

Poole Park – Experimental Afternoon Closure

Traffic Effects

1. Traffic through the Park

The pattern of traffic flow throughout the day is summarised in the following tables. It can be seen that there is a clear increase in the amount of traffic using the park during the afternoon peak period. Park related activities do not show a marked increase during this period, and so it can be assumed that this rise is predominantly attributable to through traffic using the park as a short cut.

Hour Beginning	Vehicle Flows		Two Way Total
	Eastbound	Westbound	
7:00	3	3	6
8:00	8	3	11
9:00	44	19	63
10:00	153	77	230
11:00	124	145	269
12:00	131	157	288
13:00	124	167	291
14:00	120	152	272
15:00	140	153	293
16:00	221	145	366
17:00	365	146	511
18:00	156	140	296

2. Effects of the closure on Parkstone Road

The experimental closure took place during July 2016 and involved 12 weekdays during the summer term, and 8 weekdays during the school holidays. The volume of traffic and journey times (between the George Roundabout and the Civic Centre - Park Gates), were monitored for 12 weekdays before the closure, throughout the closure period and for 8 weekdays afterwards. This allowed comparisons to be made during school days, and school holidays.

The results of these surveys are shown in appendix A but can be summarised as follows:-

- Journey times (measured by Bluetooth sensors)–
 - Average journey times increased on the eastbound route from The George to the Civic Centre when the Park was closed, during the school term. The surveys indicated an average increase of 3:22 minutes per journey. This increase would need to be judged against the benefits of reduced traffic in the park.

- The average journey time increased on the westbound route between the Civic centre and The George roundabout by 40seconds during the school term.
- There was no substantial difference in average journey times during the school holidays (an increase of 6 seconds eastbound and 4 seconds westbound)
- Traffic volumes (measured by Automatic Traffic Counters-ATCs) - Parkstone Road is congested in the afternoon peak period, and this is borne out by the fact that traffic volumes don't increase appreciably. In fact, traffic volumes can actually decrease when queues develop, and this can be seen here.
- The road through the park is already closed during the morning peak period, and so there should be no change in the morning peak situation. The changes shown in the appendixes indicate the scale of normal variations that can be experienced with any Traffic Surveys

3. Effects on Longfleet Road

Drivers do often look for other routes when they experience congestion on their most direct route. Churchfield Road was closed to through traffic in the 1990's and so the closest alternative route is Longfleet Road. The ATCs show that there is some migration to this route, albeit only in the northeast-bound (i.e. out of Poole) direction.

The change is approximately 180 vehicles over the 2 hour period (16:00-18:00) during the school term. This is equivalent to a 14% increase, and gives rise to a 36 second increase in average journey times between The George and The Shah junctions..

During the school holidays the increase is approximately 150 vehicles over the 2 hour period. This is an 11% increase, which gives rise to a 12 second increase in average journey times.

4. Further considerations

No changes were made to the phasing of the traffic signals at the Civic Centre Gyratory system while the experimental closure was in place. If the closure were to be adopted as a permanent measure, then the signals could be reviewed to take account of the change.

5. Conclusions

It is clear that the road through the park is used by through traffic during the afternoon peak period, and that there will be a range of views on whether or not that is appropriate. The road through the Park is not part of the Public Highway network, and there is not, therefore, an obligation to keep it open.

Indeed there are already precedents for preventing through traffic from using unsuitable routes:-

