

ST ANNE STREET JUNCTION PLAN

CHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY RESPONSE

- 1.0 The Chester Archaeological Society has long supported the improvement of walking and cycling possibilities around Chester, and in particular making it easier to cross the Inner Ring Road. The Inner Ring Road has severed the radial routes that connect the city centre with its inner and outer suburbs; St Anne Street is a prime example of this.
- 2.0 The proposals for the N and SE arms of the junction, to improve access to the Bus Exchange, seem in principle fine, but why not make the crossing of the Inner Ring Road straight rather than put a dog-leg in it? However, although it is not part of the current scheme, there is no clear safe pedestrian route across the throat of the bus exchange.
- 3.0 Re: the W arm of the junction, why not put the cycle and pedestrian crossings side by side and run them diagonally across the Inner Ring Road, ie continuing the line of the upper part of St Anne Street? Again, the removal of dog-legs would make the crossing more direct, easier to navigate and would restore the visual link between the two parts of St Anne Street, thus symbolically reuniting Newtown and the city centre. As designed, the city-side 'landing' of the NW pedestrian crossing is not meaningfully sited. The SE crossing leads to the Bus Exchange; surely the NW crossing should lead directly to the top part of St Anne Street and thus to George Street and Delamere Street (eg Health Centre). The Delamere Street-St Anne Street area is derelict at the moment but is ripe for attractive redevelopment.
- 4.0 Two-way cycle tracks are potentially problematical as they make it more difficult for cyclists to reintegrate with other traffic. In addition, this modification reflects a piecemeal approach. We need to see a masterplan for cycling from the suburbs to and around the city centre, 'from anywhere to everywhere' - otherwise money will potentially be wasted. Obviously, this would take years to implement, but a plan needs to be in place.

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For Chester Archaeological Society

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