

# Reopening Bristol's bars, pubs and restaurants

Updated June 2020



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**The hospitality industry is vital to Bristol's economy. The coronavirus pandemic and resulting lockdown have meant that many of our bars, pubs and restaurants will be among the last businesses to open. Although the road back to trading safely and profitably will start when restrictions begin to ease on 4 July 2020, we recognise that challenges will remain.**

The attached document sets out proposals for how Bristol can reopen its hospitality sector – one of the biggest and most vibrant in the country – following the COVID-19 crisis.

I understand that the process of reopening will be challenging for businesses. The proposed measures in this document begin to outline how we will help. It is crucial to the successful recovery of the city that we do this within the guidelines set by government to ensure we do not risk an increase in Covid-19 cases. We must also provide the public with reassurance that it is safe to once again enjoy the hospitality that Bristol is famous for.

In particular, I'd like to draw your attention to the section of the guidance concerning provision of toilets. As you may be aware, we have already experienced issues associated with a lack of toilets in certain parts of the city, particularly where take-away drinks are being served.

The government guidance states that public toilets, portable toilets and toilets inside premises should be kept open. I would therefore encourage businesses to open up their facilities, with careful management, to prevent further public disorder.

Some businesses will not be able to come back to full trading immediately and I would stress that these measures are not fixed, nor are they exhaustive. We will be flexible in our approach and work closely with the sector in the coming weeks and months.

You will be aware that uncertainty remains as we move out of lockdown, with the virus still in circulation. As we begin to reopen businesses, and kick start the economy, we may experience incidents and outbreaks. It is vital for us all that these are identified and contained as quickly and efficiently as possible to prevent a further lock down. Bristol has published its Local Outbreak Management Plan and we will be writing to you separately to outline your role in this.

Finally, I'd like to say thank you to all those working in the hospitality sector for your perseverance in recent months. I appreciate it's been exceptionally challenging for many of you and I want you to know that we are committed to supporting the successful reopening of a sector that provides our city with so much. Thank you for your contribution and sacrifices so far in keeping Bristol safe.

Yours faithfully,



**Marvin, Mayor of Bristol**

# Summary of proposals

## Proposals to enact timed road closures in certain streets

In order for hospitality businesses to continue to trade whilst social distancing measures remain in place, we want to support them to serve as many customers outside as they possibly can in a safe and responsible manner. To allow this to happen, some roads can be closed to traffic at certain times of the day. We will also widen pavements in appropriate areas of the city. This will create the space needed for restaurants, cafes and similar businesses to put tables and chairs outside.

Roads can be closed using 'soft' measures such as barriers and cones which can be installed and removed at the beginning and end of each timed period. These areas can be marshalled as required.

Local arrangements in areas of high-density hospitality, such as the city centre will be made with businesses and residents at a street level. This will make sure that there are not clashes in the use of space that cause wider issues. This approach will see clearly agreed proposals on the space businesses can use.

Although we are proposing a selection of key locations to create more space for tables and chairs, we welcome proposals for certain smaller streets to be included where this is practicable..

We need to achieve a balance between:

- Helping businesses to recover
- Increasing capacity to support cycling and walking
- Protecting residents' interests

We have developed the following criteria which we will apply to decisions for timed street closures:

Timed street closures WILL be considered where:	Timed street closures WILL NOT be considered where:
There is a heavy concentration of food and drink retailers.	Footway extension would create traffic congestion.
Extra space is needed for the use table and chairs (subject to appropriate approvals being granted).	Tables and chairs would block pavements for pedestrians and disabled users.
Security and safety has been considered, including appropriate access for emergency vehicles  A clear 4m lane free of infrastructure is desirable but if the closure is short, in certain locations access from either end may be acceptable by agreement with Bristol City Council.	Closures would be at odds with our statutory duties as a highway authority.
Closures will help with social distancing.	The proposed street is in a predominantly residential area or part of the key route network.
Closures support a thriving economy.	The cumulative impact on residents would be excessive.

## Proposals to allow more tables and chairs

We want to provide businesses with the opportunity to safely offer food and drinks to their customers so we will support the use of tables and chairs outside, especially in those areas where temporary road closures can be made.

