

# Exhibition on proposals at Town Hall now

## Option C+ discussion for later

OPTION C+ put forward by former councillor David Walker will be discussed with bus companies after the consultation.

Speaking on behalf of the county council at a Charnwood Road Safety Committee, David Wright, said it was an "interesting variation" and it will be treated as a "consultation response" and "discussed with bus companies after the consultation."

Mr Walker discussed his proposal at the committee meeting and said the consultation is not fair.

"The council are saying buses would collapse and they would not," he added.

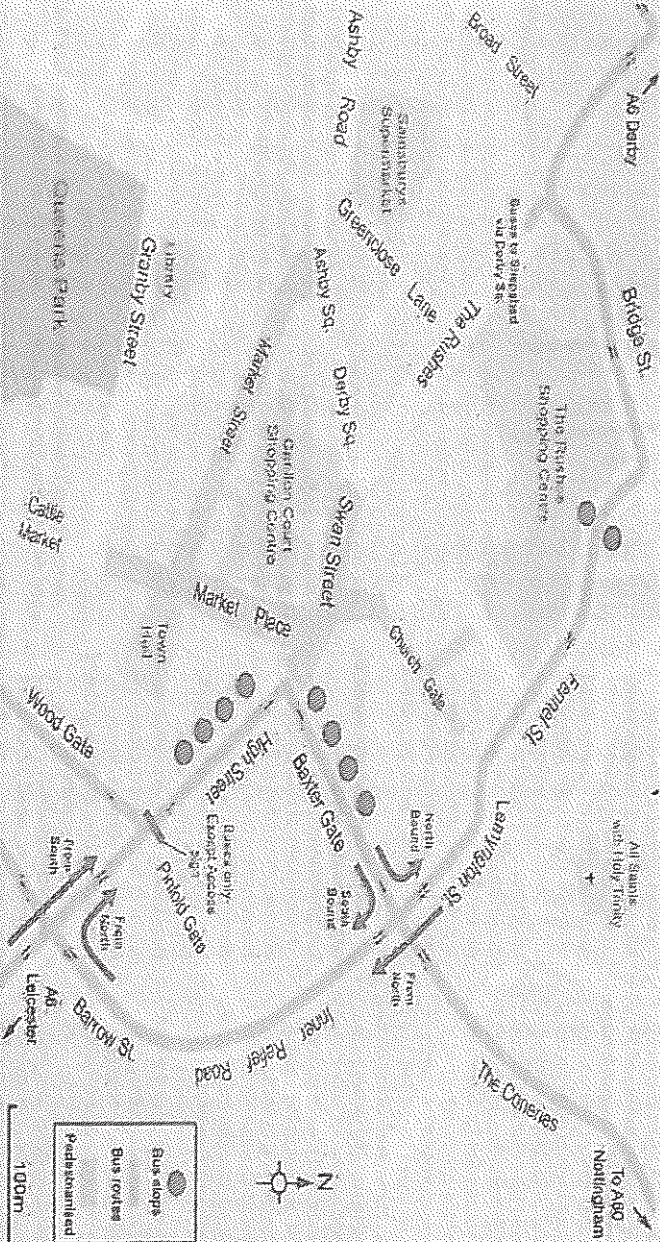
Mr Wright said: "The county council does not have a preconceived opinion. If a bus has to take longer or drive further it will impact on services and Kinchbus may have to have services less frequently or add another bus to the cycle." Former councillor Jill Vincent said a recent count saw 48 buses in Market Place on a Friday lunch time - nearly by one minute - with 1,632 pedestrians. She said having no buses would increase football and create a safe environment.

AN EXHIBITION is being held at Loughborough Town Hall this week regarding the county council's pedestrianisation plans.

Plans, information and short film clips will be on display at Loughborough Town Hall between 10am and 6pm on Thursday, 10am and 4pm on Friday (today) and 10am and 2pm on Saturday.

People are being asked their views on which trial option should be carried out once the town's Inner Relief Road is built and the A67/Market Place made pedestrian friendly. There will be a chance to view the plans, find out more about proposed bus routing and speak to officers. Former councillor David Walker, who has created Option C+, which is not part of the main consultation, will be at the event distributing 500 leaflets and encouraging people to consider it and make note of that consideration on their consultation paper.

Option C+ by David Walker. Bus routes with this option -



All buses use the one-way High Street Baxter Gate bus stop zone to their stop, and turn left at Baxter Gate Lemington Street junction

Buses from the north use the Inner Relief Road to access the High Street and stop. Then turn right at the Baxter Gate - Inner Ring Road junction

All local bus stops would be adjacent to the Market Place where the High Street meets Baxter Gate.

