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9 October 2026

North Street, Bishop's Stortford: New Trial Street Layout

Dear Sir/Madam,

From Monday 9 November 2026, a new trial street layout will be introduced in North Street, Bishop's Stortford. The trial will run for up to 18 months. It provides an opportunity to test a new road layout, helping us understand how North Street could become an even more attractive and vibrant place to visit while supporting town centre businesses. The trial has been developed in partnership with local businesses, Bishop's Stortford BID and Bishop's Stortford Town Council.

What is changing?

From Monday 9 November 2026:

- a one-way (southbound only) arrangement on North Street and Water Lane
- there will be no vehicle access into North Street from High Street or Market Street
- a new temporary 20mph speed limit will be introduced

From Friday 13 November 2026:

- every weekend, North Street will become a Pedestrian and Cycle Zone
- the zone will apply between the junctions with Water Lane and High Street/Bridge Street, with no through access to motor vehicles
- the zone will operate from 5.30pm on Fridays until 7am on Mondays

Why are we trialling these changes?

The trial will help us understand how a different street layout could:

- create a more welcoming and accessible town centre
- provide space for events, markets and community activities
- make it easier and safer for people walking and cycling
- support local businesses by encouraging more people to spend time in the street

The first event using this space will be Bishop's Stortford BID's Festive Fun Day and Lights Switch-on on Sunday 15 November 2026.

Parking and public transport

No parking is initially being removed as part of the trial. However, on-street parking spaces within the weekend Pedestrian and Cycle Zone, the Sworders Yard car park and parking to the rear of The George/Prezzo will not be accessible during the weekend closures. Alternative parking is available in nearby car parks, including Basbow Lane, Northgate End, Jackson Square and Apton Road.

Bus services will be diverted via Link Road throughout the trial. Passengers using the 35 and 511 services should use the nearest stops on Link Road instead of the Bridge Street stop.

The works

The works to implement the new street layout are scheduled to start on Monday 9 November 2026 and take up to five days. All works will be carried out during daytime hours (8am to 5pm). Traffic management will be required during the works, but we will seek to minimise disruption as much as possible.

Temporary street features, such as gates, planters and signs, will be installed as part of the scheme to manage the traffic restrictions. Initially, it may be necessary to use temporary barriers and signs. The trial street layout is shown on the maps accompanying this letter.

A great destination, now and throughout the trial

North Street is one of Bishop's Stortford's most distinctive destinations, with a great mix of independent shops, national brands, cafés, pubs, restaurants and local services. All businesses will remain open throughout the trial and we encourage residents and visitors to continue shopping, dining and spending time in the area.

We have been working closely with businesses to understand and accommodate their delivery requirements and there will be further engagement in the coming weeks ahead of the start of the trial.

Have your say

During the first six months of the trial, residents, businesses and visitors will be able to share their views through an online survey, which will be launched on Monday 9 November 2026.

There will also be an opportunity to comment on the scheme through the formal statutory consultation process.

Your feedback, alongside monitoring the benefits and impacts of the project, will help inform future decisions on both the road layout and any potential longer-term improvements to North Street.

Find out more and have your say at:

letstalktransport.hertfordshire.gov.uk/north-street



If you have any questions about the trial, please email us at:

northstreet@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Yours faithfully,

The North Street Project Team, Hertfordshire County Council
(in partnership with Bishop's Stortford BID and Bishop's Stortford Town Council)

