

News Release



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CCTV CAMERAS SWITCH-ON IN WEST BROMWICH BUS AND CYCLE ONLY ZONE

with pics linked at bottom of release

Motorists are facing £60 fixed penalty fines if caught on camera driving in a West Bromwich bus and cycle only zone.

CCTV cameras will be switched on in New Street from 21 November in a bid to stop motorists using the zone and causing traffic congestion.

Sandwell Council wants to make New Street safer and easier for shoppers and students using the town centre.

It consulted on proposals to introduce a bus and cycle only zone along 40 metres of New Street, outside Sandwell College's Central Sixth campus.

Many motorists have ignored existing traffic restrictions on the stretch of road and a new order allows the council to use CCTV to enforce a ban on vehicles other than buses, Hackney Carriages and pedal cyclists.

The main town square between New Square and Central Sixth is already a pedestrianised area.

Councillor David Hosell, Sandwell Council's cabinet member for highways and environment, said: "We want to improve safety and access for pedestrians, including shoppers, visitors and sixth-formers, who currently face high volumes of traffic when crossing this road.

“We also want to cut congestion and delays to bus services at the bus station. CCTV enforcement is the last option and one which will help keep the town square area safe for pedestrians, cyclists and bus users and reduce congestion affecting the buses.”

Motorists caught driving in the restricted area will automatically be sent a £60 fine. If paid within 14 days, the fine will reduce to £30. After 14 days it is £60 and if not paid within 28 days the fine will go up to £90.