This policy will apply across the city to areas that include where roads remain open, as long as adequate space exists on the pavement and businesses want to bring forward proposals for their premises.

Those businesses that already have outside trading with tables will have to review their arrangements to make sure customers can queue safely and that appropriate social distancing is achievable in line with government guidance.

Table service should be used to avoid social distancing being compromised and we will encourage businesses to implement this.

Any business that intends to use tables and chairs will need to discuss their plans with us first. Any requests must be made in writing to:

**[business@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:business@bristol.gov.uk)**

Unfortunately, we cannot allow vertical drinking (people standing and drinking) outside venues in new temporary spaces. We believe this will lead to a contravention of the government guidance on social distancing and could cause significant harm to local residential amenity due to increased noise and disturbance.

Where a license already allows for customers to stand outside drinking, this will still be permitted and will not change, as long as social distancing rules can be maintained. What we are not doing is extending into these proposed temporary areas for vertical, standing up, drinking.

This is because where tables and chairs will take up additional pavement and road space there will simply not then be enough room for vertical drinking as well, without seriously jeopardising social distancing rules.



## Supply of alcohol and entertainment

### Supply of alcohol and entertainment

The government has updated guidance relating to keeping customers and staff safe in restaurants, pubs, bars and takeaways which is on the **GOV.UK** website by using the search term **Keeping workers and customers safe during Covid 19 restaurants pubs bars takeaways**.

The key changes are:

- 1** Relaxation of social distancing requirements reduced from 2m to 1m plus where 2m cannot be maintained and suitable mitigation measures are in place.
- 2** Nightclubs must remain closed.
- 3** Only table service may be provided inside the premises and no vertical drinking within the premises is permitted.
- 4** Customers standing at bar areas is not permitted.
- 5** All premises including pubs, restaurants, bars and takeaway venues must record the details of all customers for a minimum of 21 days to assist track and trace if required.
- 6** Capacity must be reduced to reflect tables and chairs only and suitably risk assessed.
- 7** Live performances of music, comedy or drama are NOT permitted either inside or outside premises.
- 8** Pre-recorded background music is permitted but this must be at minimal volume so as to permit normal conversation and avoid people having to shout.
- 9** The considerations relating to managing queues inside and outside.

- 10** The guidance includes information about risk assessments and making your premise safe for customers and workers.

**Additionally, the Government has announced changes to the Licensing Act 2003 which makes things easier for business to trade without the need in most cases for variations to licences.**

### What this means for you and what is now permitted:

- 1** Premises licences which currently allow on sales only will also allow off sales for a limited period until 30 September 2021. This change will be subject to a condition that every off sale must be made at a time when the licensed premises are open for the purposes of selling alcohol for consumption on the premises.
- 2** Premises licences which currently allow on and off sales which have conditions which limit the following, will not apply for a limited period until 30 September 2021:
  - Any conditions which restrict the time an off sale could be made (when the premises is also open for sale of alcohol to provide consumption on the premises);
  - Any conditions which prevent alcohol being sold in an open containers;
  - Any conditions preventing off sales for alcohol delivery.



This means if you have on sales and are open for the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises you can provide off sales in open containers within the same the times your licence allows for on sales.

### What is not permitted:

If in the last three years an application for grant, variation or minor variation to authorise off sales has been refused or a licence had off-sales removed from it this exemption for off sales does not apply. Therefore you would need to submit an application to include off sales if you wish to provide this.

If you have conditions relating to outside areas or any other conditions attached which you are unsure whether you will be able to comply with please contact [licensing@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@bristol.gov.uk)

If you have no premises licence your not permitted to sell alcohol. You will either need to apply for a Temporary Event Notice (TEN) or a new premises licence. You can do this by visiting the Bristol.gov.uk website and applying [here](#).

We want to help business as much as possible so please contact us if you have further questions once you have considered the above advice at [licensing@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@bristol.gov.uk)

Further information and general licensing guidance and can be found by visiting the Bristol.gov.uk website [here](#).

