

Briefing Note

Congestion in Calne Town Centre - Area Board Issue: 3022

This issue has been discussed by Calne Community Area Transport Group (CATG) and subsequently the Group has recommended to Calne Area Board that the matter be prioritised for further investigation. This was ratified by the Area Board at their meeting held on 13th August 2013.

Essentially there is one main concern:

- That the priority system at The Square causes heavy congestion during peak times, both on Curzon Street and Wood Street / Oxford Road.

Current Arrangement

Traffic entering The Square from the A4 (Curzon Street) has priority over vehicles travelling in the opposite direction.

Suggested Solution

It has been suggested that the High Street should be re-opened to southbound traffic only with a right turn prohibition then imposed at the junction of High Street and Curzon Street. It is believed that this would relieve pressure at The Square where the current priority arrangement could remain.

Predicted Effect

- A perceived improvement to the route through the town centre may attract those who currently use the relief road for through journeys.
- The exit onto the A4 would need to be controlled and peak time queues on the High Street must be anticipated.
- The close proximity of the Wood Street / High Street junction to the Give Way point at The Square is unlikely to significantly reduce queues or improve journey times.
- There will be significant conflict between vehicles and pedestrians wishing to cross at each end of the High Street.
- The potential use of the High Street for community activities would be lost.

Officer recommendation

It is considered that the matter of overall future traffic flow and route choice in and around Calne should be dealt with by the Master Strategy Plan and that the CATG, with limited funding, should not attempt to “solve” this issue in isolation.

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