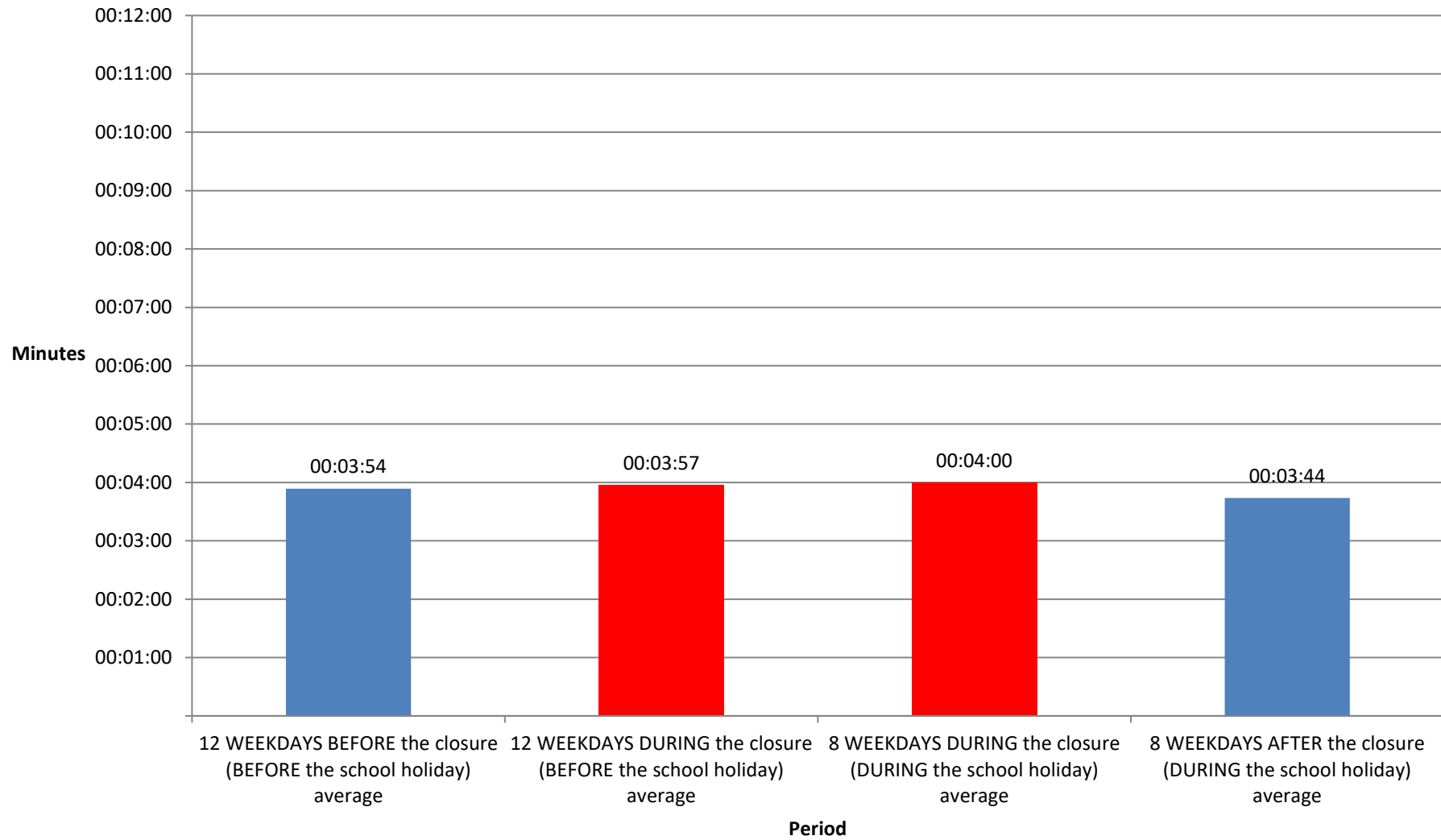
- Coy Pond Road (Environmental grounds)
- Churchfield Road and Birds Hill Road (to address an accident record at the junction)
- Wessex Road (to protect a residential area)

The surveys indicate that the main effects of the closure are seen during schooldays, and primarily in the eastbound direction. While the increased journey times in this direction are significant, it is likely that there would be some adjustment if drivers had to face this situation on a permanent basis.

