Currently unmarked, the bus stop at the War Memorial causes difficulty for through traffic due to the Cheltenham bound bus standing in the road. It cannot be passed while fans are taken, blocking car park users at Abbey Terrace and causing confusion for tourists as it is not at all obvious where the bus stops. The proposal is to reallocate the bus stop to outside the kitchen shop in Abbey Terrace, at the junction with Vineyard Street. Bus stop road markings would define the stop to prevent confusion, and the appropriate bus stop sign and timetable display would help reassure visitors that they are in the right place at the right time.

At present there are no allocated bays for loading vehicles in town. Video footage shows that illegal parking by delivery vehicles often results in congestion in the town centre, occasionally preventing the turning of buses and HGV’s. Delivery vehicles parking on the pavements forces pedestrians to walk in the road or make unsafe crossings. The proposal is to create designated parking bays for vehicles to loads in the centre of the town. One loading bay might be outside the Coventry Building Society, with space for two vehicles to stop at the same time. Sheds would have full use of these convenient loading bays. Allocated loading bays would not only reduce congestion while travelling through central locations of the town, but also reduce the risk of unsafe crossing points. Pavements would be clear for pedestrian use, plus clearer views, for both pedestrians and vehicle users.

Cars have to be reversed in or out of the B4632 side spaces at Abbey Terrace car park which results in dangerous movements, and often causes congestion. Rearrangement of the car park could enable safer and smoother movement around the car park. The proposal is to create two rows of parallel bays, served by a central access into a safer, central area (see diagram, right). The car park would be sectioned off from the B4632 using removable bollards, enabling events, such as the fair. Reversing onto the main road would no longer be possible, creating a safer, cleaner passage through town.

High Street/North Street junction is currently a popular but potentially unsafe crossing point for many pedestrians in the town centre. Video evidence shows pedestrians crossing dangerously, often due to an obstructed view or obstructed pavements. The proposal is to create three raised pavement crossing points – one on each limb of the High Street/North Street junction. These relatively low road humps, coated with buff coloured surfacing, as in Tewkesbury high Street, would send a clear visual signal to motorists that they need to slow down. Extension of the east pavement, by 1 m, will enable a clearer view for vehicles exiting North Street. Illegal parking would also be discouraged very close to the junction, by installing wooden bollards in the pavement either side of the crossing points – but far enough from the junction not to obstruct buses. Heightening road users’ awareness of pedestrians will result in a clearer and safer crossing. Prevention of illegal parking close to the junction will also make it easier for buses and large vehicles to turn, thus reducing congestion.

What do you think about these proposals? What other ideas do you have for managing traffic, vehicle loading and parking?