

## **Bicester Town Centre Access Improvements**

### **Description of the proposed scheme**

The existing roundabout at **Banbury and Buckingham Road** is proposed to be altered from a five-arm to a three-arm roundabout with Roman Way and North Street closed off to through traffic from the north. This will reduce movements and complexity at this junction thereby increasing traffic flow and reducing congestion.

The Buckingham Road arm can then be adjusted and moved slightly southwards to increase sightlines/visibility to further improve traffic flow. Cycle, pedestrian and emergency vehicle access will still be permitted to North Street/Roman Way which will remove a known barrier for pedestrians and cyclists and offer them a safer and more convenient access to the town centre.

**North Street and Roman Way** are proposed to be transformed into a cul-de-sac with two-way access from St John's Street. This would eliminate through traffic and create a more pleasant environment for residents and pedestrians and cyclists accessing the town centre, rail stations and beyond.

It is proposed that **St John's Street** will be changed from one-way (westbound) to two-way. This will allow traffic to access the town centre from Field Street/Queens Avenue and also enable the removal of buses from The Causeway and the Banbury/Buckingham Road roundabout which will help relieve congestion and improve bus journey time reliability.

The traffic signals will be removed and replaced at **St John's Street/Field Street** with a mini-roundabout which, as each arm has relatively even traffic flow, will improve movements and reduce congestion.

A raised zebra crossing is proposed just east of **Manorsfield Road** to aid pedestrian movements with a widened pavement on the north side of St John's Street. The proposed roundabout on St John's Street/Manorsfield Road as part of the town centre redevelopment will be constructed as planned.

The **Field Street** signalised crossing is proposed to be converted to a zebra crossing to allow for pedestrian priority, with a cycle lane northbound from Bucknell Road. The right turn ban will be removed coming out of Bucknell Road with one added to prevent right turns from Field Street to alleviate queuing traffic.

The **Queens Avenue** proposals include a new bus lay-by for southbound buses, a new right turn lane into the Bicester Community College and converting the inefficient signalised crossing to a zebra crossing. This will help to prevent queuing traffic southbound which results in traffic being blocked at St John's Street which is a cause of congestion.