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Survey reveals road changes could punish Baldock's businesses

A rapid survey undertaken by the Keep Baldock Open campaign exposes major risks to local businesses from a proposed "Growing Baldock" traffic restriction: the introduction in 2027 of a single-lane shuttle system as North Road goes under the railway bridge. With 235 responses from residents and villagers and 9 from local businesses (of c.18 spoken to), the findings demand urgent work from Urban & Civic to engage directly with businesses before it submits its planning application in mid-September. North Herts Council and Hertfordshire County Council must play their part.

Key findings

- **Car dependency:** 88.5% of respondents travel by car; 85.5% say access via North Road/A507 is "critical" or "very important" to visiting Baldock.
- **Visits at risk:** 73.9% are "extremely" or "very likely" to cut visits if delays mount; 67.2% see no alternatives like better parking or public transport to offset this.
- **Businesses hit:** 94% visit daily/weekly for shopping (94%), dining (71%), and services (54%). Open responses warn of a "ghost town" effect, with 60% fearing closures for independents like Chapmans butchers and Days Bakery due to lost footfall from villages.
- **Elderly, disabled, and young families reliant on cars feel ignored:** Families with young children, the elderly, or disabled respondents feel ignored, emphasise their reliance on the car, and dismissing cycling/walking as "impractical" or "ridiculous" for groceries or bad weather.
- **Businesses estimated that many of their customers came by car and 88.9% said that car access was critical or very important.**
- **3 in 4 of the businesses who responded said they were extremely concerned or very concerned that the changes would impact their business** and that 50% or more of their customers are from outside of Baldock.

We believe that if Baldock is to thrive, Baldock's businesses are vital, and Urban & Civic and North Herts Council need to:

- **Speak to Baldock businesses now – go door-to-door and speak to them before the planning application is submitted:** our survey, in only a short space of time, was able to show that there is major problem. We also spoke to nearly every restaurant, pub and shop open on a single evening in late July. Not one knew of the planned changes. 9 businesses have now completed surveys, but we have not been able to reach anywhere near as many as we would like.
- **Commit to the goal of reducing through-traffic without harming the local economy.** Establish metrics for success that consider Baldock's full needs e.g. thriving businesses, strong footfall and reducing traffic. Look at options like extending the weight restriction Michael Muir secured from Buntingford to South Road roundabout in Baldock to cover the A507 to Radwell. This will help stop HGVs seeking to enter the A507 from Royston Road and Whitehorse Street.
- **Be transparent – trust Baldock residents and visitors with the information and publish a comprehensive impact assessment:** model the traffic flows, delays, and displacement. Tell people in ordinary terms what 'friction' means e.g. queue time at different times of the

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day and expected behaviour changes. Analyse business revenue loss. Consider how the changes affect not just the young and healthy in Baldock for whom walking and cycling are easy replacements, but also the disabled, the elderly, and those with young families.

- **Test scenarios before ploughing ahead:** following consultation, if Urban & Civic and the Councils are determined that the measures are necessary and they do not risk Baldock's businesses, run small-scale trials to gather real-world data on queues and what the changes do to Baldock. If a decision is taken to move ahead, commit to ongoing monitoring and clarity on what would trigger review / evidence that the scheme has failed.
- **Restore Baldock's businesses to the heart of 'Growing Baldock':** Set out how businesses will be supported as the town grows, and what specific measures they will benefit from.

Further information

Background

Urban & Civic propose to reduce the A507/North road, when it goes under the railway bridge, to a single lane with a traffic-light operated shuttle system. The aim is to prioritise pedestrians and cyclists and "reduce space for vehicles and to create 'friction' which reduces the desirability of this route to access the town". Green, sustainable travel for in-town journeys is emphasised repeatedly, but the sustainability of Baldock's businesses is only covered in a handful of light touch comments that more houses will mean more customers.

On Saturday 12 July at an Urban & Civic drop-in we learned that neither the master developer Urban & Civic nor North Herts Council had assessed how dependent Baldock's businesses are on customers reliant on their cars, particularly those coming from the villages and outside of the town, nor the sensitivity of that custom to increased difficulties entering or moving through the town. The working assumption that 3000 more houses will bring new customers fails to account for the gradual linear growth in new customers over a 15-year build-plan, versus the potential for a sudden impact on custom from major road interventions in 2027.

The customer survey

Mindful that Urban & Civic's final consultation was due to close on 18 August, we conducted a rapid survey from 18 July to 11 August 2025, gathering 235 responses from Baldock residents and regular visitors from nearby villages. The survey was hosted on www.keepbaldockopen.org and promoted on Baldock and Ashwell Facebook pages, and leaflets were delivered to residents in Ashwell, Bygrave, Radwell and Newnham.

- 70% (165) of respondents enter Baldock from North Road/A507
- 94% of respondents are daily (43.4%) or weekly (50.6%) visitors to Baldock. They come for multiple reasons: shopping (94%), dining/drinking (71.1%), services e.g. hairdressers, barbers (53.5%), socialising or leisure (46.8%), and community activities (44.3%).

We sought to rapidly assess the potential effects of introducing a single-lane shuttle system under the railway bridge in 2027 and whether difficulty getting into Baldock is likely to affect use of Baldock's restaurants, cafes, pubs, shops, and services.

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- **Car access is critical:** 88.5% travel by car, only 11% do not use a car (they walk, cycle or use public transport). 85.5% said car access was either critical (49.8%) or very important (45.7%) to their decision to visit Baldock. Only 7.2% (17) said it was not important.
- **Likelihood of reducing visits if access becomes difficult:** 73.9% said they were extremely likely (46.1%) or very likely (27.8%) to reduce their visits to Baldock if it became more difficult to access Baldock by car. An additional 14.3% said they were somewhat likely to reduce their visits. Only 11.7% (27) said it would not have an impact.
- **67.2% said that there was no alternative which would encourage them to keep visiting if car access became difficult.** Alternatives included improved public transport, better parking options, park and ride facilities, or enhanced cycling/walking routes.
- **19.6% said better parking options near the town centre would help, but no additional parking is planned for out-of-town visitors.**

Overall, sentiment is overwhelmingly negative toward the changes (90% express concerns), with a strong emphasis on practical impacts. Positive outliers (e.g., support for cycling routes) are rare (~5%). Visitors from villages are more vocal about isolation and diversion to other towns, while residents highlight daily life disruptions. Changes are characterised as "short-sighted," "stupid," or "disastrous" without prior infrastructure (e.g., new bridge by 2027).

- **Delays and Congestion (85% of responses).** Respondents describe current queues on North Road (A507) as "ridiculous" or "nightmare," predicting "gridlock" or "chaos" with added lights. Peak times (school runs, commutes) and events (e.g., October Fair) are seen as worsening. Village visitors note backups could extend to services like the A1, increasing pollution from idling cars.
 - o Ashwell visitor: "The traffic is already prohibitive and this change will cut off rural villages from accessing their local amenities."
 - o Baldock resident: "Getting through the crossroad traffic lights is already hard without 3000 new houses. This will be utterly chaotic."
- **Inconvenience and reduced visits (70%):** Many say they'll "visit less" or switch to Letchworth, Hitchin, Royston, or Biggleswade for easier access. Families with children, elderly, or disabled respondents emphasize car dependency, dismissing cycling/walking as "impractical" or "ridiculous" for groceries or bad weather.
 - o Bygrave visitor: "I have young children - it is not feasible for me to use public transport or cycling... We consider [Baldock] 'our' town and feel as if we're being penalised."
 - o Baldock resident: "We live at Salisbury Road, this would impact my daily commute to work, the school, everything. We are considering moving."
- **Impact on Businesses and Economy (60%):** Fear of "ghost town" or closures for independent shops, cafes, and services due to lost footfall from villages and passers-by. Some note lorries (not cars) as the real issue, suggesting weight limits instead.
 - o Ashwell visitor: "Limiting access from the North would make me shop more at the large supermarkets and retail park... rather than the small businesses on the high street."

