# Residents express discontent over Wrexham's city centre car ban



Residents of Wrexham have expressed considerable discontent following the announcement of a car ban in the city centre set to be enforced starting Monday, 14 April. This decision, implemented by Wrexham Council, aims to enhance the pedestrian-friendliness of designated streets within the city, using a system of rise and fall bollards alongside Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras to monitor compliance. Motorists found violating this rule will be subject to fines.

In a statement reflecting the council's intentions, a spokesperson related the new measures to recent funding secured from various government sources, including the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund and the Welsh Government’s Transforming Towns Fund. The spokesperson stated, "Over the last few months, funding... has allowed us to make High Street and Wrexham City Centre more inviting and pedestrian friendly. As part of these improvements, there will be one point of entry only to the City Centre."

Local sentiment, as expressed on social media platforms, reveals a mixture of scepticism and frustration. Many have voiced concerns that this initiative could negatively impact local businesses. One commentator, Gwyndaffy, expressed a somewhat optimistic view, stating, "This would normally spell doom for a high street. But as Wrexham high street is basically a McDonald's and a bus stop, I think it might actually improve things."

Conversely, voices like Steamnut warned against the efficacy of such bans, suggesting that the focus on "enforcement" would likely result in fines for motorists who unintentionally breach the regulations. They argued, "Making high streets 'pedestrian friendly' does not improve trade; quite the reverse. When will they ever learn?"

Further criticism was echoed by Bonce and Volanda, who referenced the negative impacts of similar pedestrianisation efforts in nearby towns, stating, “it has worked terrifically well in Colwyn Bay and Rhyl in completely destroying the town's businesses.” This sentiment reflected a broader apprehension that restrictions may drive customers away from local shops.

Comments pertaining to accessibility surfaced as well, with users questioning how the ban would affect disabled individuals and those with blue badges. LEE11 remarked on the lack of benefit from previous pedestrianisation efforts, foreseeing a grim future for Wrexham, while Joebloggs999 pointed out the practical difficulties families may face, suggesting that elevating the cycling culture overlooks the realities of grocery shopping.

The initiative has certainly ignited robust discussion among Wrexham residents, and the city's council is likely to be monitoring public response closely in the weeks to come.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://news.wrexham.gov.uk/do-you-know-about-the-changes-to-high-street-and-city-centre-vehicle-access/> - This link provides details about changes in vehicle access to High Street and the Wrexham City Centre, aligning with the article's mention of the car ban and pedestrian-friendly initiatives.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - This is the source article discussing the car ban in Wrexham's city centre and resident reactions.
* <https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/wrexham-high-street-car-ban-26558246> - Unfortunately, there is no specific search result for this exact URL. However, this would typically be a news source discussing the car ban in Wrexham and its implications.
* <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/wrexham-city-centre-car-ban-27915544> - Similar to the previous entry, this URL would discuss the Wrexham city centre car ban, but it is not directly found in the provided search results.
* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund> - This link provides information on the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund, which is mentioned in the article as a funding source.