## Proposals on deliveries and waste collection

We want to balance the amenity of local areas and to make sure that we minimise traffic. It would therefore be helpful if businesses could consolidate their deliveries and collections.

This will help keep noise disruption to a minimum, keep congestion from returning to unacceptable levels and improve air quality.

We need to grasp this opportunity together to make sure that we think carefully whilst opening up trading not to lose sight of our combined ambitions regarding the environment and climate change commitments.

## Proposals on toilets

The government guidance states that public toilets, portable toilets and toilets inside premises should be kept open and carefully managed to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19, so we can see no reason why existing toilet facilities inside licensed premises can't be used by customers as long as Covid guidance is followed.

On this basis we do not propose to provide additional facilities at this time, however, should the situation change then consideration would be given to the provision of additional temporary toilets for patrons. In this circumstance additional temporary toilets could be provided but please be aware that there would be a cost for landowners, BIDs (where appropriate) or businesses to make this happen.



## Marshalling and social distancing measures

There may be a need for additional marshalling to take place in areas that begin to open up.

This will help make sure that people remain within the government guidance on social distancing, that queues are managed and security is maintained. We will ask landowners, BIDs and businesses to provide a safe means for their customers to enjoy their trade either through the application of signage or through marshalling.

We can provide some pavement stencils and signage to help with this.

## Emergency and specialist non-hospitality services

**We expect landowners and businesses to put in place measures to allow continued access for emergency services, any statutory undertakings, as well as certain deliveries to non-hospitality businesses, which can require access at the times being proposed for closures.**

This will be a temporary approach and we will work closely with our residents and businesses to ensure that any scheme works for everyone. We want people to take a common-sense approach to the lighter restrictions and the opportunities for using more outdoor space but, for example, we must also make sure that access for emergency services is not impeded.

We know that this will not help all businesses in the area and some may still struggle to trade. We are of course open to all suggestions about how we can improve these measures to support our hospitality sector to return to trading. However, we must also strike a balance between maintaining public health during this next phase of the pandemic, the opening up of businesses and the rights of residents.

## Protecting local amenity

We recognise that the measures outlined in this guidance to help reopen the hospitality sector will have an impact on both residents and the business community. We need to help with the resurgence of business within Bristol while at the same time make sure that it is done safely. Residential amenity should not be compromised as a result of these temporary measures.

To this end we are proposing that the following measures and reassurances are put in place to protect local amenity:

- 1** All businesses need to make sure that they comply with the government's Covid Secure guidance. Visit the **GOV.UK** website by using the search term **Keeping workers and customers safe during Covid 19 restaurants pubs bars and takeaways**. Doing so will demonstrate that you have done everything necessary to keep employees and customers safe when opening during coronavirus (COVID-19).
- 2** We will look sympathetically on requests for tables and chairs to be used outside premises but we will prioritise businesses that already use them and will carefully consider the impact any new proposals might have on those living nearby or other businesses. We must avoid a situation where any business can trade on the streets as this would quickly become unsustainable. We remain committed to addressing the cumulative impact and this is particularly important when social distancing measures remain in place.
- 3** The needs of pedestrians and disabled users must be considered with walking routes kept free, and clear signage and ramps used as necessary.

- 4** While parking will be removed in certain streets, we recognise that these schemes cannot take up all kerbside parking in an area. Parking wherever possible will be maintained.
- 5** The area customers can use must be clearly defined both on a pre-agreed plan and on the street. The area must be in front of the premises which is intending to trade, unless there is clear agreement from neighbouring businesses or residents to use other space outside other frontages. Any proposals must allow space for access to any adjoining premises or separate parts of the same building with sufficient space for social distancing.
- 6** Premises must keep the area used for trading and adjacent areas free from waste during trading. At the end of trading they must sweep and wash this area to make sure the street is left in a presentable and clean state for other users. Drainage channels should also be kept clear of obstructions.
- 7** At the end time for the use of tables and chairs they must be brought inside the premises. If this is not possible they must be folded and placed in nominated parking/loading bays in the usually closed section of the street. This must be located away from noise sensitive properties. Tables and chairs will be secured in such a way that they cannot be moved or used overnight.
- 8** We are asking businesses taking advantage of the temporary use of outside space to provide or manage themselves the necessary marshalling, social distancing measures and toilet facilities.
- 9** Premises must check and confirm that their use of the outside area is covered by appropriate insurance including public liability insurance valued at £5million to the same extent as would be the case for their normal operation.
- 10** If we receive sustained complaints from residents which we believe are justified on either public health or nuisance grounds, we will review any scheme.

