

DRAFT

Community Issue for consideration by the Community Area Transport Group

From Malmesbury Town Council Planning and Environment Committee

JUNCTION AT THE TRIANGLE, MALMESBURY

The Town Council has received numerous comments from organisations and residents in the town concerning the inappropriateness of the junction layout at the Triangle/War Memorial on the B4040 in Malmesbury (grid ref ST 930 874).

The priority at this junction is given to traffic routing via Bristol Street (B4040) and Gloucester Road (C68) with traffic on Abbey Row (B4040) having to stop at a T-junction to join the traffic flow. This arrangement was introduced some years ago. At the junction, the Abbey Row highway was artificially narrowed and waiting restrictions and a hatched area introduced, presumably to reduce the speed of traffic.

Prior to this change in layout the priority route was Abbey Row - Gloucester Road with traffic from Bristol Street having to stop before joining the traffic flow. Since this change was completed traffic volumes have increased along with the overall size of vehicles. The highest proportion of traffic now appears to use the Abbey Row - Gloucester Road route. The proportion of traffic along Bristol Street seems much lower. One result is significant queues of traffic, especially in the late afternoon and evening rush hour, heading west on Abbey Row with the intention of turning north on Gloucester Road.

The existing situation has been exacerbated because of the amount of unauthorised parking within the hatched area at the junction, greatly encouraged by the existence of take-away shops. Enforcement is almost non-existent therefore unauthorised parking has become a standard practice. This illegal activity further reduces the width of the road at this junction, forcing vehicles to make a wider than necessary turn entering and leaving the junction. Reports have been received of minor vehicle damage caused by this situation.

We request consideration be given to (a) removing the highway narrowing and hatched area on Abbey Row at this junction; (b) returning the priorities to where they were some years ago, with the Abbey Row – Gloucester Road route having priority.