhabitants and people who actually use the road instead of "consultants" who probably don't even know where Alnwick is
Open the route again - Fenkle Street cannot be the major route through the town centre - its a terrible junction at the top. The massive delivery vehicles reversing down bondgate within are dangerous - there will be a serious accident before long.
It would be improved if it was removed and allow it as a road.
It's a nightmare turning round once you've got in to the little area where you can still park. Cars can not go straight out from the right hand parking spaces so have to drive up, 3 point turn outside small Boots and out. Awful bottleneck. Could get dangerous. Either close all of it to cars (except for deliveries to businesses and maybe disabled spaces), or have some way of only allowing enough vehicles up there as spaces available (monitored parking). Regardless of the final decision, Alnwick desperately needs more parking, especially long stay. Out of town parking with a free regular shuttle bus seems the obvious answer
Traffic lights at chocolate shop end of fenkle St
It should be re opened even on a one way system or reduced speeds
How it was worked perfectly well. It's a bottleneck of vehicles turning outside WHSmith
Open the road before someone gets hit by reversing car or delivery wagon
One way system would be much safer
Remove the pedestrianisation and go back to good old common sense and road signs making clear which direct has right if way.
Traffic flow down Fenkle street, it can be difficult to see to your right as you come off Fenkle street on to clayport street, it would appear better if Fenkle street was was made single way travelling down Fenkle street towards the pedestrianisation through to the castle.
Scrap it sooner rather than later
Make it from Baliyes sort out the parking to be honest
Possibly a one way system round Narrowgate and Fenkle street
By removing the whole pedestrianisation and going back to what it was to begin with.
Make it a one way system instead. Honestly it was not broken so stop trying to fix what is not needed.
Put it back to the way it was and embrace Narrowgate for its name "NARROWGATE"
Remove it

Q2 (continued)

Permanent closure and relay pavement and road to give level pedestrian area and opportunities for shops and businesses to expand
I don't think it should be closed to traffic I think the town should be made into a 1 way system. It would allow traffic to flow much smoother than it did before the pedestrianisation as narrowgate would not get blocked by people trying to drive through it from both directions.
The junction at Fenkle street facing onto Turnbolls has become busier and causes traffic backing up and the street could do with better crossing for pedestrians. A one way system might help throughout the town.
Signage that blends in better with the traditional street appearance
You can't improve it. Just have the courage to admit the scheme was ill conceived and reverse the utterly stupid, ignorant decision to pedestrianise Narrowgate.
Re open the road
Have a one way system instead
Better street furniture, signage explaining businesses down the street etc
I would like to be consulted on the type of street furniture that will be used and how the pavements and road surface will be altered.
I do not wish the trial to continue nevermind improving it. At present "it is an accident waiting to happen". I cannot see how it can be improved beyond making the town a one way system however, I fear this will be even more detrimental to an already fading town centre.
Making signage clearer? The end of fenkle street more safe to pull out of. Clearly marked parking bays on fenkle street.
If it has to be pedestrianised then it should be extended to the junction at Yorkshire trading
It would make sense to expand the trial to the end of the road where Baileys is
Keep it for the summer get rid for the winter
The junction to fenkle street needs to be improved. The road there is too narrow for cars to turn in if there is a large vehicle waiting to come out of the junction. The look of the pedestrianised area could be improved. It would look better if it was all paved.
Make the market place pedestrianised and make it used like other market places.
People walk out between the flower pots on the costa side of Narrowgate. And walk into the road when turning around. It's not marked as a turning point if you drive down and need to turn around outside w h smiths. The junction at fenkle Street is just not fit for the traffic you can't see what's coming down clayport bank. We keep hearing about pedestrians when will some money be spent to improve the traffic problems the residents have to face daily ie hotspur tower.
Simply pedestrianising Narrowgate is not the solution to Alnwick's traffic issues. Problem with the current trial: 1. Impact on businesses on Narrowgate who are now cut off from the town centre 2. Vehicles (including delivery lorries) trying to turn around on Bondgate Within as not able to drive through. 3. Increased traffic on Fenkle street which is similarly not designed for large volumes of traffic 4. Narrowgate is an enclosed, shaded street therefore not the most appealing place to sit outside.
Why not use the Market Square for alfresco dining at least it gets the sun and especially now that the market is in jeopardy. Alnwick really needs some sensible car parking spaces, possibly separate ones for workers allowing other spaces freed up for visitors and local people from surrounding area just needing parking for half a day.
Look at junction on market street

Q2 (continued)

If I had my way I would pedestrianize right up to junction at baileys cafe. I understand that there is parking along there but Alnwick High street needs a radical change to improve shopping experience. Also small additional small selling outlets could be considered along the street. At the moment the high street is terrible. Also, and I know this is digressing, but whoever allowed all the different shop signage wants to be ashamed of themselves. I'm all for a varied shopping experience but feel the way forward is to keep it quaint with quality. We have a beautiful town but feel that it has lost its way.

It is not needed traffic flowed better before

Abandon scheme

One way system

One way system

I think if the pedestrianisation was to become permanent there's would need to be somewhere for cars to turn around safely on the Main Street as how it currently is, is quite dangerous.

Get rid of the pedestrianised zone

Nothing about it was attractive, the road block, the closed signs, plastic seating, aimlessly dumped planter, scattered cafe tables, sandwich boards plonked on the road!

Unfortunately I think the junction of Fenkle Street and the Market/Clayport Road is not safe enough (and part of Fenkle Street at the junction is not wide enough, due to parked vehicles) to cope with the volume of traffic. Maybe traffic lights might help?

Disabled parking more difficult

It looks like extremely ugly and looks more like a road closure than a pedestrianised area.

