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	Vehicle Flow	vs	
Beginning	Eastbound	Westbound	Two Way Total
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)
- <u>Traffic volumes</u> (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.

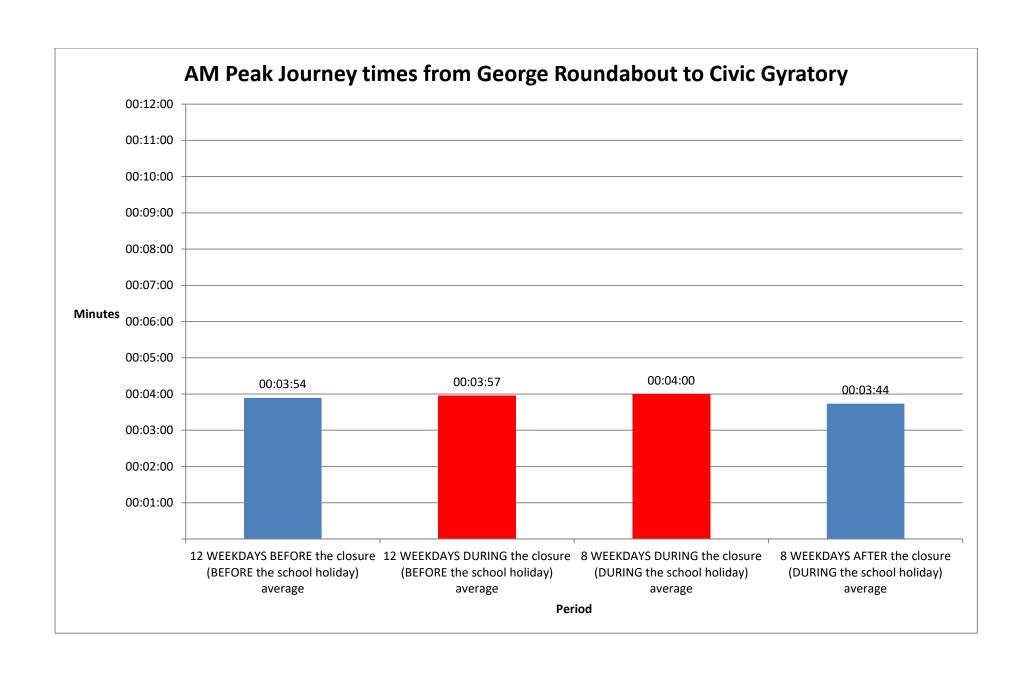
Indeed there are already precedents for preventing through traffic from using unsuitable routes:-

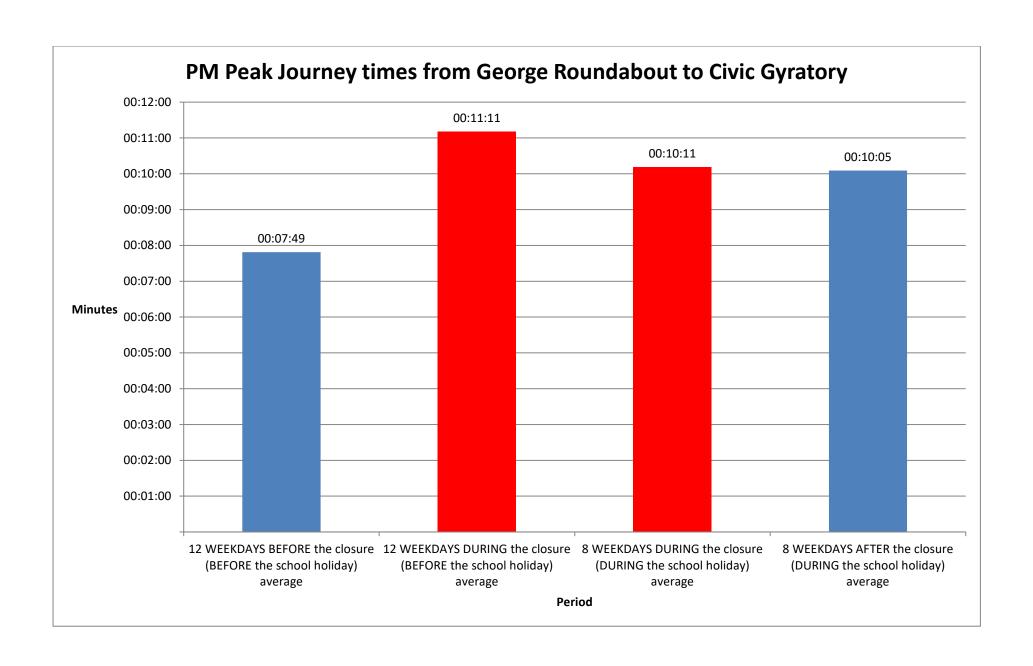
- Coy Pond Road (Environmental grounds)
- Churchfield Road and Birds Hill Road (to address an accident record at the junction)
- Wessex Road (to protect a residential area)