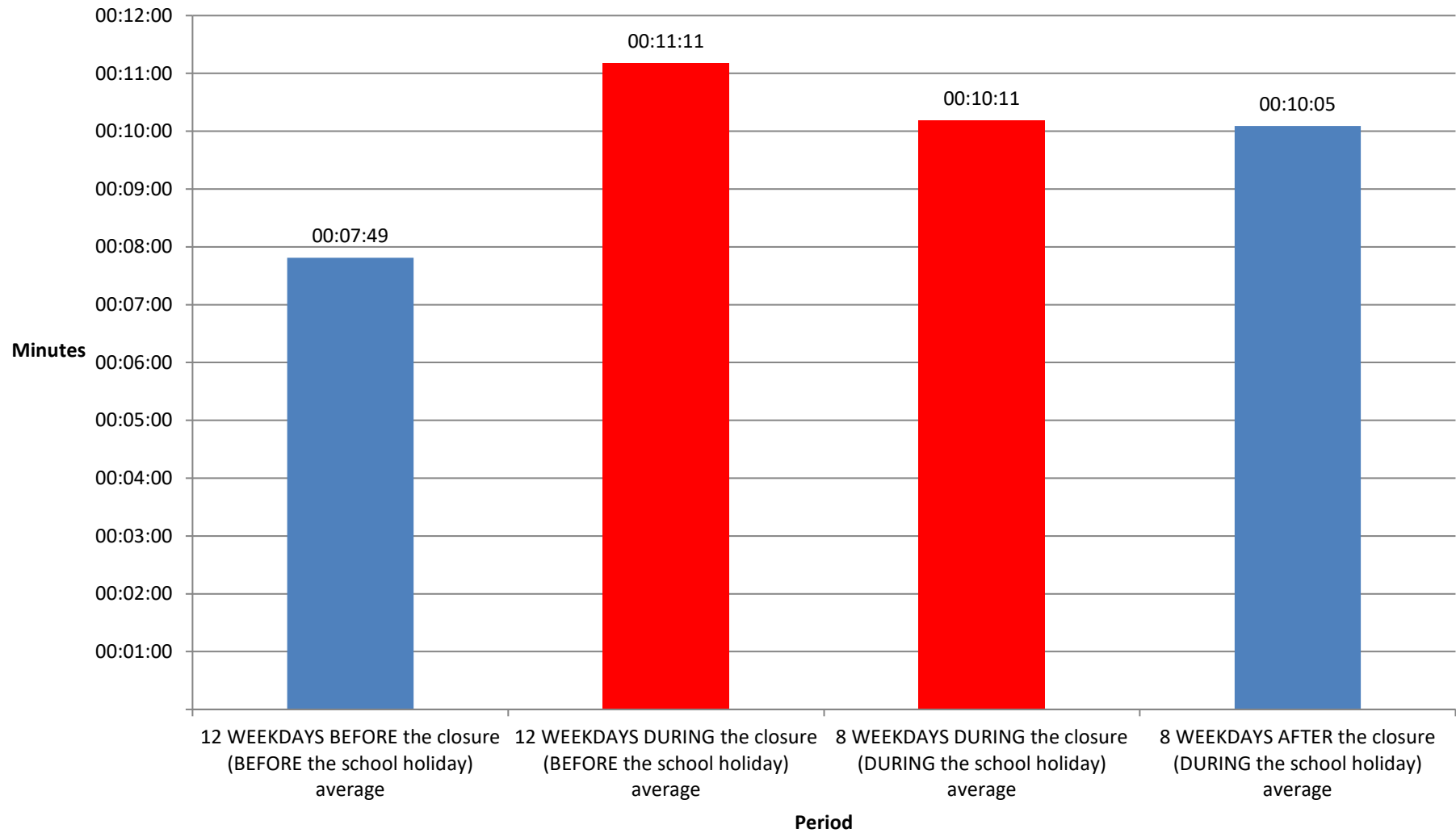
Parkstone Road

MORNING						
BEFORE SCHOOL HOLIDAY	12 WEEKDAYS BEFORE the closure (BEFORE the school holiday) average					
	Vehicle Count		Speeds in MPH		Journey Time in Seconds	
	From Poole	To Poole	From Poole	To Poole	From Poole	To Poole
	07:00 to 09:00	07:00 to 09:00	07:00 to 09:00	07:00 to 09:00	07:00 to 09:00	07:00 to 09:00
	2063	1903	24.0	23.8	00:03:54	00:02:55
	12 WEEKDAYS DURING the closure (BEFORE the school holiday) average					
	Vehicle Count		Speeds in MPH		Journey Time in Seconds	
	From Poole	To Poole	From Poole	To Poole	From Poole	To Poole
	07:00 to 09:00	07:00 to 09:00	07:00 to 09:00	07:00 to 09:00	07:00 to 09:00	07:00 to 09:00
	1997	1860	23.9	23.7	00:03:57	00:02:58
DURING SCHOOL HOLIDAY	8 WEEKDAYS DURING the closure (DURING the school holiday) average					
	Vehicle Count		Speeds in MPH		Journey Time in Seconds	
	From Poole	To Poole	From Poole	To Poole	From Poole	To Poole
	07:00 to 09:00	07:00 to 09:00	07:00 to 09:00	07:00 to 09:00	07:00 to 09:00	07:00 to 09:00
	1956	1744	24.0	24.9	00:04:00	00:02:53
	8 WEEKDAYS AFTER the closure (DURING the school holiday) average					
	Vehicle Count		Speeds in MPH		Journey Time in Seconds	
	From Poole	To Poole	From Poole	To Poole	From Poole	To Poole
	07:00 to 09:00	07:00 to 09:00	07:00 to 09:00	07:00 to 09:00	07:00 to 09:00	07:00 to 09:00
	1851	1663	24.0	25.3	00:03:44	00:02:55
EVENING						
BEFORE SCHOOL HOLIDAY	12 WEEKDAYS BEFORE the closure (BEFORE the school holiday) average					
	Vehicle Count		Speeds in MPH		Journey Time in Seconds	
	From Poole	To Poole	From Poole	To Poole	From Poole	To Poole
	16:00 to 18:00	16:00 to 18:00	16:00 to 18:00	16:00 to 18:00	16:00 to 18:00	16:00 to 18:00
	1724	2141	24.4	15.7	00:07:49	00:04:46
	12 WEEKDAYS DURING the closure (BEFORE the school holiday) average					
	Vehicle Count		Speeds in MPH		Journey Time in Seconds	
	From Poole	To Poole	From Poole	To Poole	From Poole	To Poole
	16:00 to 18:00	16:00 to 18:00	16:00 to 18:00	16:00 to 18:00	16:00 to 18:00	16:00 to 18:00
	1692	2159	23.6	11.1	00:11:11	00:05:24
DURING SCHOOL HOLIDAY	8 WEEKDAYS DURING the closure (DURING the school holiday) average					
	Vehicle Count		Speeds in MPH		Journey Time in Seconds	
	From Poole	To Poole	From Poole	To Poole	From Poole	To Poole
	16:00 to 18:00	16:00 to 18:00	16:00 to 18:00	16:00 to 18:00	16:00 to 18:00	16:00 to 18:00
	1731	2136	22.9	10.6	00:10:11	00:05:01
	8 WEEKDAYS AFTER the closure (DURING the school holiday) average					
	Vehicle Count		Speeds in MPH		Journey Time in Seconds	
	From Poole	To Poole	From Poole	To Poole	From Poole	To Poole
	16:00 to 18:00	16:00 to 18:00	16:00 to 18:00	16:00 to 18:00	16:00 to 18:00	16:00 to 18:00
	1888	2072	24.0	24.0	00:10:05	00:04:57