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- o Baldock resident: "No cars means no people. Why don't councils realise this? It is, after all, a market town where people have stopped for centuries."
- **Village Isolation and Safety (45%, mostly visitors):** Routes like Bygrave/Newnham would divert to dangerous A505, increasing accidents and pollution. School runs from villages to Baldock schools are a major worry.
 - o Radwell visitor: "Baldock is our nearest town... it's where we shop, go to the dentist... we're being penalised as people who live in a village with no facilities just 1 mile outside Baldock."
- **Other issues (30%):** Parking shortages, station access delays (e.g., missing trains), elderly/disabled barriers, and poor planning (e.g., no traffic modeling shared). A few (~10%) support changes for safer cycling but criticize timing (e.g., build new bridge first).

A better way forward?

More work is needed. It's not fair to Baldock nor to the businesses, painstakingly built over many years, and those they employ, for Urban & Civic, North Herts Council and Hertfordshire County Council to go into this decision blind. If Urban & Civic's remit does not allow it to make adequate consideration of the wider, whole-system, impact of its work, it needs to report back to local authorities that this is a fundamental problem that needs to be addressed.

Baldock's businesses shouldn't be an afterthought. Before decisions are taken it's critical that Urban & Civic, North Herts Council and Hertfordshire County Council understand how businesses will be affected by the planned road changes, how much custom comes in on North Road, and how sensitive that custom is to increased delays.

It's vital that Urban & Civic share more information: residents, local businesses and visitors deserve to know what 'friction' means in real world terms. How much longer will the queues be? What does the deterrent effect for 'through' traffic look like in real life? Who else will be deterred or 'inconvenienced'? What does this mean for residents living on Bygrave road, or Salisbury Road, and along North Road?

Urban & Civic must publish a detailed traffic impact assessment, including modelling for peak times, school runs, and station access, and share their assessment of what this means for Baldock's businesses. Failure to do this undermines trust and risks undermining the goal of 'Growing Baldock'.

Yours sincerely,
Nikki da Costa & Cllr Michael Muir

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Annex A: Open text responses

This Annex contains the 'open text' responses where permission was given to share their responses.

Respondents were asked what concerns they had about the proposed traffic changes and how they might affect their visits to Baldock.

Extremely Short sighted plan. Plan is based on 'having to do something', due to the number of extra houses!

Convenience of just being able to run into a shop week be lost and people will only go to Tesco

Delays & parking

Congestion. Impact on environment.

Delayed travel times

Traffic congestion leading to delays. Parking availability especially at the station

The removal of Bygrave Road will make it harder to access Baldock railway station and many will be more likely to drive to Stevenage railway station instead. The planned link from Bygrave to the A505 (under the railway) will turn Ashwell Road through Bygrave into a rat run. The inability to turn left from the A507 onto the A505 (while a good idea for Baldock) will increase traffic cutting through Ashwell, travelling from the A1 to the A505 (accessing it at Odsey).

The traffic is already a problem under the railway bridge which affects access to the town centre and the train station. The potential for this to be even worse really makes me consider not living in the surrounding area or going to other places like Royston.

Leaving Ashwell village to Baldock or any neighbouring towns and villages is accessed via Bygrave Road joining onto North Road by the Railway Bridge. Traffic changes here will make this a much more difficult, and arduous journey.

Wasting valuable time

I want direct access to the town

I would welcome a park and ride for Baldock Station as parking is difficult at the best of times. Something similar to Cambridge would be ideal.

Will take longer to do my visits

Current system works fine. Why change it

Delays very likely, impact to business likely, additional congestion to other arterial roads likely

North Road is bad enough at peak times - bringing it down to single lane is madness. No left turn into North Road? All the people on the north side of the railway bridge will go to Letchworth, Stotfold and Biggleswade, as it will be infinitely easier to get there than to get to the town centre of the place where they actually live - adding to the local pollution problem. Sure, some people will cycle but what about the retired residents at Norton Place and Magdalene Court who are mobility limited and can't cycle or walk that far

I'm mobility impaired and some days can barely walk 100yds. Other days I can walk more. I'm in my early 50's and the reduced mobility is down to an injury 3.5 years ago. The anti-car campaign

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is terrifying me. As someone who was always fit and active, who has had their life changed by a simple accident, I now see the world through other eyes. The agenda is ableist and ageist. God forbid any of the U&C staff, or anyone pushing this agenda gets old, frail, pregnant, injured or other and then has to remain in their house because they're not allowed to drive.

I am disabled, I don't walk or ride a bike

It will make it more difficult to get to the railway station and force more traffic down Norton Road/Icknield Way, or along the High Street/South Road/Clothall Road

This is going to cause delays and inconvenience.

A single lane shuttle system will surely cause delays getting to and from the station if coming from Whitehorse Street. When dropping someone (or taking myself) to and from the station I often pop to a shop in Baldock. But if the access to the station is difficult, I'll probably start dropping at Letchworth, Stevenage or Ashwell station and using shops there. A lot of people from nearby villages do this for children at school in Cambridge/Hitchin/Welwyn and for family members who commute.

severe congestion, delays, more accidents, parking and I will not be visiting Baldock if these changes go ahead.

Traffic chaos on other local roads due to no left turn into North Road. Have all the ramifications of this really been thought through? It feels that this design is trying to ignore the through traffic and pretend it doesn't need proper allowance. Please keep the left turn off Whitehorse road.

They will increase traffic causing delays going into my beloved Baldock. I will have to shop/eat elsewhere. I travel in 3-4 times a week currently.

I'm worried it will take much longer to get to Baldock so visiting won't be worth it.

It is already difficult to get to Baldock via north road with the build up of traffic closing the access will make it worse surrounding villages have no way of getting to Baldock other than the A505 which is a terribly dangerous road which involves crossing over carriage ways in both directions

The proposed changes would cause inconvenience and delays to my journey and without adequate parking would certainly push me to visit another nearby town. My journey to Baldock train station via the A501 route, which I use at least 3 times per week, would be significantly impacted via traffic delays.

Access to schools and massive delays in achieving goals

Severe delay

Concerned about the time it may take to get into Baldock. Also about future parking.

delays

With the proposed changes, the only route from Ashwell to Baldock will be along the A505. This is a very dangerous road and I wouldn't then drive to Baldock.

The inconvenience that would be caused by traffic delays in getting in to Baldock

Difficulty accessing Baldock - traffic delays and reduced parking

Fully understand the wishes of the council to ease the traffic problems, it can take a good few minutes queuing to get into town now, but the proposal would decimate the local businesses, parking on the high street is so convenient to access the shops, this scheme needs rethinking.

My concern in essence, apart from personal inconvenience is that all the extra housing that is planned will increase the pressure on local roads and the area in question is already busy (very busy at times) and will only get busier.

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Long delays

Delays would be too time consuming to justify visiting.

As a new resident of Ashwell, I have been looking forward to visiting my closest town and exploring the cafés and restaurants as well as shopping. The proposed restricting of access via the railway bridge seems ludicrous to me, especially considering all the new housing the council will have created on the Bygrave side of Baldock. It will either be an own-goal of delays, congestion and idling traffic, or people will simply avoid the town altogether. The clear message to me, as a resident of Ashwell, will be drive further (via the A505) and use more fuel (petrol or electricity). Whilst I sympathise with the council's wish to encourage more cycling, the war against the car, which is still unavoidably most peoples' primary form of transport, only results in a lower quality of life due to the stress and delays these kind of measures always bring. If this goes ahead, I will visit Letchworth instead.

This is my normal route into Baldock as with most people from Ashwell. That part is already very congested - making it into a shuttle traffic light will add to the congestion and put a lot of people off going to Baldock. We love Baldock but would need to use the A505 which is dangerous to cross to turn right so would probably go to Royston instead.

Baldock is the closest market town to Ashwell and access to and ability to park in town centre are vital

I travel daily via Baldock to connect A507

There are already frequent tail-backs on North Road going south to the cross-roads. This restriction at the rail bridge will only add to them, leading to delays and increased air pollution because traffic in a queue will leave engines running. This will have a disastrous effect on cyclists and pedestrians coming down to Baldock via the closed road from Bygrave. If so, it rather defeats the purpose of putting in the restriction.