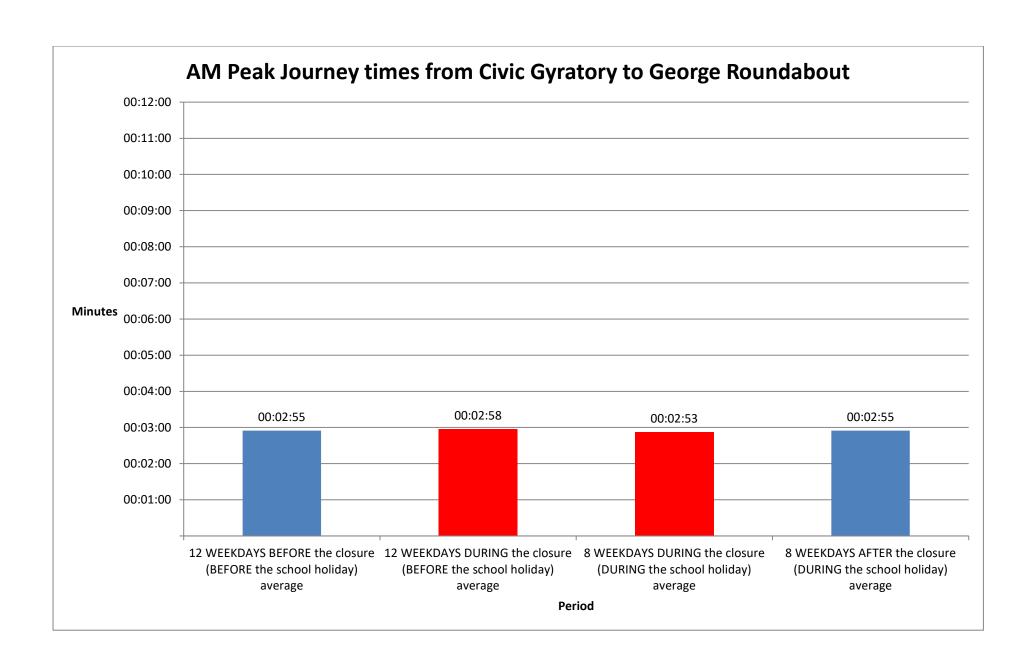
The surveys indicate that the main effects of the closure are seen during schooldays, and primarily in the eastbound direction. While the increased journey times in this direction are significant, it is likely that there would be some adjustment if drivers had to face this situation on a permanent basis.