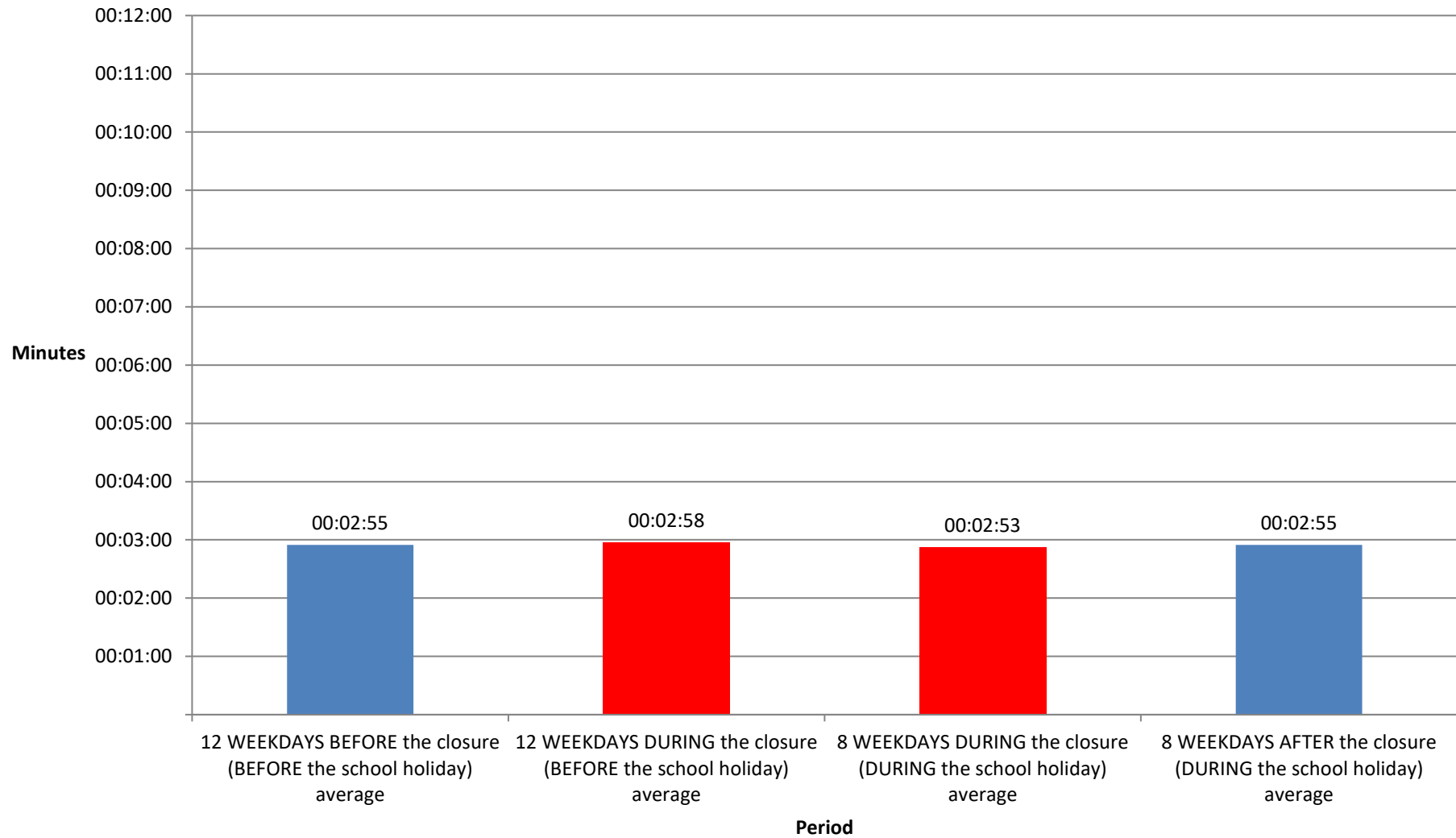
AM Peak Journey times from George Roundabout to Civic Gyrratory