Regarding the Bygrave closure, we can still access Baldock from Ashwell via Newnham, but that does not avoid the North Road tail-back. Our alternatives would be via the A507 northbound, the A1(M) and London Road, or via Odsey and the A505. The junction at Odsey is notoriously dangerous, and the money spent on creating a traffic jam on the A507 would be better spent improving it.

Infrastructure needs to support Baldock throughout the development period- the businesses in Baldock cannot be cut off for a prolonged initial period. They will not survive.

Congestion means I will go to Baldock less or not at all. I don't have the time to sit in traffic or use a longer route.

My worry is how will you be able to get to the station, there are going to be long traffic delays. It won't be easy to just pop into Baldock to go to the post office or deliver clothes donations to the charity shops or visit restaurants. I would probably go elsewhere.

The alterations will only lead to increased traffic delays when entering Baldock from North Rd. The proposed changes will also severely restrict access to the railway station for all due to traffic delays.

The traffic queues at the Whitehorse traffic lights are already too long. Any Baldock development plan should FIRST be implementing an effective solution to this (I.e. providing a less restricted route for local traffic from the north to access Baldock) BEFORE any increase in housing is even started.

I usually turn left from Bygrave Road to enter Baldock and the traffic at that junction is already built up at most times of the day, its not just a rush hour traffic problem. Baldock bypass has done nothing at all to improve traffic problems along the A507 entering Baldock and the timing of the traffic lights at the main crossroads needs to be amended. As I usually need to visit Tesco

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and the industrial area, I will probably try to find another way around if the traffic problems are increased as a result of these changes.

Time added to journeys

Delays, parking, huge inconvenience

I am always in and out of Baldock for various reasons including shopping at the local businesses. If I couldn't access it properly with my car I would go further a field.

It will affect me going out to meet with friends and visit family as well as shopping in the town and nights out in the town which i do twice a week as a single female driving home in the dark often after 1am i don't really want to be driving a long way round for safety reasons as well as in convenience and extra fuel costs going the long way round not to mention extra pollution that the local area will suffer

Delays - why doesn't the alternative road linking the Royston road get built first before making north road a single lane to give alternative route first????

I am appalled at the proposed traffic changes and the inconvenience I will cause to Ashwell and other neighbouring village residents who use the Station Road bridge into Baldock.

I am all for encouraging cycling, but let's create purpose built cycle lanes and tunnels under the railway that route cyclists away from vehicular traffic.

It would mean I have to go further, the other side of Baldock just to get into the town. It's already very busy to join the road from Bygrave without added traffic lights.

Delays. Inconvenience. Parking costs.

Needs more thought for access by people living in villages

The delays would mean I would meet friends and shop elsewhere

I am concerned that it will cause a backlog of traffic in north road and more cars using nortonbury lane as a rat run.

I am a Blue Badge car so parking and the use of the car is essential

I am a blue badge holder so walking or cycling is not a consideration

There are always queues getting in to Baldock down North Road. When there are accidents on the A1 traffic comes through Baldock making the traffic worse. Getting to my pilates classes on Baldock Industrial Estate will be very time consuming. The no left turn into Whitehorse Street will mean an extended car journey on most trips

Congestion and increased commute leading to more pollution. Delays taking my children to and from school. I'm less likely to go into town. Increased fuel costs

At present there are always delays on North Road and these proposed changes will make it much worse. I have to come twice a day to the school in Baldock. There is only one bus a day from Bygrave to Baldock at 9.50 am and returns around 14.00 so my husband and I have no other way of getting the grandchildren to school

Total congestion especially along station road and Hitchin Street

Delays and traffic will be absolutely ridiculous. It will make going to my local town a much more difficult task which is just completely unfair.

Long queues of traffic on Station Road

There are already long queues on north road to get into Baldock, restricting access this way would make this problem worse. Baldock is surrounded by many villages that have no choice but to use cars to access the town. Why would planners make people's lives more difficult? If this happens I will have to shop and use services elsewhere.

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Convenience & delays

Delays and added journey time

I also work in Baldock and traffic is already bad most of the days. This will definitely impact the traffic even more and poor local businesses are going to suffer. It is a market town and access should be easier and not making it harder. Encouraging economy with more road blocks!!!??? Who can approve this ?? Definitely some back handers I think.

The traffic is already prohibitive and this change will cut off rural villages from accessing their local amenities

Delays due to the increased build up of traffic. The current light system already backs cars up all the way up North Road towards Newnham. This would mean the ease and convenience of being able to get to the train station, shops, library etc would all be removed.

Delays

Absolute grid lock. It is bad enough now at peak times, despite the addition of the Baldock bypass all those years ago that was aimed at reducing exactly this problem. We honestly feel this is a ridiculous idea and will measurably impact businesses within Baldock as people will be deterred from visiting due to the traffic issues. We really can't see how traffic lights so close to each other (bridge then T junction) will help matters. Our shopping activities will transfer elsewhere to avoid this ridiculousness.

Delays

Access to Baldock is more difficult and would encourage me to go elsewhere. That or I would have to take a longer route which is not great for the environment. I can't cycle that distance with small children!

Delays it can already take 30mins to get in to Baldock from radwell at peak times

I have 7 young children - it is not feasible for me to use public transport or cycling as an alternative method of travel. We are in Baldock multiple times a week to use the church, InPost lockers at the station, doctors surgery, play parks, library, bakery, and Tesco. We also use cafés and restaurants and the butchers.

Under the proposed road changes any visits to Baldock from Radwell will become harder and take longer. Baldock is our nearest town- it's where we shop, go to the dentist, the doctors, get our hair cut, eat and meet friends for coffee etc. we consider it 'our' town and feel as if we're being penalised as people who live in a village with no facilities just 1 mile nor so outside Baldock

The proposed changes would very much impact our visits to Baldock especially our journeys to and from school every day. Getting out onto the 507 is already difficult, add the narrowing of the road under the bridge with traffic lights and it will make our journey a nightmare. As the population of Baldock is going to be almost doubled. I am very concerned about this working at all

Further to drive....will use more fuel.....less green

Make visiting my family very difficult,

The chaos this would cause coming into Baldock, huge delays, traffic everywhere

The reason for this traffic is mostly getting onto the bypass to Royston from the A1 north direction. Which route would people take, this could make them late for work as traffic is already backed up here with the current 4 way lights.

Living in Stotfold it would be impossible to cycle into Baldock with two children and shopping!

We live at Salisbury Road, this would impact my daily commute to work, the school, everything. We are considering moving.

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Caring for disabled adults would cause problems

Also with the housing estate being built would cause more delays due to making the road a bottle neck

Ridiculous, I travel in and out of Baldock multiple times a week to Letchworth, Stotfold and Hitchin. Restrictions under the bridge is NOT the way to address congestion...cheap cop out. There should be a road from the services to take traffic direct to A505. Why should residents suffer.

I am a Blue Badge holder. I have NO alternative

Severe delays on North Road

The time it may take to get into the town/ the parking. The idea of getting people to walk or ride is ridiculous if you can't do these things. Baldock has a lot of older people.

Delays in getting into town and to school in the mornings

Having to use a alternative/ longer route would prevent me visiting Baldock

Longer delays accessing Baldock from where I live, parking is bad already in Baldock more housing will exacerbate this problem. Cycle lanes will only apply to a small minority of people.

The new road in the development will become a major thoroughfare between A1 south and A505 East.

It would make it much more difficult to access Baldock - so likely to use Letchworth or Royston instead.

None, I would welcome a safer.cycling route, it would encourage me to visit Baldock more often.

I travel that way to get to work from the high street, it will add time onto my day every single day, and cause more traffic on other routes, adding even more time spent travelling, and more pollution. I also prefer Baldock mcdonalds to Letchworth (quality wise), this would be a large inconvenience to my late night cravings.