One way System

its a nightmare when walking or driving to the top part of the street. Delivery trucks having to reverse down then street as they are to big to turn around. No space for them to turn with cars parked along both sides of the road, cars seem to be ignoring the parking restriction as it's not a through road. Accident waiting to happen.

End it as soon as possible and make it oneway traffic

Re open the road - certainly not a scheme for all year

Some street furniture (whether it's bollards, gating, seating etc) that look more in keeping and permanent. Something more sympathetic to the surroundings.

Revert back to non pedestrianisation and look in to improving the problems at the Bondgate Tower. E.g. Stop traffic going straight over from Greenwell Lane to Hotspur St and stopping traffic coming down Hotspur St to turn right in to Bondgate Without. Put traffic lights at the actual Tower and move the crossing as there is always congestion at this spot now.

Make it a 1 way system

One way system would be a better layout for these streets. Quite a few have suggested this, perhaps we could have a trial and see which system works the best?

Improved permanent signage and would definitely extend the trial to where Narrowgate meets Market Street.

Make the area look nicer

Finish it.

Remove it

Q2 (continued)

Have small stalls and street entertainers during the summer, bring back the music festival to the town centre and a Christmas fair. More seats and rubbish bins
Cease the scheme is the only way to improve things.
Scrap it. You are trying to cater to tourists rather than the locals of the town
Seating and potentially some gazebo/shelter/awning so that the area can be used all year round
Extend it & perhaps more planters?
Open the road again
Get rid of the system and return it to how it works best, as it always was
Forget about it. Alnwick now suffers from increased congestion & the junction on Fenkle Street with Market Street is an accident waiting to happen!
Put it back to how it was
Improvement to the junction on fenkle street
Forget about it, its causing traffic congestion in other parts of the town
Junction at top of Fenkle street
The turning out of market tavern is very dangerous
There is a knock-on effect on traffic using the Fenkle Street/Clayport junction, which has very poor visibility for traffic exiting Fenkle Street in either direction. Some thought is needed on making that junction safer - would a mini-roundabout work, or a reworking of the junction, so that there is a line of sight up Clayport?
scrap it
One way system
It's too easy to walk out of the pedestrianised area into the road without realising... this needs looking into, I've seen a lot of people make this mistake.
Remove it!
Remove yellow metal road signs from pedestrian area just have a sign outside baileys and on green next to statue at other end
End it! Reopen the street
One way system might work better, or if pedestrian area take away ugly blue wheels.
I back the project but feel the current plan is creating secondary issues. With the closing of one side of the road car users are forced to make a "turning in the road, most of which are being conducted by boots by this increases risk to other uses as this is both restrictive to drivers and due care is not being taken by foot users. i would propose that the road would be closed both sides as far down as the entrance (beside Yorkshire trading). This may require the use of removable/ automated bollards to allow delivery access and the use of emergency services.
Early dismantling and open it up. Have a priority lane direction, with signage and road markings.
Get rid of it
Stop the trial
Make it look a bit better

Q2 (continued)

I do think the street should be cobbled so that it is the same level as the pavement. Consideration should also be made to further improvements to decorative lighting and high quality planting of shrubs and flowers.
Ditch it now!
No access to cars from Baileys cafe upwards to Narrowgate.
I would rather make Narrowgate one way (heading North) with pedestrians having precedence over traffic. With no entry at Bailifgate, rerouting incoming traffic into town via Northumberland Street
Dedicated turning circle at end near WH Smith.
Narrowgate one way system.
Open the road. It's dark and there has been a lot of shoplifting and thefts. Pedestrianisation in dead towns like Alnwick are dark and spooky and to be avoided. No passing traffic. No passing police. Just a matter of time before there's bad men start to mug pedestrians and a quiet pedestrian zone would be a target.
It looks weird as it is now, the space isn't big enough to really make an impact for businesses.
The street requires full pedestrianisation with improved surface and more "greening"
one way system
Scrap it. The section is limited in length and provides no benefit
It's not just narrow gate you need to look at it's the roads in and out of Alnwick rather than junctions turn them into roundabouts. This will help free up traffic congestion have light on the arch. Then looking at narrow gate have it pedestrianised from the junction at Yorkshire trading but allow access for delivery either in morning or night. Have some sitting areas and some visual things to look at I.e more planters water features even retro years games like hop scotch. I agree the tarmac should be a different colour take up the flags and replace with block pathing. A proper turning circle is very much needed as well. Don't look at this as just narrow gate think of the bigger pictures if u try and free up the roads more people become less stressed then most people will be raving about narrow gate. Yes make it permanent closed to traffic but have a plan in place for the next five year how to improve it don't rush and do everything at once add new things slowly people will always return to see what has changed
One way system
It is still a bit Dangerous with the cars.
Scrap it
Take it away. Open the road again
Open the road again
I don't think the trial offers any benefit to the town.
Scrap it
Benches should be at right angles to the road, not parallel - view up and down Narrowgate better.
Close it all from the arch.
Stop the trial
Stop the trial
It simply looks ugly and doesn't make sense. Two planters and scruffy tables from little cafe does not make it attractive. Open the road or businesses, which already suffer, will close for good.
Go back to how it was, if not only during school holidays.