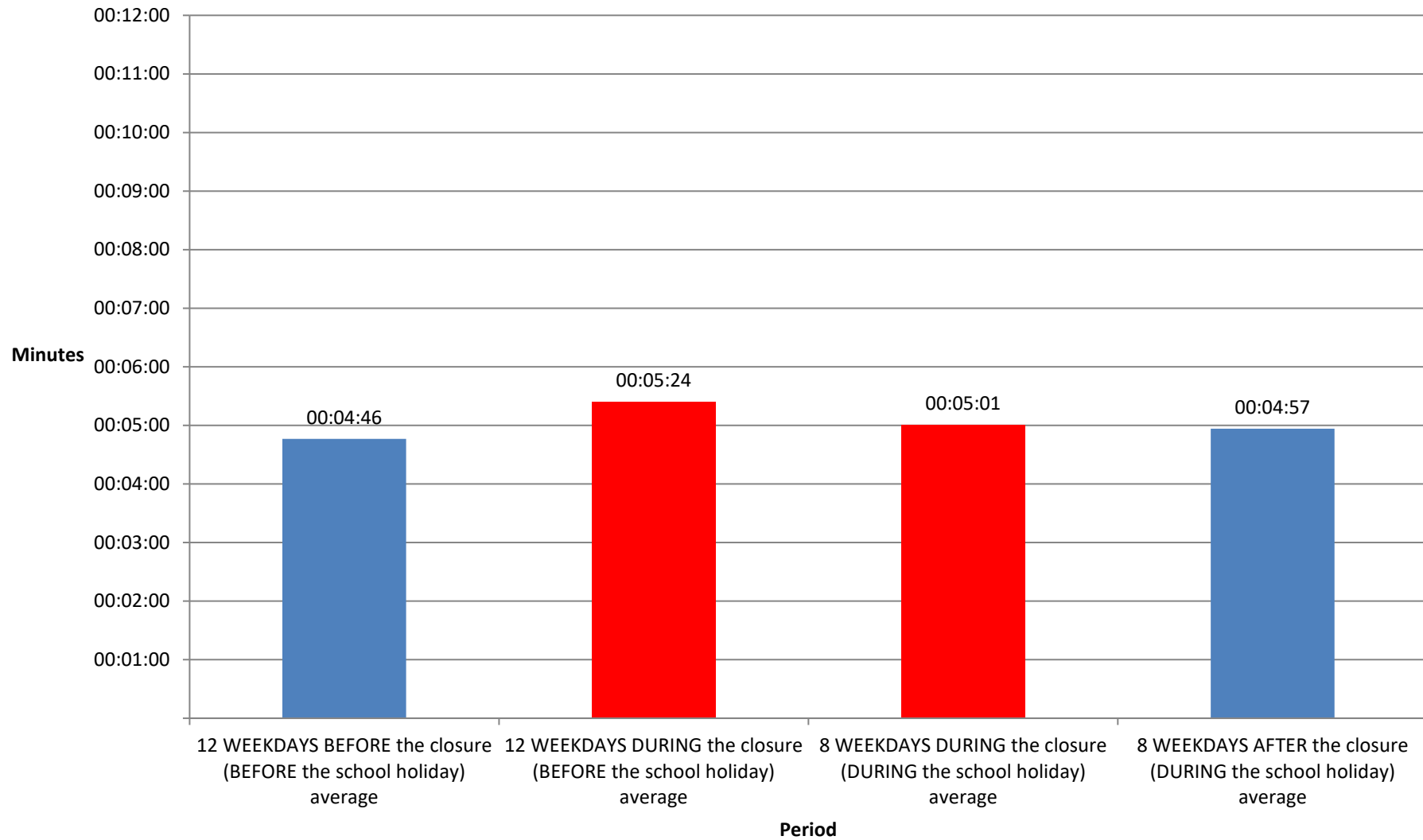
PM Peak Journey times from George Roundabout to Civic Gytratory