The proposed changes would make my commute to work even more difficult.

Would make grocery shopping, in particular, much more difficult

Impact on the Ashwell to Baldock school bus and delays that's could occur and increase in journey time. For other visits more likely to use Biggleswade, Letchworth or Hitchin

Traffic queues along Clothall Road will mean more traffic through the High Street and Pinnocks Lane (driving the wrong way down). This will be a nightmare with Fair in October.

Delays and parking convenience. The roads struggle enough already without all the extra traffic and cars we will have from these extra houses.

Delays, traffic jams and also would loose the business already open in the town it would become a ghost town with empty shops

Hasn't been thought out very well people doing town planning need to spend time in Baldock not just on Wednesday at 11am try weekend see difficulty for parking , heavy lorry how one two business use residential street as parking for their business , simple method adapted what done in London unless your residents its paid parking or local transport also talk to residents not social media busy bodies who generally clueless

Commuting in and out of Baldock daily is already congested along the roads likely to be made worse with these plans

To restrict Station Road to a single lane will cause long traffic queues in all directions, just like it was before the bypasses were built. Some of us can remember those awful days pf long traffic

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queues. I cannot see the point of it. How will the residents in the new houses get into the town. We cant all walk long distances and cycle. There are lots of elderly resident who need to travel by car.

My childcare comes to me via North Road and so will make it inconvenient and a longer commute for them, as well as delay me going to work in the morning.

Longer travel times through town and also out of town via the changed routes

Delays, increased traffic on other roads, decrease in people visiting shops etc

There is so much traffic going under that bridge that there is long queues already. The proposed changed will not alleviate this but potentially impact on the roads around it as vehicles will have to queue to get into town.

It beggars belief that this is even being considered. North Road A507 is the main northbound entrance and exit from Baldock. The other Norton road already has traffic calming at stotfold end. It would cause unnecessary transit to Bedfordshire via less suitable roads. If the desire is to cut HGV traffic in Baldock would it be more suitable to have a lorry ban or 7.5ton weight limit as in cotteder recently implemented

Turning left onto North Road is a big issue as that is they way I go to work in Biggleswade.

It's the opposite end of town to me, but if I couldn't use Whitehorse street this would impact on my use of businesses in neighbouring towns - including the services, Stotfold, and Arlesey. It would put more pressure on the Norton Road route, which is already a congested road to navigate as it is residential with many parked cars.

Traffic has already been reduced drastically with the bypass. Further reducing it could see the town die making it harder for people to visit.

Congestion at key times is terrible in Baldock - especially from North Road. Given the bridge over the railway line is not due until 2033, the situation for us and the other villages (Ashwell etc) will be intolerable as I understand the existing Bygrave road from Baldock will be closed well before that. The proposed changes to North Road will make it much more efficient for us to shop in Biggleswade or Letchworth via the A1. In many of the consultations over the last few years I have queried the traffic modelling that has been done. I am astounded that this has not been subject to public scrutiny and that an impact assessment regarding Baldock businesses has not been done.

I live on Icknield Way and travel on North Road & Norton Road for school runs to Stotfold and work in St Neots. The proposed restrictions at Norton Road/Icknield Way junction, and North Road will impact me multiple times every day, to the point that I will consider moving out of the town to avoid.

It's unnecessary and will affect all of the wonderful independent businesses that Baldock is loved for

Delays as I don't think this will stop traffic coming into Baldock

I lived in Baldock for 30 years and only recently moved out due to rising house prices. I still have close family and friends in Baldock so visit once a week minimum. The traffic changes to Whitehorse Street and single lane traffic under the railway bridge would add significant delays to getting into Baldock Town centre. There are already large queues and I believe this plan would cause utter traffic chaos. In an idealistic world yes, people would walk or cycle. But from the new housing estate, people would need to drive into the town centre to visit Tesco, the Surgery, etc. This could be due to mobility issues or having small children, for example.

I live in Baldock and have reason to visit businesses in Baldock as well as travel outside on a daily basis. If the plans go ahead, I would probably just move areas entirely.

Convenience

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Delays increased at an already busy junction on Whitehorse street/Royston rd/clothall Ed and north Ed.

That road is a main route for many into and out of Baldock for work or leisure . If that is stopped it will become awful as all routes in and out will become even more congested than they are already . This will NOT help ease traffic it will make the surrounding residential roads far worse . Getting to work , school, onwards to Royston, visiting the shopping on Whitehorse , going up towards stotfold or up to the a1 will all become terrible . This would be an absolutely awful thing to do to Baldock and it's residents .

My family live in stofold and hitchin and travel to us often , this proposed change would make their visits less with traffic and the potential for having to drive another route causing further chaos to the other already busy roads . Lorries cause the problem in Baldock as they frequently hit the bridge . Lorries Constantly use the roads i thought were restricted causing issues as they dont fit. That is the problem not car users and I do not see any benefit to Baldock or surrounding areas whatsoever.

We live behind the station and have a young baby who needs to attend doctors and baby classes. I would be less likely to use Baldock services and travel to Letchworth and Biggleswade. Going around would also add time to my journey and the country road that can be used is dangerous and narrow with my baby

How I'd access my house, friends and businesses, also how I'd travel out of town- I live on Church Street so very close to the railway bridge and London road. If sun street is blocked you have to turn left at the junction onto London road.

Congestion

As a resident who lives on north road, I have seen significant queues from the traffic lights sometimes reaching near nortunbury lane, long past the station. I think adding another set of lights will contribute to this issue further and will cause unnecessary congestion.

Delays traffic jams

It would affect my travel to work and home as j live next to the train station

Delays and businesses closing down due to reduced business

None, i think its a good idea.

How does traffic access the station safely? The congestion it will cause to other roads

Convenience of being able to 'nip' in but also for longer leisure interests where parking close by would impact ability to stay for leisure without having to consider routes/parking that might make me turn towards Letchworth/ hitchin as an alternative

I am really worried that I might have to go elsewhere because I cannot visit my usual shops

If you close the road I will go else where the convince is gone , it's how I travel to Ashwell regularly, it would really have a negative impact on myself family friends and the towns business

Delays, inconvenience

Delays, pollution from cars stopping at new lights.

Delays getting in and out of the town, not just impacting local businesses but people who live in the town, it will make our day to day lives harder. The train system is unreliable and overcrowded so accessing the town by public transport is not an option. AT 65, for me, cycling and increased walking are not options and with so many retirement properties now in the town I suspect the case for many others.

I think prioritising walking and cycling routes is great! Having active travel with edge of town parking, while still providing disabled parking bays for those who need. Footfall from active travel will motivate more passers-by to other shops and interaction with our neighbours rather than 'in-

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and-out' quite individualistically oriented with the car only. I would like to walk or cycle from Letchworth, but the heavy traffic, especially correlated with narrower pedestrian paths getting into Baldock centre, is not pleasant, so I take the train.

None

Lack of access to town and it will have a huge impact on business

Station access. Parking near to the shops and services I need to get to.

I live on Salisbury Road, the plans are effectively cutting us off from the town we live in. At present we walk frequently to town, but there are always occasions on which you need to drive, doctors visits with sick children, purchasing heavy groceries, these changes will make life extremely challenging.

Getting to and from the railway station via car (essential for me) would be extremely difficult

Worried about friends and family from Ashwell, Royston and other nearby towns/villages not being able to visit as easily. Ashwell in particular only has one other route to Baldock, and it's on a very busy, dangerous road (by Ashwell Station).

There are already considerable delays on the North Road approaching the Whitehorse Street crossroads, making the railway bridge single lane will also cause traffic flow problems in the opposite direction. As honourable as making more cycle paths is, the reality is that most people living on the new estate will still drive, not cycle, so investing money changing the roads will be a waste of funds, as well as causing traffic issues, delays and a decrease in through traffic through the town.

Queues

I live on Whitehorse Street so this causes me great concern. Mainly how I would get in and out of town!!!! Also if there is no left turn from Whitehorse St to North road this means Icknield way will become more of a ridiculous rat run than it is now!!