View the other options and have your say on [www.leics.gov.uk/lborobustrial.htm](http://www.leics.gov.uk/lborobustrial.htm)

Hard copies are available by calling 0116 3050002.

# Big guns say 'No' to buses in town

BY NICKI FAYERS  
n.fayers@leics.gov.uk

THE big guns of Loughborough are voting 'no' to buses through the new pedestrianised town centre.

Loughborough MP Nicky Morgan, the Business Improvement District (BID), which represents town centre companies, the Town Team, and the Chamber of Trade and Commerce are all against buses through Market Place.

In May 2013, work started on the Inner Relief Road in Loughborough. The new road will enable general traffic to be removed from the existing A6 through the Market Place.

A key element of the scheme is whether buses should be allowed to travel through the Market Place once the town centre improvements are completed in Autumn 2014.

The consultation, which runs until December 8, gives residents three options: Option A - continuing to allow buses two-way access through the A6 Market Place (as present); Option B - allowing buses to travel in one direction only (southbound) through the A6 Market Place, or Option C - to exclude buses from the area completely. Mrs Morgan believes that the county council's consultation seems to be geared towards bus companies. She told the *Echo*: "I think we should try full

pedestrianisation. I think the whole point of the Inner Relief Road is to unite the two shopping areas of Loughborough. I can agree with residents that driving buses through Market Place will not unite the area. I think residents also have concerns about the way the consultation has been drafted.

"I think that has made people more determined to choose Option C. I think the consultation is quite emotive and there are more anti-options for Option C, but when you do a consultation you should just present facts. Buses cannot get more weight."

Loughborough Town Team set up to advise the borough council on matters of development and to assist with the Town Centre Masterplan, is also in favour of full pedestrianisation.

Don Wix, chair, writing to the *Echo* (see letter across on page 6) said: "This is a once in a generation opportunity to test the viability of delivering a new public space at the heart of our town, a space where pedestrians can browse at leisure and in safety, and where events can take place providing additional attractions encouraging greater footfall for businesses."

Roger Perrett, chair of the BID, added: "We believe that there are huge advantages in having a fully pedestrianised link across the Mar-

ket Place, with no buses running through it, when the Inner Relief Road is completed.

"It will fulfil the original vision of the Town Centre Masterplan to join together the two halves of the town centre, currently split in two by A6 traffic. It will create a new area of public realm that can be used for events, performances and extended markets."

"It will provide certainty for pedestrians and greater safety for less able people."

"It is a superb opportunity to really enhance the appearance and usability of our town centre."

Coun. Peter Osborne, lead member for transport at the county council, told the *Echo*: "If we had made up our minds we would not have put Option C in."

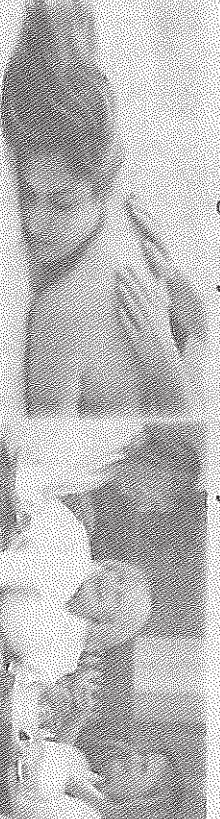
"If the results coming back are favourable to Option C and there is evidence it will not do any danger to the improvements of the town centre then we would put great weight into it."

Manager of Kinchbus, Tom Morgan in the past has said that not allowing buses through the new pedestrianised town centre could risk his 30,000 customers from coming into the town.

He says that diverting buses could hold up traffic on the new Inner Relief Road and that journey times could be affected.

## Looking for the Perfect Christmas Gift?

Ragdale Hall gift vouchers are available for Spa day packages, overnight stays or in monetary value from £25



Ragdale Hall  
visit our website [www.ragdalehall.co.uk](http://www.ragdalehall.co.uk)

Call Voucher Sales on 01664 433030 or buy online

Education and Fulfillment through Challenge and Support

## Taster Days



Year 12 Taster Day:  
Thursday 28th November 2013  
Year 7 Taster Day:  
Tuesday 3rd December 2013

Taster days offer an ideal opportunity for your child to experience a working day, as part of a Year Group, in the School. The day offers your daughter an invaluable insight into our School (entry on understanding of what makes us special and the opportunity to make new friends. To understand more about taster days and to book a place now, please ring Mrs Lawrence on 01609 666666

Open events throughout the year

Our Lady's Convent School  
Gray Street, Loughborough  
LE11 3DZ  
01509 263901  
[www.OLCS.lc.leics.sch.uk](http://www.OLCS.lc.leics.sch.uk)



This page is intentionally left blank