

Hazel Ball, Director Community and Environment  
Robert Norley, Head of Environmental Health Services

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**Our ref:** RN/sr  
**Your ref:**

Mrs. Hurford  
14 Cowley Bridge Road  
EXETER  
EX4 5AD

10 May 2011

Dear Mrs. Hurford,

**Re. Street Trading Controls**

Thank you for your letter received 5 May 2011, regarding the above subject. I note your point about making Cowley Bridge Road a Prohibited Street, but for reasons I will expand upon in this letter, I feel that the designation of a Consent Street is the most appropriate control measure needed to deal with the problems you are experiencing.

I am aware of the issues regarding the hot food trader in the lay-by at Cowley Bridge Road, as these have been brought to my attention by Cllr. Prowse, as well as other residents. It is because of the problems you and other residents have been experiencing that the Council has reviewed its regulation of street trading. You may be aware that currently no street-trading controls exist for this lay-by, which is the case for the majority of streets in Exeter. The proposal to designate Cowley Bridge Road, and other uncontrolled streets in Exeter 'Consent Streets' is to ensure that the Council can exert control over the types of nuisances you describe, as well as other matters, which at present it is unable to do.

Once so designated, anyone wishing to trade in a Consent Street must apply to the Council via the Licensing Committee for such consent; the Licensing Committee would consider such an application alongside any objections from relevant authorities such as the Police and Highways Authority, and of course local residents and councillors. The Licensing Committee may grant consent, with or without conditions (trading times, clearing litter, etc.) or refuse it; it does not need to give reasons, nor is there a right of appeal. Furthermore, should a consent be granted, it may be modified or withdrawn by the Licensing Committee at a later date should issues of concern ensue. Therefore, designating your road a Consent Street will give the Council a robust means of controlling problems with any street trader.

The number of Prohibited Streets in Exeter are few in number, but have either been initiated at the behest of the Highways Authority (Devon County Council) in relation to main trunk roads and traffic flow, or the Police in relation to city centre night-time disorder issues. The Princesshay shopping precinct is also a Prohibited Street.

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With regard to making a street such as Cowley Bridge Road a Prohibited Street, I have met with the Highways Authority and they are confident that the designation of a Consent Street will permit them to intervene on a matter of a trader causing traffic-related issues. Furthermore, classifying Cowley Bridge Road as a Prohibited Street would prevent any type of trader from plying his/her trade, including for example an ice-cream vendor or flower seller, in effect disbaring legitimate street traders that one would not associate with the problems you currently experience. This would seem to be an unnecessary step when the designation of a Consent Street will enable appropriate controls to be exercised.

Your letter will be presented to the Licensing Committee for its consideration, when it meets in June 2011 to determine the proposed street controls.

Yours sincerely

Robert Norley  
Head of Environmental Health Services