More traffic and pollution in the town

I live in Baldock , changing parking, stopping left turns and changing roads to single lane will add more congestion to an already congested town .

No consultation

Station access from villages eg Bygrave as well as local residents

Increasing the journey times for taking and collecting children from school.

Parking, delays, difficulty in accessing the town from Ashwell and would use Letchworth or Hitchin instead

Long delays. Longer route in to Baldock from Ashwell. More emissions with the traffic build up.

It could rule out using Baldock Station. It could also have a serious impact on me visiting the retailers in Baldock.

Access without the proposed bridge over the railway would be restricted and very difficult

Convenience which is very important at my age and disability

Why are we putting bike lanes in for in a town the size of Baldock.? Shocking decision that will be to the detriment of our once lovely town. Yes ban the lorries for sure who pass through but everyone uses cars. How are you expected to bike with 4 loads of shopping from the shops? On the handle bars like we did as kids in the 70's!!!!

It will make it much more difficult to come into the town from Ashwell.

Delays and traffic jams

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I do pass through Baldock to get to Letchworth and Hitchin. I often stop in Whitehorse street to use the post office dentist charity shops etc. I don't plan the trip I just stop if I fancy it or have time. If I can't drive through I'll not go out of my way to do the above.

Traffic delays

This is a key access route to Baldock from Ashwell and other places to the north both for shopping and for access to the station. Other alternatives are a long way round and if a new link is to be built from Bygrave to the A505 will this be completed before the proposed change to North Road

They would make visits far too time consuming in terms of getting there and returning home. Quicker to go elsewhere.

This change will cause significant congestion and benefit very few cyclists and pedestrians. I rarely see cyclists on the A507

North Road(A507) is already backed up morning and afternoon, this will make it significantly worse-- turning at Bygrave road is going to be a bigger nightmare than it is today. Additionally, I try to ride my bike 1-2 days a week, navigating backed up cars that are likely to backfill Bygrave Road (and elsewhere) is going to add challenges.

Delays, congestion, parking issues

The access to Baldock from Ashwell is safer via North Rd either via Bygrave (my preferred option) or Newnham. I avoid as much as possible accessing the A505 as both junctions via Kingsland Way or Odsey are dangerous. I use Sainsbury and the other businesses on same retail park; this park though in Letchworth is almost Baldock. I visit Tesco as well as small shops/cafes in town and all of them always from North Rd. In addition I use Baldock Station over Ashwell and Morden as the parking is better and safer feeling; though I'm not a frequent rail user.

I appreciate the need to lighten through traffic but I do not consider myself 'through' traffic. I am local and Baldock is part of life in Ashwell. It is a very nice, small town that has gone from strength to strength over the years. Restricting access will not improve anything for me, other local residents nor the small businesses in Baldock.

If a suitable, alternate access road is to be provided then it needs to be in place before any changes are made. It also needs to make access easier than existing options or it will not get used.

I'm also not convinced single road access under the rail bridge will offer any improvements. To me it looks like it will only make it worse. You've only to use it when there is maintenance under the bridge and temporary lights are in place; it's always backed up. What considerations have also been made when there is an issue on the A1 and traffic uses town as a bypass? It will not be possible to stop this happening and it is bad when it does. A single access road will make it chaos.

congestion and extended time

As an Ashwell resident I rely on Baldock a lot (as mentioned Tesco, other shopping, Take aways and pubs and friends there. Plus other small businesses like Tous barbers or Sewing Bee on Clothall. You need to penalise through traffic not local traffic. The alternative is I visit Biggleswade and Royston more.

I believe that North Road will become completely clogged up. When the new road, bridge and access to A505 are completed, that may be a satisfactory means of access to the town centre. Even so, people travelling from further out, e.g. Stotfold, motorway junction etc. are hardly likely to make the big deviation so traffic jams are inevitable. The proposed plans will make it difficult for people from Ashwell to access the station.

The queues into Baldock along North Road are already bad enough at peak times and I always try and avoid them. I would probably incorporate my shopping trips into visits to Biggleswade or Royston instead.

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The proposed road changes will lead to gridlock when trying to enter Baldock. It seems like people are being discouraged from visiting the town. I am sure businesses will shut without village and passing trade

Delays and access to the railway station.

traffic congestion

It is already atrocious as the lights in the 6 years I've lived in Caldecote have never been adjusted correctly and you idiots now want to make it worse!

Keep the roads as they are, otherwise I will not visit, Had enough of traffic.

The delays involved with merely entering the town will be catastrophic. The issue here is not drivers as children need to be dropped at school every day - as it's a primary school you can't expect young children to be cycling from outer villages such as Radwell. This is also a main route for people heading to Buntingford and the villages in between.

Delay between proposed traffic lights and existing traffic lights. Access to the train station and other roads being blocked. Access to Bygrave road turning in / out would be more difficult and queues along the North Road to the services would increase

In principle the proposal will be a good thing - but not until the A507 to A505 link road has been completed, otherwise there will be chaos. Its imperative that for things to work smoothly this link road must be the priority before any other changes to road layouts and access to Baldock.

The traffic is already bad getting into Baldock. Realistically, if this is made further worse by the traffic lights, I will drive to Biggleswade, taking my custom away from Baldock. I understand the need to encourage cycling, but how many people are going to cycle under the bridge? It feels like a big impact to the many for the benefit of only a few.

More delay getting into Baldock.

Traffic build up between two sets of lights we have to wait long enough now .

As an OAP I can't walk or cycle so would have to drive to Stotfold instead

Local independent traders will suffer. Accessing Baldock with have longer queues and affect the older residents due to poor public transport available.

I live on North Road but a long walk up (2nd to last house). People barely do the proposed speed limit and the path is regularly overgrown. I go into Baldock most days and this would be extremely inconvenient. Luckily I put my children in a Letchworth school due to North Road traffic. It's awful a lot of the time without making it worse.

There are many concerns, about these specific changes and the wider proposed changes. 'Growing Baldock' is naturally going to come at a cost (many costs) and significant impacts by the nature of Baldock being a medieval market town. Significant time, effort and money was spent on the bypass, which largely unsuccessfully has still left Baldock with a steady traffic load including heavy goods through North Road, for both Baldock and beyond. Despite the potential for a new route through the development for Royston and A505, this will likely drive more traffic to that point (further defeating and devaluing the bypass intentions and costs), but for everyone still bound for Baldock, its businesses and services or other routes, restricting this to traffic lights, a single lane through the tunnel in such close proximity to the pedestrian crossing, train station junction and traffic lights at Whitehorse street intersection, will be utterly chaotic and detrimental to the town. The need to support and facilitate a cycle lane, is not justified on the basis (hobbyist cyclists, as they are not commuters) have no cycle path or protection down the entirety of North Road (a 60mph road in part), so providing that just for the purposes of the short passage through the tunnel is ludicrous! There is both no demand or history of safety concerns, injury and accidents requiring such additional drastic changes on top of the plethora of other significantly damaging and irreversibly destructive propositions for 'Growing Baldock'.

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As a resident of North Road, this in turn also significantly hinders and impacts my family's and my ability to reach and use my local community and services, and could force alternative services, shops and amenities to be used, outside of Baldock.

The queue to get into Baldock from the service station can already be long. The proposed traffic changes will make this situation significantly worse. We live in Bygrave. Walking from there is wholly impractical for us. Cycling during the Winter months is equally impractical. Right now the only sensible means of getting into Baldock is to drive down Ashwell Road and join the North Road

At the moment it is very easy to pop to Baldock for a coffee, or to go to Chapmans, Days, Cavavin or to eat/get a takeaway. If I had to queue in traffic regularly then I would be more likely to pop down the town in Letchworth rather than Baldock.

A traffic lights at the bridge is madness and it will only make traffic worse. Probably a better solution would be to put a weight restriction on North Road forcing heavy vehicle to access the A505 from the Letchworth Gate Roundabout.