AM Peak Journey times from Civic Gyrratory to George Roundabout



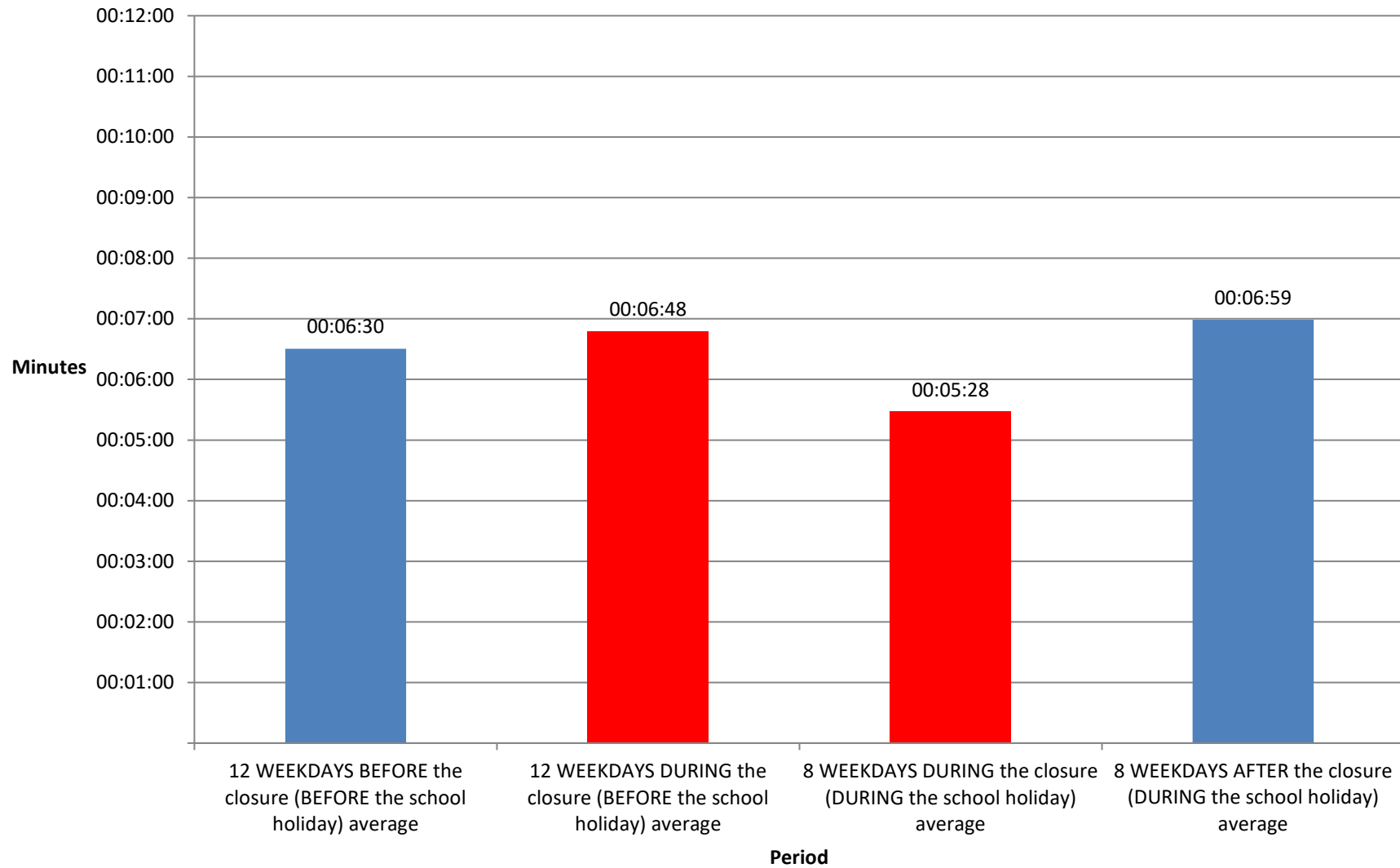
PM Peak Journey times from Civic Gytratory to George Roundabout