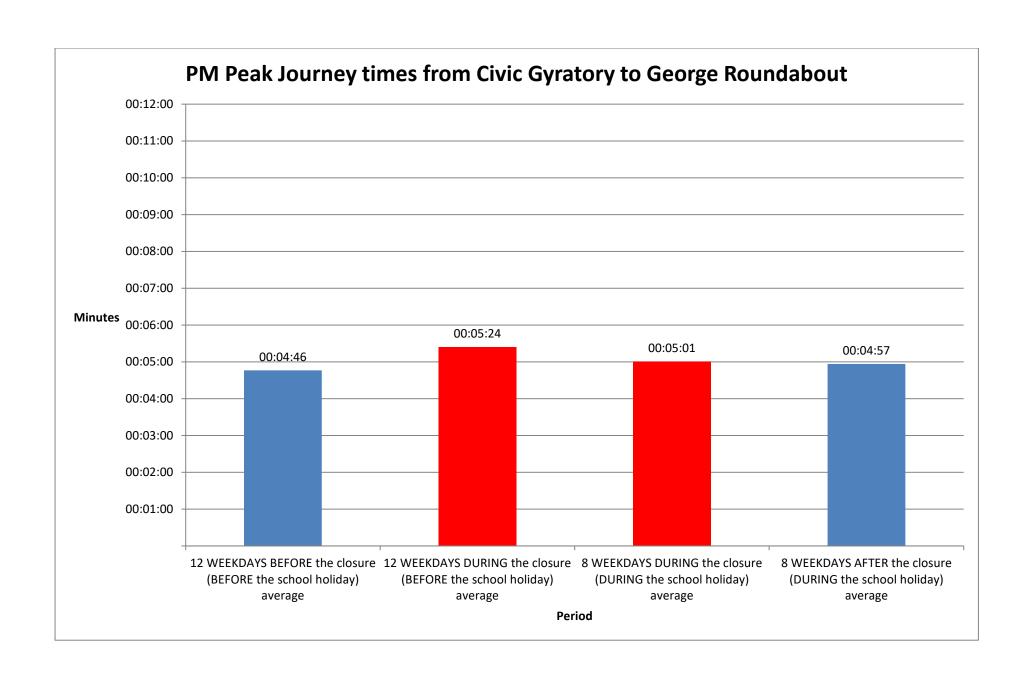
Parkstone Road

			MOF	RNING			
_		12 WI	EEKDAYS BEFORE the closure	BEFORE the school holiday) a			
		e Count		in MPH	Journey Time in Seconds		
	From Poole	To Poole	From Poole	To Poole	From Poole	To Poole	
BEFORE	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	
SCHOOL	2063	1903	24.0	23.8	00:03:54	00:02:55	
HOLIDAY -							
HOLIDAI		12 WEEKDAYS DURING the closure (BEFORE the school holiday) average					
_		e Count		in MPH	Journey Time		
_	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 the school holiday) av			
_		e Count		in MPH	Journey Time		
	From Poole	To Poole	From Poole	To Poole	From Poole	To Poole	
DURING -	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	
SCHOOL	1956	1744	24.0	24.9	00:04:00	00:02:53	
HOLIDAY -							
				URING the school holiday) av			
_		e Count		in MPH	Journey Time		
	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	
_				NING			
_				BEFORE the school holiday) a			
_		e Count	Speeds		Journey Time		
_	From Poole	To Poole	From Poole	To Poole	From Poole	To Poole	
BEFORE —	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	
SCHOOL	1724	2141	24.4	15.7	00:07:49	00:04:46	
HOLIDAY -							
_				(BEFORE the school holiday) a			
_		e 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 1692	16:00 to 18:00	16:00 to 18:00	16:00 to 18:00 11.1	16:00 to 18:00	16:00 to 18:00	
L	1692	2159	23.6	11.1	00:11:11	00:05:24	
_		0.115					
_	\/ - - ! -			DURING the school holiday) a		- i- Cd-	
_	From Poole	e Count To Poole	From Poole	in MPH	Journey Time		
-				To Poole	From Poole	To Poole	
DURING -	16:00 to 18:00 1731	16:00 to 18:00 2136	16:00 to 18:00 22.9	16:00 to 18:00 10.6	16:00 to 18:00 00:10:11	16:00 to 18:00 00:05:01	
SCHOOL	1/31	2130	22.9	10.0	00.10.11	00.05.01	
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_	Vohic	e Count	Speeds	URING the school holiday) av	erage Journey Time	o in Coconds	
_	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	
	1000	2072	24.0	Z 4 .U	00.10.03	00.04.37	









Longfleet Road

		MO	RNING				
ſ	12 WEEKDAY			oliday) ayorago			
	12 WEEKDAYS		(BEFORE the school h				
	From Poole	To Poole	Journey Time in Seconds From Poole To Poole				
	07:00 to 09:00	07:00 to 09:00	07:00 to 09:00	07:00 to 09:00			
BEFORE SCHOOL	772	1055	00:06:30	07.00 to 03.00			
HOLIDAY	112	1055	00.06.30				
HOLIDAY	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			
				07.00 to 09.00			
	756	1050	00:06:48				
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			(DURING the school holiday) average				
		Vehicle Count		ne 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			
DURING SCHOOL	678	1037	00:05:28				
HOLIDAY							
	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				
	EVENING						
	12 WEEKDAY	S BEFORE the closure	(BEFORE the school h	oliday) average			
	12 WEEKDAYS Vehicle			noliday) average ne in Seconds			
	Vehicle	Count	Journey Tir	ne in Seconds			
BEFORE SCHOOL	Vehicle From Poole	Count To Poole	Journey Tir From Poole	ne in Seconds To Poole			
BEFORE SCHOOL HOLIDAY	Vehicle From Poole 16:00 to 18:00	To Poole 16:00 to 18:00	Journey Tir From Poole 16:00 to 18:00	ne in Seconds To Poole			
L.	Vehicle From Poole 16:00 to 18:00 1302	Count To Poole 16:00 to 18:00 812	Journey Tir From Poole 16:00 to 18:00 00:07:20	ne in Seconds To Poole 16:00 to 18:00			
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