I'm a resident of 30 years in Baldock and in this time I've NEVER felt properly considered in particular the parking situation. It's Victorian and has NOT moved with the times and needs of locals. Therefore all the proposed road changes are going to make things WORSE. But as none of the planners or developers live in Baldock, what do they care. The word N.I M.B.Y rings loud and clear. Not impressed.... As you can probably tell...

The proposed traffic changes are IMPOSSIBLE ! The county council and the developers were told at the early meetings that this development was too big and ill conceived because it was the wrong side of the railway, But of course no one listened to the residents and business community. (I Had a shop in Baldock at the time) Unless a solution of getting the residents of the new housing development access to the town without using Station Road it should be scrapped At least 2 crossings of the railway should be made for such a large number of residents The planed one leading to the A505 and the only place I can see for another is Icknield Way East & B565 which I would think are not suitable for the amount of traffic concerned. If I remember correctly there was an early proposal the build a new road crossing over or under the railway across the allotments on north road but how you connect with existing roads to the town I do not know. It needs a great deal of rethinking ! but the present proposal WILL DESTROY the town as people will go for easy access shopping in Stotfold or Letchworth. Baldock Councillors should remember the last time they Improved the town by narrowing all the roads and removing the parking places

You will be diverting heavy traffic through surrounding villages. That's why the bypass was built.

It will make the visit more difficult and a financial burden.

Parking and the traffic in the morning is ridiculous

As a resident of Roman Lane it is becoming increasingly hard and dangerous to pull out of road or cross the road to walk our dog. Cars speed along that road as it is and it is dangerous to children, elderly and animals. Needs to be some traffic calming or speed control in place.

raised levels of pollution with traffic building up. Also as a resident in Icknield Way, which is used as a rat run, this will only increase.

I live in Salisbury road. Getting through the crossroad traffic lights is already hard without 3000 new houses. Getting to and from work will likely take considerably longer, or I'll divert trough villages to take the one way system out. Other drivers will likely do the same which diverts the issue elsewhere. To drop my children at knights Templar takes 20+ minutes from Salisbury road on my way to work. This will also increase considerably with this ridiculous and badly thought out "plan"

The delays and heavy traffic it's already very busy on the north rd

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North road is already extremely congested, without adding thousands of additional households. This route will become unusable. Making it wider would be the only conceivable change!

Huge delays getting to and back from work, which I do 5-6 times per day

It cuts off the north side of Baldock from all services and shops making shopping for the elderly impossible. It also stops access to facilities in Letchworth such as the leisure centre without using as very long, environmentally unfriendly route via J10 of the A1

The organisation and people creating this plan have no links or commitments to the town. They will impose their views and then walk away with no responsibility. We will be left with their failed legacy.

In my opinion a left turn from the A507 Eastbound at Whitehorse Street is long overdue and its implementation would have no effect whatever on Baldock Town Centre businesses.

Absolutely can't happen it's already a traffic jam

They need to visit this area in the morning mid morning afternoon and evening it's a traffic nightmare already

Increased traffic use of South Road.

there seems to be a complete lack of understanding of how vehicles flow through Baldock and how this would impact businesses. For example, why have 20mph been introduced throughout Clothall Common to reduce injury to school children at Hartsfield when the Clothall Common access to school has been closed for years - all traffic goes through Clothall Road as that is the only entrance, yet all speed safety measures raised by the residents of that road have been ignored and 30mph is still enforce. If they can't even look at that logically then there is no hope for the rest of Baldock.

Long routes and delays

My wife works in Biggleswade and comes home at about 2.30 each day. We live in Bramley close, off Icknield way east so she would have to take a massive detour just to get home. I sometimes work in Royston which would also make my journey home a lot worse.

Nothing I can think of.

Has consideration been given to Baldock residents who travel north for work?

None

I'd worry for commuters relying on the northbound route out of Baldock. I used to do this most days and it was bad enough then

Increased traffic and long traffic queues in and out of Baldock

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Why do you enjoy visiting Baldock's businesses, and why is it important to keep them accessible?

I visit them because if I don't they will disappear!

I have developed friendships with the local business people.

Its a lovely little town don't ruin it

Built up relationships with people. Community.

I'm sure you don't want it becoming a ghost town

Facilities not available in Ashwell

Good businesses delivering local services. I don't want to have to drive further away.

They are the businesses that are most convenient and I have made relationships with people like the hair dresser.

Baldock has a great variety of amenities and locations and is not always rammed full of people and cars.

If I cannot access them easily and quickly I will go to another town

friendly local services that I value

I love the old market town feel to Baldock, please don't change that with the development. It is part of our history.

Choice and support for local business

We need our shops and businesses

It's my local town and life line for public services

Friendly, local, varied.

Well - they're all service / hospitality businesses in the main, but at least they're providing (low-paid) jobs that enable people to get together, enjoy food and drink, and socialise. It's a vibrant community and we should be embracing that, not destroying it.

My local town, needs to be supported

It's my local town and I like to shop locally

I love Baldock. Local businesses that deliver in and around Baldock e.g. Takeaways are going to struggle.

Great local shops and convenient to access with easy High Street parking

Its a beautiful town with much history and a lot of excellent local business inc the market, social events, pubs and restaurants that I use.

It's a beautiful town, and some of the independent shops are lovely. I also use the library a lot.

The local businesses supply high quality personalised services. We shop & eat locally but if the traffic & parking situation worsens, we will more likely go to Letchworth.

I like going for a day in Baldock. We visit the garden centre and library and then go for lunch somewhere. If I couldn't easily drive to them from Ashwell I'd go to Royston instead.

I have family here and it is the nearest town from the village I live in

Baldock is a vibrant little town with a decent range of shops and cafes. Its current parking options make it very easy to pop in from Ashwell and support the local business.

Support the local business

Convenient and cheerful

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Currently it is easy to get into and out of Baldock and parking is reasonably easy

a few shops and restaurants that I frequent

Baldock is a great town to visit, very convenient for the post office and with a good selection of local shops and cafes

It is currently convenient for me to get into Baldock and the variety of businesses currently meets my needs

Like to support local business. Baldock is a thriving town with lots to offer.

As older residents of Ashwell we prefer to support the local businesses in Baldock high street , they are all of a high standard, and the convenience of having them with accessible parking outside is a bonus, we fear for their future if you went ahead with this proposal. Baldock is an attractive town, it would be sad for it to loose its heart which these changes would surely make it happen with locals from outlying villages not going into it.

It's the most pleasant place locally to visit for most of my needs, I don't want that to become more difficult. The most convenient routes are through Bygrave and Newnham, both of which will be affected by this plan.

Small business need supporting, it a friendly place to shop

Coach a football team that uses the facilities. We will no longer be able to use them if access becomes restricted.

I think Baldock is a relaxed and easy-to-access town with an interesting mix of businesses, including my favourite shop, Finesse Interiors.

We use the library, shops, cafes (particularly Dizi and Pixies) and the wine shop. We enjoy getting fish and chips from The Maltings - this will definitely impact on all of these businesses.

Because the offering is getting better epically for cafes bars and restaurants

Enjoy coming to Baldock

Tesco is the nearest large supermarket for us, Chapmans is a butchers and delicatessen offering superb variety and there are specialist shops like Finesse and the clock shop unavailable elsewhere in the vicinity. We have also used Amber Health and the Wyndham Centre for complementary medical services. Since living in the area we have noticed several useful Baldock shops that have closed down; such as the hardware store; it would be foolish to allow yet more to close.

Pleasant safe environment which is easily accessible at all times of day, except the rush hour periods. The current proposals are likely to make the 'rush hour' squeeze a feature throughout the day- in which case a very high proportion of local visitors will simply go elsewhere- I will

Close to Ashwell, good variety of options for shop/ear/services.

I agree that it is very important to keep Baldock businesses accessible for people who live in the villages around Baldock. I enjoy having the convenience of them on my doorstep. If it is made difficult to get into Baldock to visit the Supermarket, Station, Post Office and Restaurants I will definitely think twice about using those business and would go elsewhere. Sadly these traffic proposals will have a huge detrimental effect on Baldock businesses.