Longfleet Road

BEFORE SCHOOL HOLIDAY		MORNING					
		12 WEEKDAYS BEFORE the closure (BEFORE the school holiday) average					
		Vehicle Count		Journey Time in Seconds			
		From Poole	To Poole	From Poole	To Poole		
		07:00 to 09:00	07:00 to 09:00	07:00 to 09:00	07:00 to 09:00		
		772	1055	00:06:30			
		12 WEEKDAYS DURING the closure (BEFORE the school holiday) average					
		Vehicle Count		Journey Time in Seconds			
		From Poole	To Poole	From Poole	To Poole		
07:00 to 09:00	07:00 to 09:00	07:00 to 09:00	07:00 to 09:00				
756	1050	00:06:48					
DURING SCHOOL HOLIDAY		8 WEEKDAYS DURING the closure (DURING the school holiday) average					
		Vehicle Count		Journey Time in Seconds			
		From Poole	To Poole	From Poole	To Poole		
		07:00 to 09:00	07:00 to 09:00	07:00 to 09:00	07:00 to 09:00		
		678	1037	00:05:28			
		8 WEEKDAYS AFTER the closure (DURING the school holiday) average					
		Vehicle Count		Journey Time in Seconds			
		From Poole	To Poole	From Poole	To Poole		
		07:00 to 09:00	07:00 to 09:00	07:00 to 09:00	07:00 to 09:00		
659	1060	00:06:59					
BEFORE SCHOOL HOLIDAY		EVENING					
		12 WEEKDAYS BEFORE the closure (BEFORE the school holiday) average					
		Vehicle Count		Journey Time in Seconds			
		From Poole	To Poole	From Poole	To Poole		
		16:00 to 18:00	16:00 to 18:00	16:00 to 18:00	16:00 to 18:00		
		1302	812	00:07:20			
		12 WEEKDAYS DURING the closure (BEFORE the school holiday) average					
		Vehicle Count		Journey Time in Seconds			
		From Poole	To Poole	From Poole	To Poole		
16:00 to 18:00	16:00 to 18:00	16:00 to 18:00	16:00 to 18:00				
1483	802	00:07:56					
DURING SCHOOL HOLIDAY		8 WEEKDAYS DURING the closure (DURING the school holiday) average					
		Vehicle Count		Journey Time in Seconds			
		From Poole	To Poole	From Poole	To Poole		
		16:00 to 18:00	16:00 to 18:00	16:00 to 18:00	16:00 to 18:00		
		1483	802	00:07:11			
		8 WEEKDAYS AFTER the closure (DURING the school holiday) average					
		Vehicle Count		Journey Time in Seconds			
		From Poole	To Poole	From Poole	To Poole		
		16:00 to 18:00	16:00 to 18:00	16:00 to 18:00	16:00 to 18:00		
1333	811	00:07:23					

AM Peak Journey times from George Roundabout to Shah of Persia



PM Peak Journey times from George Roundabout to Shah of Persia