Q2 (continued)

There are still a lot of cars having to do 3 point turns at the top of narrowgate...
Go back to how it was. Apart from for the cafes I don't see any benefit
Trees in pots would look attractive as road blocks
I can't understand why narrowgate has been used as a trial could they not have done the trial with the market place. Narrowgate is dangerous with cars turning in the road and fenkle street is very busy.
Better planting and seating
Cancel the trial as I cannot see any benefit to the town centre. The pedestrian area is not an enjoyably area to sit out in, it is always in the shade, is in a wind tunnel other days and is so small it looks ridiculous.
Maybe on certain days of the week
Better 'signposting' to encourage pedestrians - in particular tourists - to use the area.
<p>Formalise the turning circle in Bondgate within and stop cars from parking on the double yellow lines and blocking the circle. Consider the realignment of some of the parking in the wider parts of Bondgate Within (look at marking out herringbone style spaces perhaps) to facilitate more parking, to compensate where spaces are lost at the turning circle.</p> <p>Keep encouraging all business users, including cafes to utilise the free space in Narrowgate for promotion etc. This could potentially include promotion of businesses not in that section of street.</p> <p>Put in double yellow lines to the west side of Fenkle street in the immediate section close to Market street to facilitate turning traffic. Consider this junction properly and look to improve vehicle flow and pedestrian safety.</p>
<p>There's currently a disconnect from the entry to Narrowgate to the Castle Quarter and I know that's having a negative impact for some traders. I think it would help hugely to have a wrought iron sign (similar to barter books) spanning the street at the entry to Narrowgate from the market street side stating Castle Quarter so that visitors do not think Narrowgate is an end in itself.</p> <p>Beyond that, I'm pleased that the tacky plastic has given way to seating that is more commensurate with what is seeking to be achieved in terms of a quality pedestrianisation. Ultimately, the road would need to become a dedicated wide path to clearly define the pedestrianisation.</p>
The tubs of flowers etc are ok but when it was brightly coloured plastic blocks it was awful. Need prominent signs telling people there are more shops, cafes, etc down Narrowgate beyond the closed section.
Needs to look more attractive, permanent. Better now the flower tubs are there but still not right. Provision for cars to turn round by Costa needs to be sorted, or fully pedestrianise that section
I would like it extended to the whole of Narrowgate and Northumberland street. Alnwick is not a pedestrian friendly town centre.
Make it one way for cars. If not please make it less hideous.
One way as opposed to closing of street if your just driving through might notice the different shops park up somewhere and use them
I think a one way system would be an improvement. Alternatively close all of the road in front of Costa/Superdrug, to make a larger pedestrian area. Currently pedestrians wander out of narrowgate into the road and into traffic.
improving the floorscape so that it is level and smooth and also attractive
look at traffic in Fenkle St and Market St, ways of making it safer and easier to cross for pedestrians
I think it was better as it was before.
The whole idea produces negative consequences to businesses, traffic, and pedestrians.

Q2 (continued)

Remove it , there wasn't a problem with this road in the first place, and you've now made it a problem and the knock on effect from doing this I'm sure could harm local business if you continue with the pedestrianisation.

Stop the Rolling pin cafe putting too many tables and chairs on the street

Car parking in the adjacent area down as far as Baileys needs to be properly controlled. Any day/time both sides of the road have parked cars, often with the engine running and a driver (presumably waiting for a passenger). There are also too many cars driving in and turning round. We would like to see limited access for vehicles to that whole area, otherwise it will become an extension to car parking space, with exhaust fumes creating health hazards and moving cars posing a problem for pedestrians. We wonder if the emission levels are being monitored. Maybe a 10 mph speed limit?

Turning left at the top of Fenkle Street onto Market Street is currently dangerous, because the driver's view of traffic coming from the right is obscured by the building on the corner, and traffic comes down the hill too fast. Traffic calming measures are required, or possibly traffic lights to deal with this problem.

Take it away killing trade

Scrap it. Businesses are loosing money and will close quickly unless this is stopped, just go and talk to them

See below.

pave from wall to wall with walker-friendly material, install permanent planters and seats, encourage frontagers to add furniture and decorations, hang attractive banners from wall to wall

Open the road give more time on the street at least 4 hours before you get a ticket off the traffic warden

You have added more attractive street furniture and lbthknk more dating would be appreciated.

A few more outdoor seats/plant pots

Needs to be pedestrianised tastefully rather than just a road with some barriers on it (I know it is a trial though). Cars need to be able to turn around better outside Joules/WH Smiths. Thought as to narrow road at junction with Fenkle Street, can it be widened possibly. Also other end of Fenkle St with Market Street as visibility has always been poor when exiting Fenkle, perhaps reverse give way to Market street? Parking on Fenkle street very narrow near Market street, perhaps mark bays out so cars are not at right angles to road there and have to park parallel

Car parks at the west of the town signed at the west end of Prudhoe Street instead of the sign to Greenwell Road. Is there a better route for busses?

Scrap it

Build a multi storey car park in on the unused cobbles at the market square. Traders who occupy this space are just not wanted.

Visually, to look permanent rather than temporary, it needs a continuous surface (as most pedestrian areas do) rather than paths and roadway.

Make it look less like a closure for road works. I have observed visitors turning back, thinking there is no through road for pedestrians.

If permanent need to remove pavement kerbs and have a level area

Open it back up

Is it possible to have access times available?

You can't waste of time & money

Please leave as it is to preserve the towns heritage

Open up Narrowgate again.

Q2 (continued)

Pedestrian the lot.
The change whilst well-intentioned seems to have left the main route through the town isolated
Make it a one way system.
The whole of the town centre pedestrianised with a one way traffic system round town
As previously stated detrimental effect on town centre trading and future
I think that the local businesses might have suffered, so maybe making it part of a one way system might be better.
The increased traffic on Fenkle Street has made the junction with Market Street dangerous for both traffic and pedestrians. It is a lot more difficult to cross the road outside Turnbolls.

Q3: Any other comments?