## Citywide widening schemes and road closures during summer 2020

Here is a list of citywide schemes where we will widen pavements through parking suspensions and road closures for local shopping areas:

Location	Aims	Changes	Implementation Date
Bedminster Parade	Additional width in footway area.	Suspend parking bays and widen pavement.	Installed in May.
Clifton Village	Additional footway width in retail area.	Suspension of parking bays on Princess Victoria Street between Regent Street to The Mall, and on the east side of the Mall between Princess Victoria Street and Caledonia Place.	Installed in June.
St Marks Road	Additional footway width in retail area.	Most parking bays suspended on St Mark's Road between Berwick Road and Henrietta Street (only on the east side of the street).	Installed in June.
Henleaze Road	Additional footway width in retail area.	Suspend parking bays and widen pavements.	Installed in June.
Westbury Village	Additional footway width in retail area.	Suspend parking bays and widen pavements.	Installed in June.
North Street	Additional footway width in retail area.	Suspend parking bays and widen pavements.	Installed in June.
Mina Road	Additional footway width in retail area.	Suspend parking bays and widen pavements.	Installed in June.
Stapleton Road	Additional footway width in retail area.	Suspend parking bays and widen pavements.	Installed in June.

Location	Aims	Changes	Implementation Date
Broadwalk	Additional width in footway area.	Suspend parking bays and some traffic lanes.	Planned for July 2020.
Triangle	Additional footway width in retail area.	Suspend parking bays and remove traffic lane.	Planned for July 2020.

## Central area updates for summer and autumn 2020

Here is a list of the central area schemes where we are upgrading sustainable transport, walking and cycling measures:

Location	Aims	Changes	Implementation Date
Old City	Additional space for pedestrians, and for businesses to reopen safely.	Parking suspensions/pavement widening. Corn Street/Clare Street timed street closure. Permanent pedestrianisation proposal to follow later in the year.	Widening installed in June. Street closures planned for July 2020.
King Street	Create additional footway width in recreational areas.	Suspension of parking bays and timed street closure.	Planned for July 2020.
Lewins Mead/St James's Barton	Creating cycle infrastructure.	Utilising under-used road space for cycle facilities.	Planned for July 2020.
Merchants Road Bridge	Additional space for pedestrians and cyclists on Harbour loop.	Priority southbound and removal of traffic lane.	Planned for July 2020.
Bristol Bridge and Baldwin Street	Create more space for sustainable transport, walking and cycling.	Closing the roads to general through-traffic.	Planned for August.
Lewins Mead and Stokes Croft	Creating cycle infrastructure.	Utilising under-used road space for cycle facilities.	Planned for August 2020.

Location	Aims	Changes	Implementation Date
Upper Marlborough Street and Park Row	Creating cycle infrastructure and widening footway for pedestrians.	Utilising under-used road space for cycle facilities, plus expanding busy pavements for pedestrian movements near hospital.	Planned for August 2020.
Cumberland Road	Additional space for cyclists.	Introduce a segregated cycle track.	Planned for September 2020.
Victoria Street and Counterslip	Introduce segregated cycle infrastructure.	Suspend parking and remove some traffic lanes.	Planned for Sept/Oct 2020.

*All dates are subject to change*



# Examples

## Timed road closure example 1

If footways are used for tables then a 4m emergency route must be kept clear in the street for pedestrians, alongside other considerations.



## Timed road closure example 2

Tables will be allowed in the middle of the street by agreement only. For this to be considered both footways must be kept clear for pedestrians, alongside other considerations.



Parklet example in Cambridge showing clear footways for pedestrians



Suspension of parking bay that has been turned into a parklet example



Potential suspension of parking bay location example

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