They are important to the local community and therefore always worth supporting.

Baldock is the natural "local town" for Ashwell. We should be being ENCOURAGED to access and use Baldock's businesses and services, and to be effectively "locked out" of Baldock by restricting our access due to the inevitable increase on journey time that is being proposed. If it is quicker to get to the center of Letchworth than it is to get to the center of Baldock, then that is where I will go.

Being the closest larger town to Ashwell where I live, its imperative to me that access to Baldock is easy. Its where I shop, exercise and access the dentist.

Great cafe culture and supermarket

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My acupuncturist is very important to me, I attend regularly, I also regularly use the cafes, Tesco of course, other shops, Baldock's unique and friendly atmosphere

The butchers, the wine shop, Tescos and the nail bar are a few of the ones I frequently go to. If it was difficult to get in and out of Baldock I would certainly go elsewhere.

Baldock is my home town and I have lots of family in Baldock as well as friends i love going back to my home town to enjoy the events local business have to offer and the events that happen throughout the year within the town centre which local businesses contribute to i feel this will put the last nail in the coffin for I local businesses i don't understand why you want to do this .

Once the new road is open to supply the new housing estate the north road and under the bridge will become quieter and safer for all users including cyclists and pedestrians. You need to spend the money on repairs on our existing roads rather than close Baldock off

Nice town

Baldock is a very pleasant historic market town and the most convenient to shop in and get my hair cut.

I go to Tesco about 3 times a week, also, my hairdresser and nail lady are in Baldock.

I enjoy the convenience of accessing Baldock's businesses and services without the time consuming and often expensive parking difficulties/ expense of larger towns. It is my local town and I enjoy its familiarity.

Ease of parking and good selection of businesses

There are good shops and cafes

They offer choice and convenience.

It is a small town and we interact with local traders. This is not growing Baldock it is putting in an oversized development and trying to make Baldock fit!

Baldock is my local centre so I wish to support local businesses

Baldock is a lovely small town with some excellent shops and many places to eat and meet friends for coffee or lunch. It has a nice safe atmosphere.

Because it's a lovely place and shouldn't be allowed to be ruined by daft road layout decisions. It's also important as myself and wife have two small children to look after as well as two elderly parent inlaws who are not very mobile and rely upon us to drive them into town.

I use the cafes regularly and also the hairdresser. Beauty Salon. dentist. Doctors. Post office and supermarkets

Quality and convenience of local products

Because they are local to me, where I go to buy things I need as well as socialise.

They are convenient and provide a range of useful services.

Close, convenient, easy to access, prefer these shops to others

Limiting access from the North would make me shop more at the large supermarkets and retail park which have easy access and not prone to delays rather than the small businesses on the high street.

Lovely town centre, and the small businesses need our support. I also attend church in Baldock, and cannot be cut off from this vital community group.

I love the market every Wednesday also amazing butchers and local cafes. It is amazing town so please save from being a GHOST TOWN !!

The majority of my social and leisure time is based around Baldock, and reducing access will make me feel totally isolated

They are independent and all run by people who care greatly about the community. Put barriers in the way and people will look to shop elsewhere. It has been proven up and down the country that people need convenience. By taking away or restricting access it will push more and more people to shop in retail parks.

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Offers everything for my daily needs

Unique businesses, as well as the large Tesco's and varied food establishments make Baldock a lovely town to visit. There are shops here not available elsewhere locally (the curtain/fabrics shop, the model shop). Also, our Dr's surgery is in Baldock. Plus a number of accessible dentist surgeries.

They are in the next town

Baldock is a lovely town with great shops and cafes. I have lots of friends in Baldock who also have small children and this would cut me off from them.

It's my closest town

Supporting local is best! I would be disappointed to travel to Stotfold instead, as I feel part of Hertfordshire and Baldock, plus Baldock is closest!

See above

Baldock is a very charming little Georgian town with lots of small businesses. If they are not kept accessible, I'm afraid the town will die.

Baldock is my closest town

Use them or lose them

They are currently easily accessible and have good parking, a good small town feel and good atmosphere

It's quaint, hosts lots of social events, lovely restaurants, excellent supermarket.

Our chosen hairdresser is in Baldock, local coffee shops. They must be accessible for all not just those that live in Baldock

Small town, with all the conveniences we need on our doorstep

Because I live in Baldock it's important to support local businesses or we will lose them

Yes, it has lovely independent shops, great community spirit, which planners seem to want to destroy.

Ease of access and free parking

Good and familiar services/shops

I like to shop local and support the few businesses we have

Lots of independent business and cafes will suffer if people cannot access the town.

Enjoy the weekly market. Good selection of cafés & restaurants. Charity shops are also good and will suffer if less footfall to Baldock

I enjoy the restaurants and cafes. My dentist and hairdressers are in Baldock and I use the Butchers and Baldock Market, which will completely fold if access to Baldock becomes more difficult.

Like to support local businesses

Local, mainly independent and friendly.

More options available than Ashwell

N/a, i live here

We have some shops that have been here for years which include a proper butchers and a bakery which I visit every week. If accessibility to any of the local businesses is affected then it will reduce footfall even more, putting businesses at an even greater risk of closure. The elderly and disabled need them to be accessible.

Nearest supermarkets and other main services, eg barbers

Baldock is a nice town and I like to use the shops, hairdressers, fish chips and pubs.

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Small independent shops and services are enjoyed by many. Cycling or walking are not easy for some people especially in cold wet weather. The buses are not reliable and will also be held up in the traffic queues.

There is a varied number of shops and restaurants/bars that all rely on our business to keep going

Restaurant, coffee shops, schools doctors and shop

Easy get around by foot

Residents need to support the local businesses

To support local people and businesses

Convenient, great quality and enjoy supporting small businesses

I love our town as it is and supporting local businesses is important to me. These changes will make access to these businesses more difficult and less desirable as travel to other towns will be more easier and direct.

Independent businesses, keep accessible or lose them. Parking is already an issue

Small accessible High Street

I live in Baldock and suggest we have the rights to come and go via existing roads

Because they are friendly and good quality

Variety of businesses that meet my needs. Shopping local is important and I prefer our local small businesses to chains in neighbouring towns

The history of Baldock is beautiful and there is not another town like it locally. It has managed to remain alive while others are dying.

Our most convenient supermarket is Tesco's in Baldock; we regularly meet friends socially in pubs and restaurants in Baldock. Although we live in one of the villages most effected by the proposals, we regard Baldock as 'our town centre'

I prefer to support local business, usually walking from home, but seems very difficult to get to and from my own home from out of town (north) with current proposals which is causing stress and anxiety

I love supporting independent and would much rather a coffee & cake from one of our many lovely cafes over a Costa or Starbucks!!

its a Lovely town and with some good Cafe's and restaurants

There are a number of independent businesses, cafes and restaurants in Baldock. If I can't easily get into Baldock from North Road, the likelihood of me going into the town centre is much lower because I will visit my family via London Road and head back out that way, bypassing the town centre completely.

Lots of it business generation for businesses, other just socialising.

Lived here 30 years like to

Support local

Lots of independent shops/cafes.

I live here so I want to support the businesses that are already struggling. All the small businesses need Hertfordshire residents. Access to Stotfold, Letchworth, Royston, Baldock (for example thornes garden centre , co-op , the mill nature reserve , hairdressers, dentist , use that road you are proposing to make changes to . At present there is a temporary light causing chaos, I cannot imagine the chaos a permanent change would cause . Cars need access to the station also as I pick up my disabled family member several times a week and go into town for food and shopping .

Locals know each other and we are a community who support each other. We need better transport bus service and a lift to the station

I enjoy supporting the local town.

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Support local business, convenient

Small businesses need to be accessible in order to thrive

I love to support the local businesses and be able to join in the many activists. I love being part of the Baldock community spirit.

My family and I enjoy the all the shops and the old feel of the town it's has and the people are friendly

There's such a big variety of shops and places to eat. I use the community centres for socialising as well as clubs for the kids.