This "Trial" is killing businesses. with hard evidence to suport the fact that takings were down by upto 30% during the summer season, this survey is too little too late to monitor the impact for a possible reversal. by the time this is reviewed in November, the quiet season, hampered even worse by this "trial" will be nearly enough to bankrupt some, costing jobs and services in the town centre. This will have a knock on affect, as less shops will mean less footfall, and soon it will be a ghost town, all be it with a "safe area" for the hand full of folk that will be passing by!

Perhaps if Narrowgate had been made one way traffic then we wouldn't get the traffic congestion.

It is ludicrous to pedestrianize such a short length of road with no real benefits. Emergency Services now have a detour around the streets instead of direct through road. The rest of Narrowgate / Bondgate Within is now a turning circle and car park, making it more difficult for pedestrians to cross the road. More traffic on other roads because one short bit of street is closed just does not make any sense. It does not make the Town safer! I won't mention the "Lego" barriers that were in place!

The only person i can to see to have benefited from the scheme is the cafe which now has probably tripled its covers (on dry days) as it has expanded its tables into the street taking up a lot of the area. It is a very small area and therefore is not suitable for pedestrianisation
i have heard parents complaining that they are having to explain to children that they can walk in the middle of a road for a few minutes but now you cannt 30 seconds later as its not safe. The area is too small to do anything with in terms of events etc and in the winter will just be a closed road!!! in my opinion it is not good for the town or its traders. Schemes like this have been tried before and failed not only in Alnwick but all over the country. There is a reason for there failure!!! This along with the increased traffic flow on other dangerous junctions is just not acceptable in a time when people need to be supporting their local independent shops within the town centre and not staying away because they cannt park and they cannt drive freely like they can at the new retail out of town developments. The town centre needs support, not another obstacle in its way, tourists don't want to come to a retail park that is the same as everywhere else in the country they want to come to something different like a beautiful old town with good shops and easy access and traffic flowing. The area is neither something or nothing because of its location and size and is frankly just a waste of time and money and detrimental to our local town shops.

I live in Narrowgate and my quality of life has improved greatly since the 'boy racers' no longer drive up and down the street late at night

terrible decision to introduce this scheme in the first place

The fenkle street entrance near Turnbolls needs redesigning and parking stopped near the junction. At present it is pretty chaotic usually when deliveries are taking place.

The cheapness of the original closure furniture was cheap and tasteless.... This would not have been tolerated in Morpeth so why do you think we in Alnwick, the County Town, would tolerate what you did without a backlash. If your plan was to kill off local businesses then congratulations it's well on its way to being complete



We attended the consultation in the Northumberland Hall, everyone we spoke to opposed this idea!! Astounded it has gone ahead. I fear for the businesses in Narrowgate, how many empty shops are there now? We recently had friends visiting the town for the first time & found ourselves apologising for this amateurish eyesore!!! This would not accepted by Morpeth residents!

It was really disappointing to see the temporary signs and gaudy road blocks in place for so long. I can't quite believe that for something that was planned so far in advance, the road was allowed to be shut overnight and then several weeks went by before anything was done about the appearance. Perhaps this was a telling contributing factor in reduced trade, particularly during the busiest time of the year for the town...

cars in town centres will be banned in the near future

Q3 (continued)

I see this addressing a non-existent problem, and to make an unnecessary cul-de-sac in the centre of town seems odd indeed. Narrowgate is an ancient thoroughfare, and vehicles use it without hazard to pedestrians. When was there last an incident? (There may well be one soon, as the exit from the top end of Fenkle street has a very poor view of traffic from the right). I am also aware that some traders feel their businesses have already suffered. I've seen the trial for long enough. Time now to accept that it was perhaps worth a try, but it was better as was before.
Widen the path at Narrowgate, have a 10mph-15mph limit in place so traffic will be slow moving through there. Make it one way down Narrowgate & Fenkle Street. Improves the pedestrain experience, enchances parking and the overall flow of traffic through the town.
Just awful. As someone who has lived in Alnwick all of their lives, I hope you discard this idea. The way alnicks turning out now, is making me think about moving elsewhere. So many unnecessary changes.
Please reopen the road
The main statements say Alnwick is a historic market town we want to have things in keeping with that and then they put cheap plastic bollard type items in telly tubby colour in the centre it looked terrible.
Fenkle street junction is too narrow. It needs widen to make it easier and safer to use.
Please reopen asap.
It looks much better with the benches and planters.
Never heard of any traffic accidents here traffic was self regulating street furniture on footpath problem pottergate saint Michael's lane closed main focus seems to be closing off roads in town centre
As a resident the closure of part of Narrowgate as resulted in a quieter street in the evenings with a reduction of boy racers racing up and down street.
Makes it more dangerous coming on to main road from Fenkle street and causes queues elsewhere.
As a regular holidaymaker in Alnwick it is nice to have a street space without having to be scared of traffic - and the traffic in Alnwick is a bit scary!
need to improve the road junction nr the Chocolate Spa/Turnbulls as the sight lines looking north are dangerous
It has to be said that not much use is being made of the pedestrianised bit, and it's always in the shade so not that attractive to potential al-fresco diners/coffee drinkers. And it hasn't made a great difference to traffic or congestion. Having said that, it's not terrible.
I don't know if a one way system is the solution but personally i have shopped in the town less and visited the centre much less since this scheme began. Once the new out of town shops open i would probably bypass the town completely while it continues to be so dangerous around fenkle street.
A few years ago Alnwick was a great place to shop, eat out or just wander around. It was a good town to visit regularly. Unfortunately, it is losing its place high on the list as an enjoyable town for visitors. Other towns such as Amble and Morpeth are now more popular. After folks have seen the Castle and Gardens, Barter Books and Bailiffgate there is little more to attract locals or visitors to the town centre. The recent changes have made it even less attractive. I took visiting relatives for a walk around Alnwick on a Sunday in the summer and was disappointed to find that after an enjoyable walk along the pastures they showed no interest in the town centre, laughed at the plastic seats on Narrowgate and asked if we could go back to Amble or Warkworth for a coffee.
The junction at the top of Fenkle street needs to improve as difficult to get out and now more traffic going that way

