



THE CITY OF WINCHESTER TRUST

Response to the Winchester Station Travel Plan - 31.3.14

The Trust welcomes the Plan and HCC's part in gaining this invaluable contribution towards improving efficiency, sustainability and conditions for travellers using Winchester Station. The Trust's primary interest in the matter is that Winchester is under ever increasing pressure for growth in its population and as a centre for employment, education, shopping and leisure. The City Council, the Trust and others are very concerned that growth is managed so that it can be accommodated without destroying the unique character of the City and its setting.

Much can be achieved by skill and a degree of compromise, but in one field, the continued use of cars for access to, and travel within the City, is already beyond the capacity of the road network. The 20thC solutions advocated by Sir Patrick Abercrombie (and at one time supported by most authorities), necessitating demolition to provide for new roads, road widening and car parks, have long been acknowledged as incompatible with the City's character.

It is essential, therefore, to greatly increase the use of public transport, especially by rail, and to so improve the conditions for walking and cycling that one or the other becomes the choice for the majority of travellers within the urban area.

Research into how these things can be done is an essential precursor to making improvements and the Travel Plan goes a long way in achieving this. Believing that the WinACC recommendations supplement the Plan in a number of important respects, we wish to add the Trust's support for their Response.

The area around the station is probably already the most intensively used part of the City for travellers, and the neighbourhood with most potential for manageable growth. The Trust is concerned that this is done not only in practical ways, but to enhance the character of this part of the City and the experience for travellers.

The station has buildings of pleasing character (with potential for improvement of course), but the setting is poor and a very unsatisfactory ambience for visitors and locals alike. If the travel experience is to be improved, the Trust believes the approaches to the station play an essential part. Cooperation between the relevant interests (represented by the Steering Group) is needed to ensure that the design not only of the buildings but all aspects of the public realm is of the highest possible quality. This is a particularly opportune time when the City Council is considering regeneration of the Station area.

We ask, therefore, that design aspirations for the whole area are discussed with all concerned and included in the Plan.

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