As we are all aware Wiltshire Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019, this was endorsed by Salisbury City Council. Wiltshire Council have been working with the residents in Salisbury to improve the city centre from a sustainable perspective with the aim of increasing attractiveness for retail as well as improving air quality and prioritising pedestrians and cyclists.

WC consulted with residents in Salisbury through a major project entitled the “Central Area Framework” and received the backing of the majority of respondents (~70%) and the City Council to prioritise for pedestrians and cyclists. WC’s data indicated that >50% of the vehicles passing through the city centre did not stop and were contributing significantly to the pollution in the city centre, but not to the economy.

The People Friendly Salisbury (PFS) project comprised installing bus gates to remove that 50% of traffic, hence making it easier for those that drove into the city to park when they wanted to shop. In addition, there were major benefits for the disabled with easier access to disabled bays. Salisbury Reds were fully supportive of PFS as the buses also had easier access and were not delayed in traffic. However, when the PFS project was implemented there was backlash from drivers who could no longer drive straight through the city and there has been a very vociferous and noisy Facebook group. Unfortunately, in the middle of all this, the Leader of Salisbury City Council (SCC), who supported the scheme, was removed from office by a vote of no confidence. The new Leader and new Deputy, without authority from the City Council refused to support PFS and Business Improvement District carried out a survey (in which 75 of the >500 business responded) that indicated that they wanted to see a delay in the implementation of PFS until the New Year. The MP, John Glen also indicated that he would like to see PFS delayed ‘until the COVID-19Pandemic was over’. WC were then left with no support and [suspended PFS](https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/news/people-friendly-salisbury-removed) indefinitely and bus gates have now been removed, though the number plate recognition cameras and pollution monitoring equipment have been kept in place. Predictably, traffic has now increased once more.

We would like to ask WCA members to support WC and SCC’s first steps towards a scheme that compliments their declaration of a Climate Emergency by

* Sign the [petition to bring back People Friendly Streets](https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/bring-back-people-friendly-salisbury-1)
* Leave comments on [People Friendly Salisbury Facebook site which](https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=people%20friendly%20salisbury) endorses the creation of a Low Traffic Zone in the city centre to provide an attractive atmosphere and increase the footfall and income for our traders
* Complete the [consultation on road reallocation schemes](https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/highways-road-reallocation-schemes) to make it easier and safer for pedestrians and cyclists to access shops, businesses and places of work without driving or using public transport, and also help people to maintain social distancing.
* Supporters of PFS in SCC have called for an Extraordinary Full Council meeting to be held on Monday 14th December 2020 with PFS listed as an agenda item “To consider and determine whether the City Council supports the introduction in 2021 of a People Friendly Streets Experimental Traffic Regulation Order, in accordance with the Central Area Framework report recommendations." If you are a Salisbury resident please write to your city [councillor](https://www.salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk/?Itemid=102) asking them to support PFS.

Note: The 75 businesses comes from

<https://salisburybid.co.uk/news/the-bids-updated-position-on-people-friendly-salisbury-scheme/>

BID numbers over 500 comes from <https://salisburybid.co.uk/about-the-bid/>