Q3 (continued)

I believe Alnwick as a whole is a town that would benefit from pedestrianisation, or at very least a strict one-way system and reduced town centre traffic/congestion. This should be coupled with better public transport provision, including a park and ride.
complete waste of money and time
I fail to see how business can suffer from what I read so I can see it's divisive issue. Would love it to stay closed.
Would like to see more traffic calming in the town. Boy racers bring down the image an otherwise lovely place.
The pedestrianisation may have been favoured and therefore executed as per the popular demand of locals, but it's been poorly done and has cut off the heart of town centre. Narrowgate and Bondgate within are basically redundant places with poor access and inappropriate/dangerous roads where drivers are forced to abandon their cars and turn around at any available spot making it horrific for pedestrians to cross
Why wasn't there a public consultation before this was put in place?
Businesses are losing custom due to the closure and no through traffic. Small businesses depend on passing custom and this is going to cripple an already struggling area.
Keep it closed i like the peace on the evening with no boy racers
I feel that the extra time it takes the emergency services to get round the town could cost lives.
It is the opinion of many people that I talk to that Alnwick is looking 'tatty' and a bit of a mess, especially when compared with Amble's harbour village area. Paving seems to be a key element in improving a town, and this pedestrian area could look amazing if paved in an effective way that reflects the history of the surrounding buildings. The pavements and road leading to the pedestrian area (where most of the shops are) should also be improved and given a clear layout to make it clear that it is no longer a through road - parking bays could be more attractively laid out and demarcated. Planting, seating and lighting could also make this a more attractive shopping area - more like York's Shambles area. If the layout is designed carefully this could be a lovely venue for relaxed shopping, in a medieval market town, for both locals and holiday makers. I think this scheme is a fantastic idea and is already, in its temporary state, facilitating a more relaxed vibe in the town.
There needs to be action to brighten up the vacant premises. Tui at least did something before they went. Get displays in the other shop windows from the Castle, museum, Gardens, charities etc. Offer low rates for start ups. Also important IF you are going to ok Dickinsons and premises in Paikes street to become flats DONT allow those holidaymakers to take parking spaces from shop customers. More parking is a necessity, where? Maybe next to the Maltings?
I would favour further expansion of pedestrianised into other areas in Alnwick
Makes it difficult for emergency services. Looks unsightly.
Narrowgate is not the best area for pedestrianisation, the Market Place is the place to choose. There could be a much greater use of the Market Square, there are already seating and eating places here. The Narrowgate food businesses seem to be the only few to benefit from the extra outdoor seating but the area is narrow and in shadow from the tall buildings.
Much safer to walk with children & when pushing a pram
Why has it taken so long to pedestrianise this dangerous stretch of road in Alnwick. To allow traffic through again would be an accident waiting to happen. Gone are the days where you have a few cars every hour, it had become a constant stream of cars, bikes, delivery vehicles and lorries at various speeds with pedestrians sheltering on the very narrow pavements. Alnwick council needs to protect the residents and visitors if you wish Alnwick to grow. Yes the traffic has to go somewhere and people do not like change, a quiet street becomes a busy street. I am sure Alnwick/Northumberland council must have talented traffic management personnel.

Q3 (continued)

I think the only businesses benefiting from this road closing are then cafès who now have increased seating areas. I can't see how any other shops will have benefitted at all. As I said previously it looks like a cluttered mess and not very inviting to shoppers at all.
It's starting to look really nice and welcoming along Narrowgate.
I live on Northumberland Street, and I haven't noticed any increase in traffic.
The smell of petrol fumes is bad you need to do a test on this
Could a one way system be incorporated to keep traffic flowing, along with speed bumps instead of closure? I can't see what the closure is achieving.
It is much more pleasant now in both Narrowgate and Bondgate Within when walking around
Prudhoe St - Lisburn St/Tce has been made into a rat run with all the added side streets and free parking making life a misery for local residents since the introduction of this ridiculous scheme which is only for the benefit of a couple of coffee shops. YOU MUST PUT ROAD SAFETY BEFORE TRADERS WHO DON'T LIVE IN THE TOWN.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term, once established will benefit businesses • Improvement to Fenkle Street/Market Street junction should be considered <p>Would welcome expansion of pedestrian zones wider pavements etc in other parts of the town to increase attractiveness as a visitor attraction – all of the most attractive towns and cities feature pedestrian zones</p>
Consider making the Hotspur Tower Arch one way access and create a new town traffic flow.
better traffic management - lights at the war memorial and at fenkle street
Only problem could be for deliveries to businesses
The junction from Fenkle Street onto Market Street could be greatly improved by removing part of the very large paved area. This would allow traffic to easily turn left onto Market Street and prevent build up of traffic behind vehicles waiting to turn right.
If the road is to become permanently closed thought needs to be given to a suitable turning area to create a suitable and safe turning area for cars which limits harm to pedestrians. Unloading and unloading of goods at the lower end of Narrowgate impacts on traffic entering and existing Fenkle Street. Exiting Fenkle Street onto the B6341 is also quite a hazardous.
Introduce a one way system round the town to prevent “rat-runs”, particularly Prudhoe Street, Green Batt, etc.
Congestion in Alnwick seems much worse
The pedestrianisation is unnecessary, at worst/best vehicular traffic could have been made one way .I seriously doubt that the shops in the ped area will improve their trade particularly over the winter
Make pedestrianisation permanent and pave area more seating and planters with trees for shade
There are very few road routes through town, and those that there are, are poorly managed. This scheme would mean increased traffic along Fenkle Street and Dispensary Street, both are routes with significant traffic management issues. Pedestrianisation of towns is a great idea when possible, in this case, it will negatively impact residents for minimal gain. We already have the market square for events. This seems like a very poorly thought out choice.
the scheme area should be extended
Something larger and more permanent beside Baileys cafe to let motorists know that the road is closed. A lot of people still try to drive that way to get through Alnwick and then have to turn to come back, again causing traffic issues.