Convenience, I live in Baldock and believe in supporting local businesses where possible

We are a small town, it needs roads and parking that encourage people to stop - and not get caught up in traffic chaos

Local experience, pleasure of the architecture. Independent businesses. I don't want chains of giant corporations I like supporting local people and those businesses often give the best services

I get great personal service from people that care

Why do you feel the need to spend everyone , other than stopping lorries to' use the road , leave it alone

It is my town, i live on the outskirts

They are the heart of the community. They make Baldock an attractive place to live in and visit.

Baldock businesses are so important to the town, they are independent on the whole and are what helps give the town it's character. We would like more businesses in town and they should be helped to thrive. Better roads and parking would help. At the moment I sometimes avoid the town center as I know there is no where to park- so I will go to Letchworth instead.

The charm and kindness of local businesses. Especially enjoy Pixies, Chapmans and Days Bakery.

Chapmans butchers and The Orange Tree. Both unique and keep us coming back.

Ease of access, variety of shops, local market

Range, quality, location, easy access mean I go there can and park. I would have to use residential streets.

We moved here to feel part of a small town.

I have lived her for over 40 years. All the shop keepers etc are like old friends

I like supporting independent stores.

Bar Tesco and Belfair, all of Baldock's businesses are independent businesses and that is what makes Tesco high street so different to any other locally. It's not secret, though, that those businesses suffer the most on our high streets, so we need to protect them more than our chain stores.

I live here

The variation and friendliness of all the businesses in Baldock is wonderful!

I love the small town feel. Lots of small, independent businesses

I was born and still live in Baldock I love the shops and the friendly atmosphere .

To keep the town active and thriving.

There is a lot of through traffic and lunch time traffic using bakers, cafes , barbers etc. if these business fail due to less demand they fail for locals also as well as outsiders.

They are small independent and need as much support from local residents

Because they are local, primarily small independent businesses which give a good personal service.

Its important to keep the local business going. Its a friendly town and important for mental health

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Because it is currently so quick and easy. It's the nearest town and the Bygrave Rd is the shortest route into the Station and centre from Ashwell.

Cafes , hairdressers and other businesses

it is further to go elsewhere

Our town has some lovely cafes and restaurants (the pubs have gone down severely unfortunately apart from the White Horse) and the atmosphere in the town is great when these cafes are used. No cars means no people. Why don't councils and governments realise this? It is, after all, a market town where people have stopped for centuries on horses, motor bike and cars.

It is a vibrant small town with local shops and restaurants as well as the large supermarket. These small businesses will suffer if these changes are implemented as people will avoid the town.

Baldock is such a great little town, with great businesses to visit. Good food and great service.

If there is a parking space on the road by the dentist it's easy and convenient to stop and park for 1H. I do t tend to park on the high street and walk back I just carry on to Letchworth

Accessibility

There are a number of key businesses I visit and I also use Baldock station

So much has been done to improve the experience in the town centre in terms of ambience, retail variety and convenience. Living in a nearby village with none of these facilities it is important to me. If I can't get there reasonably easily I'll go elsewhere.

Restaurants are essential for Baldock and making access more difficult will certainly reduce my visits

I work on the High Street and shop in Baldock, this road change will force me to work from home more AND shop Royston and/or Biggleswade.

Independent businesses with friendly staff which give job opportunities to local young people. Tesco staff are local and well known, I could take all my custom elsewhere if access becomes too difficult

To access the supermarkets but also the small shops and cafés. Café culture in town has boomed in recent years so why jeopardise this for customers who obviously enjoy it. Why make it more challenging for small business owners; they need more help from authorities not less. Baldock has made great improvements in recent years, do not destroy people's hard work.

the diversity, quality and choices are good and we should make sure they remain practically accessible and supported given the prevailing economic and social challenges faced by society

Baldock has better character than Royston (which has lost so many pubs and also a poor selection of restaurants and shops. Some restaurants are good though).

Baldock businesses are the closest to Ashwell. It's likely that I will search for alternatives elsewhere, e.g. Royston and Biggleswade.

There's a good range of independent shops and cafes with plenty of free parking and Baldock is an attractive town to enjoy them in.

They are convenient, varied and a major part of my social life

Friendly local services.

We enjoy the variety of shops on offer, especially the butchers and bakers.

Local support

i will not visit if you get ride of 1 lane

I enjoy the pubs and restaurants

Baldock has a great range of shops and independent suppliers and local businesses, extra time needed would restrict frequency of visits

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Baldock is where I was brought up and we will be moving back very shortly so it is important that there is no detrimental effect on businesses. Baldock is an important centre for the villages North of Baldock, if the proposed shuttle system is in force for 6 years before the link road is functioning then I can see said village population will travel elsewhere, Letchworth, Royston or Biggleswade

I love the local feel of the town. I also visit the train station to commute into London.

We use the library, the Arts Centre, we go to talks at the community centre and the Arts Centre. We like to buy from Tapps. We like and visit Pixies Café in the High Street a couple of times a week.

It's local to us helps to keep local businesses going.

Friendly local businesses

For local community and independent traders. Personal choice

I do my food shop, post parcels, socialise, visit the doctors and hairdressers as they are the closest. If they are no longer easy to access I'll be forced to waste time and fuel going further afield.

It is important that I am able to spend my time and money within my local community and amenities, supporting the businesses and opportunities this presents. If this is made difficult and hampered, then unnecessary travel, environmental impact and equally an inconvenience to myself and my family's time and options would seriously have us consider our residency and home in a town that we love dearly.

Convenience and a desire to support in particular small local businesses. It isn't credible that the planners haven't consulted the local businesses

I have friends and family in Baldock, it's very easy to park, I prefer the coffee shops there and the butchers and bakers are better than Letchworth. I also like the restaurants and pubs in Baldock, they have history and feel like real pubs as opposed to Letchworths pubs.

Convenience

Community needs, business survival, using the thoroughfare. Who needs a "dead unused" high street and town ?

I don't enjoy visiting Baldock the parking is difficult (I'm glad I have a blue badge) I shop in Baldock because I want to support the few hardworking and pleasant independents who maintain Baldock as a town, despite the Council & Governments unnecessary rises the Business tax & Rents which have caused many to close There was once a thriving market but councillors restrictions and rules have depleted the no of stall holders, now its almost a non event

Train Station is safer than Ashwell at night. I go to several amenities in Baldock but have to drive It's close and convenient.

We have everything in our town and is no need to venture out

Local community, local people, support and accessibility- all of which will die.

to support the community....Covid was not that long ago and need to buy local

Because I live in Baldock and want to support Baldock business of which I am one

Baldock is a lovely small town with all of the daily essentials but also has a great cafe culture and good restaurants and

Pubs these will significantly be impacted people just won't go in to town if I personally have to go on the A1 to get to Baldock I would continue

And go to Hitchin instead

Supporting small, independent businesses. Sense of community.

My business needs access and I'm a regular at all Baldock's cafes, pubs and restaurants

One stop shop

My family are spread between Baldock and Stotfold with my granddaughter attending Baldock schools. This will impact us all negatively in our daily interaction with the town and it's facilities

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Baldock has just about everything one could ask for, good retail offer, PO, Cleaners and many hospitality options with strong evening economy.

Because it's a lovely town and the businesses do their best to keep things relevant otherwise this town will die

High streets already struggle this high street is so diverse it's trying to keep people coming in

We should not allow. This stupid idea

Convenience

It is up and coming - I don't want to have to go to Hitchin all the time. But this could kill off the social and nighttime economy.

Because they are local and independent and help offer a sense of amenity and community to a town that would be dead otherwise

I like to support local businesses and use the facilities in town. I don't think the proposals will affect my ability to do that but I do live within walking distance. However I do believe it would put people off coming to our town

I'm local

I live in Baldock

We have some good independent business, particularly pubs, restaurants and cafes. Which I like to support

Local

I love to support local businesses and the community. Community spirit in Baldock is wonderful