Q3 (continued)

Traffic trying to get into and out of Fenkle Street causing a hazard sometimes.
Businesses in and around the pedestrian area should get rate relief due to the decrease in business.
I feel there are only two people in Alnwick who have benefited from that road closure, and those are the owners of the two cafes' that currently use the street for more seating.
Footfall on the Main Street has fallen since the trial, with cars not able to drive down that part residents just go up to Sainsbury's end to shop for less hassle of trying to go to Coop then turn cars around, I find the shops are a lot quieter now since the trial also
I think the closure is affecting the shops along the road before Narrowgate. It's difficult to go there in a car now and then have to turn round instead of going straight through.
It's my opinion that the town centre will be killed off if this trial is made permanent. We have an older population on the whole, many of whom struggle with mobility, to cut them off from the high street is ridiculous. The Fenkle Street junction is terrible at the best of times, and the extra traffic is making it worse, there'll be a serious accident before long
With Narrowgate currently closed the boy racer behaviour there has obviously stopped.
put it back to how it was
In the summer it was used as a meeting and social space with the cafe tables outside.
Who actually gave the clearance or thought this was a good idea I can totally see that the businesses along the pedestrianised section will vouch for it as people will stroll down the section as it is for that so hence them looking and shopping in their shops but realistically why change the flow or traffic that has been on this road for hundreds of years
It's very dangerous, cars turning someone is going to get hurt.
EVERY pedestrianisation scheme under the sun has been vilified before implementation by the shops concerned. And yet they all result in commercial and significant tourism success.
It would allow businesses to further use the outside space and promote more cafe culture
30 mins parking pointless. Struggle to get in and out of boots never mind Costa or browse in that time.
Great move removing the plastic and putting the planters. Such a difference.
Great idea but the other roads in the centre do not make this an effective system for pedestrianisation
I hated the multi coloured Lego bollards. A disgraceful eyesore in time for the busiest tourist season. If this is a permanent change, it must be properly thought out and in keeping with Alnwick as a historical market town
Thank you for trialing this scheme
There was a traffic free zone in the market place, lovely, until cars were allowed parking again, Narrowgate is nearly always in the shade, the layout looked awful
It has been a complete waste of time and money.
The street looks a mess with the tables etc. They should be paying for the extra space they have got. I remember this as the main A1 and people would still walk along the pavement without being knocked over! And this survey should have been done before it was closed and I don't read the gazette so knew nothing of this Until it happened
Alnwick needs more parking regardless.
People are now walking in the middle of the road in Bondgate Within not realising it's not all pedestrianised.

Q3 (continued)

Have avoided this area as very dangerous now.
<p>It's awful, please change it back.</p> <p>It hasn't made me want to use the only two businesses that may possibly be benefiting from it, Narrowgate is like a wind tunnel so I wouldn't use the outside seating area anyway.</p> <p>Also I've witness one accident at the top of Fenkle street as it's a blind corner and you have to creep out to see past the chocolate box. Also seen some near misses.</p> <p>Also noticed emergency vehicles using Fenkle street where they used to use Narrowgate, Good luck if a business is getting a delivery from a lorry. If I can't get passed in my car an ambulance or fire engine would t get down there. I wouldn't want those vehicles getting stuck and having to turn around if they were on their way to my loved one in an emergency.</p>
I no longer go to any of the shops down that way as they are now an inconvenient place to get to.
I think you'd be better off trying to improve the flow of traffic coming in and out off Alnwick ie 4 way traffic lights at Bondgate tower or a 1 way system for cars through Alnwick
I have found it a more pleasant part of town, easier to cross the road safely as a pedestrian. It hasn't affected how I travel by car.
If at all possible, try and recruit more intelligent people with appropriate skills to undertake such tasks. Be willing to listen to constructive criticism and not just dismiss it as negativity.
I find it hard to see the benefit in closing Narogate we need in encourage locals not just tourists to come into town not avoid it . Bad idea wast of time and money .
The new layout doesn't feel welcoming. It's intrusive to walk past people eating at tables on the road. I also feel the businesses will suffer.
There should have been more information made available in Narrowgate so that people could get a better understanding of the proposal and give feedback on the spot.
I do not wish the trial to continue. I have felt ashamed of my home town this Summer, it has looked a complete mess. Alnwick is an historic town and it's streets are unique adding charm to the town. Why change things and make the town potentially an accident black spot? Does Alnwick need to be like other towns? Why have shopkeepers been allowed to clutter the pavements with milk churns, sheep, boards etc? Clear the mess ,then people will be able to use the pavements. Alnwick is already like a ghost town in Winter so I cannot envisage many people sitting, drinking coffee in a freezing, cold street from October-April? Until recently a thousand schoolchildren used Narrowgate daily with no safety issues being raised so what is the problem now? Why not concentrate on Alnwick Market Place and see what can be done to enhance it to attract both locals and tourists into the town centre instead.
Traffic turning on narrow gate is dangerous.
More permanent seats and make it attractive
Whilst I agree with the pedestrianisation the real issue is the traffic flowing around the corner onto Fenkle Street its a bad junction made worse by the additional traffic having to go around that way more thought needs to go into this.
I feel as though it is safer for families in narrow gate/Bondgate within as there is less traffic, but traffic turning near the pedestrianised area is a problem
I thought the area had a more relaxed feel and didn't seem so busy. This type of scheme fits modern life, is nice for visitors and residents and is in line with what many other towns a pond cities are doing.
I feel I one way system though the town centre would be more suitable, with more outdoor seating in the market place if desired.

Q3 (continued)

Have noticed this year that Ratten Row is filling up rapidly by mid morning this didn't happen last year apart from the main holiday periods. Not sure if the old Duchess's School car park is well used?
This will effect a lot of businesses in the long term if this is to continue. There is no reason for Narrowgate to be closed off.
I feel Morpeth and Amble area getting it right. Forward thinking. Alnwick and Berwick are left behind.
How much has this cost ?
Killing that end of town.
Why hasn't pedestrianisation of the market square stayed, you advertise Alnwick as a historic market town... what market? The market square is a car park, money would be better used creating a thriving market again.
If the alternative traffic route was made safer/easier I would have no problems with Narrowgate being pedestrianised
Road from narrowgate onto fenkle street too narrow being used as a race track Bin wagon. ReVeRSing along busy streeT not good
No need to pedestrianise, give way signs would be better option like at the arch
Pedestrianisation may work in the middle of Newcastle but Alnwick needs the to do everything it can to maintain the shoppers and closing the road deters me from going to the middle of Alnwick
It is making the junction between Fenkle Street and Market Street very congested and dangerous due to poor line of sight when exiting Fenkle Street.
Ridiculous idea in the first place
Super idea so far. Pedestrianise more of town, to make it friendlier and more inviting than utilitarian as parts of it stand, as the building are stunning. Limit the speed to 20 throughout town. There is still too much traffic on Bondgate Without with cars speeding through the town once they get through the archway. Not inviting for residents or visitors to the town who stay in the cottages or b&bs there.
I dont see any benefits to it as a local person. It's just a total hindrance
You should focus your efforts in making the market square into a busy eating, shopping and social area and not narrow gate. The market square could be an amazing place but falls short some what.
It is a terrible idea, it has made the traffic system in the town much worse, it was tried a few years back and failed then, it has failed now, terrible idea.
I personally think it's a waste of the through road
Further parking could be enabled on the Bondgate Within side of the zone - outside WHSmiths etc. There is now no need for double yellow lines there, so long as there is adequate provision for turning a car round in what is now a cul-de-sac. Could a turning circle be introduced at the top end?
it's only to benefit two cafes but in winter no one will be sitting outside.What happens when we get roadworks in Fenkle st?
Should pedestrian only from yorkshire trading to entrance to fenkle street.
Listen to people
Through traffic might still help some shops, but one way system might be better.
Traffic management plan should be reviewed against current infrastructure. Due to change, traffic is now directed via Fenkle Street but this offers poor visibility for anyone turning right onto Clayport Street. Risk is exacerbated by increase flow rates due to two way traffic using this route

Q3 (continued)

I think a one way system for the town centre would be much better
I don't think the business questionnaire was directed very well at all.
Stop thinking of the car as an enemy of the town. If you want to make an improvement to traffic flow etc, think it through properly before you just make an impractical and isolated change.
Fenkle Street Junction near Sher Khan to perhaps be made a little wider to allow easier access in and out.
If the scheme is to continue. Make a clearly identifiable turning circle for vehicles. Even if this means losing parking spaces. It is a hazard and someone will get knocked down.
I don't like to alienate disabled people from anywhere. Especially large parts of the town centre.
Page 3 of the questionnaire is not very well designed.
Do not be discouraged by a few noisy traders who are looking for excuses for their own business shortcomings. It is now possible to window shop in Narrowgate without taking your life in your hands.
if you are going to make it permanent please extend the yellow lines at the top of Fenkle street so cars do not cause congestion at the junction
I don't see any benefit to the scheme and I am worried about the damage this is having on local businesses in this area of the town centre.
Improve parking for locals before pedestrianisation
Alnwick has not been improved by this change. The pedestrianisation has created problems with congestion in other areas.
Its killing the town centre
Close Narrowgate permanently now so that layout in Bondgate Within can be improved (more parking spaces, mini roundabout at Paikes Lane, better signage at Baileys). Junction of Fenkle Street with Clayport Street needs changes - ban parking at the junction, widen the road, install mirror to make traffic on Clayport Street more visible to turners. Remove give-way paint at the bottom of Fenkle Street and replace with a centre line into Narrowgate to give better guidance to motorists. Decision to permanently close will allow an earlier application for funding to install paving in the closed section.
Only close narrow gate for special events
Yes. Open the road! We need businesses to grow not close.
Yes, I tried to complain before but there was no way I could find a way to do so.
It is brilliant for the town and it is so much safer to cross the road. The benches down the middle are a nice touch and it is lovely to be able to sit outside for a cuppa at a cafe when the weather is nice.
It stops traffic getting to the castle easily. I don't see that it's pleasant for pedestrians as you still have to watch for traffic turning it trying to get parked in the bottle neck it creates.
I feel much safer walking down narrowgate. It is less congested on the pavement and a better experience all together.
I fully support the pedestrianisation and think it is an excellent idea.
The road was far too busy with too much traffic for this day and age.
Because Narrowgate is closed more vehicles are using Fenkle Street. Visibility is not good when turning right at the top of Fenkle Street. In addition vehicles regularly reverse off the cobbles in front of Turnbolls opposite this junction. Could a 20mph limit be introduced from the bottom of Clayport Bank to the Hotspur Tower (or further to Barter Books) making it safer for everyone?

Q3 (continued)

I like the café tables outside but am concerned for the individual specialist shops which are losing custom now.
Could look much better
Whenever I hear this being discussed, comments are always negative, from both drivers and pedestrians.
As long as it doesn't impact on the local business and shops
From experience in other towns where I've lived or worked, pedestrianisation more frequently leads to a reduction in turnover for retail business. Significant rent reduction for retailers needs to be seriously considered to assist them and provide an incentive if the scheme is to become permanent.
This pedestrianisation has to be a win win for local traders, visitors and townspeople. There is split opinion and constructive dialogue and compromise will be important in creating and maintaining goodwill. In my opinion, ALNWICK has a tendency to work in silos and there needs to be far more joined up thinking when it comes to community facilities. This is a case in point and ATC and NCC have an opportunity to create a solution out of a problem.
Traffic at the junction at the top of Fenkle street is much busier, this is already a challenging junction and potentially making this one way only would be safer. If permanent then the seating needs to be much more attractive and less gharish.
Pointless proposition, no advantage to commercial activity and pedestrian and traffic safety. Alnwick is an old market town which appeals to tourists for its layout and ambiance.
Spend money making improvements not on schemes that have little benefit.
It is a much safer place for walkers, cars were mounting the pavement to move along the street if vehicles parked. Able to look at shops and not be worried about dangerous inconsiderate drivers.
Thought needs to be given to suitable traffic routes through and around Alnwick. The temporary pedestrian zone can only be one element of an overall strategy which is fair to pedestrians and vehicle users alike, to business owners and visitors, to residents and tourists. The aim has to be to promote Alnwick (not the castle or the Alnwick Gardens, good though they are) as a welcoming visitor destination, a flourishing historic town and a place to shop for residents and tourists. This includes having decent facilities such as toilets, clear signage, and accessible parking.
Seats outside? In the winter, in Northumberland. It's a bonkers idea.
Traffic on Northumberland Street seems to have increased considerably. Parked cars on the West side of this street cause frequent hold-ups to bigger vehicles such as buses, coaches, lorries and tractors which regularly use this 'distributor road'. 'No parking' restrictions on that side of the road would lead to much freer flowing traffic on this street.
Then give further attention to layout of Bondgate within
Killing the main street doesn't matter what the people want the council will do what they want to make money for themselves
We are not against a pedestrian area but the Narrowgate trial seems rather pointless unless the shop owners find it of benefit. If they do not, then a one way system from the castle up through Narrowgate plus a one way system down Fenkle Street might help.
I think it is a good use of space. Very good to see people wandering, enjoying the space and therefore taking more time to look, spontaneously go into shops and recon side how they use that end of town. Parking hasn't proved tricky. Only difficulty could be amount of u-turns and reversing cars.
I hope it stays as a pedestrian only access, keep up the good work!
Consider how to attract people to it

Q3 (continued)

Questionnaire fault: Living where we do, we NEVER / CAN'T go into Alnwick any other than by car, so I had to lie in that section in order to move on!

I feel it is a pointless exercise.

A car free town centre does sound tempting. However, I don't think that we are in a position to go down this path for the following reasons.

1. We are a town that supports a rural community. The rural community is not supported by public transport. As those in rural communities are reliant on cars, they need access and parking. Alnwick is already tricky. If it gets harder, why not just drive onto Morpeth?
2. Narrowgate is shaded and windy. For the first few weekends of the trial I saw people sitting out on the street enjoying the novelty of a coffee in that area. Since then its not exactly been well used.
3. It has however made an already congested Bondgate Within more awkward. There is no turning circle at the top of the street, and with no exit at the end it makes it all a little difficult in the car (and therefore worse for pedestrians)
4. The top junction of Fenkle Street is not a great alternative.

I access my flat by car, I do this if I am loading or carrying heavy items in and out of my property. I'm fit and healthy, so therefore I can walk a distance. I appreciate this is not the case for everybody.

In terms of pedestrian areas, the only time I see the market square being used by vehicles is when an event is on in the Northumberland Hall, or the teenagers are congregating in their cars (which I would rather they continue to do in a safe space). There are the occasional vehicles throughout the course of the day, but it's minimal. As a sun trap, a large area and less used, surely this would benefit from the investment and focus currently being used on Narrowgate.

I personally would like to see the road opened up, as a cobbled path (such as west street in Berwick), it could be closed during peak tourist season, and when events are being held. And for the rest of the time, we can use the road to alleviate congestion and access our homes.

Have seen this nonsense in other towns worked in and unless food/drink outlet all traders saw fall in profits. Someone will get hurt with traffic swinging around at the planters and if emergency services need to get down narrowgate?

I am a frequent visitor to Alnwick and we have always been impressed at the variety of shops, the ease of (free) parking, and this is a further improvement to the shopping ambience.

The best place for a pedestrian only area would be the Market Place. I have had to brake on several occasions at the Narrowgate/ Fenkle Street junction for pedestrians walking out of the trial zone into the middle of the road, not looking or staring at their phone, this was compounded by the initial barrier being moved and the junction narrowed down to prevent two vehicles passing. This trial seems more like a box ticking exercise by the Council than a sensible use of tax payers money, the area is too small and the inconvenience too great for the vast majority of people, including the people I have spoken to; both Locals AND Tourists, find it utterly pointless, serving to only drive more people away from the Town Centre. Definitely up til now a case of lies, damn lies and statistics.

Clean up of a few buildings would have a good effect

We feel that it will result in business closures should the road block remain.

This is the way forward for Alnwick. Far too many cars using the town centre unnecessarily

The Market Place is much more suited to pedestrianization and should be utilized more as the center of Alnwick.