

## THE LAMB HOTEL

As you know the Lamb Hotel has become a bit of an eyesore in the town and everyone is keen that something is done to improve it. However, the plans have been submitted by the development company to the Council Planning Department and they have been referred to the Secretary of State. The committee is very concerned.

The proposal is for twenty-two residential dwellings and two restaurants. The current front part of the hotel will be retained, however, the rest of the building behind will be a totally new build.

Our concerns are:

- Twenty-two new residential dwellings could house at least forty people but only seven car parking spaces are to be provided. There is already insufficient parking for our current residents. How will all the extra cars be accommodated?
- Where will customers for the restaurants park their cars?
- The safety of our church could be irrevocably damaged if the water table is allowed to rise even once during the building works.
- Where will the contractor's vehicles and equipment park? Large lorries will need to travel along Pillory Street, negotiate the tight corner, and then travel along Hospital Street: firstly to remove the rubble from the demolition and then to deliver materials for the new build. The whole process will cause mayhem in two of the oldest and narrowest streets of the town. There will be dust, noise, shaken foundations and frequent grid-lock.
- What effect will the disruption caused by the building work have on businesses in Hospital Street?

We need to know your views ASAP so we can comment on behalf of the Association to the Secretary of State and the Local Highways Engineer. Please contact the Editor 142 Hospital Street, Nantwich Cheshire CW5 5RY.

## KNOW YOUR HISTORY

Do you know the history of your house? If so we would like you to send the committee the information. As part of the Hospital Street website we will be creating an historic section for which we need as much information on the street and properties as possible.

Please send details about your house to Daphne Butler at Globe House, 79 Hospital Street - butlerd@c2internet.net.

*Are you aware of  
what is happening  
at The Lamb?*

## PAYING YOUR SUBS

A number of households that said that they wanted to join the Hospital Street Association have yet to pay their subscriptions for the current year. The agreed cost is £5.00 per household. Please ensure that if you have not paid you contact the treasurer, Chris Barratt at 27 Spring Gardens ☎01270 627321

## SOCIAL EVENING

As you are aware the Association was formed to try to improve Hospital Street but also to help us all get to know our neighbours. So we have organised a social evening and hope you can all come along. It will be held on Wednesday 22 October at Bon Ami Bistro, Hospital Street starting at 7.30 p.m.

Tickets cost £10.00 per person and a menu is enclosed. We need to know final numbers by 12 October.

If you are interested in coming along please contact Angela Lavelle at 130 Hospital Street.

(Cheques should be made payable to Hospital Street Association.)



# HOSPITAL STREET NEWS

Summer 2003

## EDITORIAL

Welcome to the second edition of *Hospital Street News*.

In this Summer edition you will find the results of recent activities: the petition calling for a weight restriction; the survey document of the road signs around Nantwich; and our lorry logging. The latter has been submitted to the Acting County Engineer. You may also have noticed that two black cables have appeared across the street installed by the Council to monitor traffic flows. There is also news on the planning application for The Lamb Hotel, and details of a projected Hospital Street social evening.

As always your comments and suggestions are warmly welcomed.

## COMMUNITY AUDIT

As part of a new initiative Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council will be carrying out various improvements to public open spaces in the borough, including streets, parks and public buildings. They are currently asking for local people to volunteer as Community Auditors to monitor what is taking place and to comment on it. Would you be interested? If so write to Paul Burns at the address given on the right - no stamp is needed! →

## SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED

As you will all be aware we recently started a petition calling for a weight restriction, a 20mph speed zone and environmental improvements to Hospital Street. We are delighted to announce that with your help we succeeded in getting over 1,000 signatures on our petition and would like to say a big thank you to everyone who signed it and also all the willing volunteers who helped collect all the signatures.

This petition has now been presented to the Acting County Engineer for Cheshire and the Local Joint Highways Committee who have acknowledged it and put it in front of the Local Joint Highways Committee for consideration.

**FREEPOST CW496**  
Paul Burns, Community Audit  
C&N Borough BC, Direct Services,  
Pyms Lane Depot,  
Pyms Lane  
Crewe CW1 3PJ

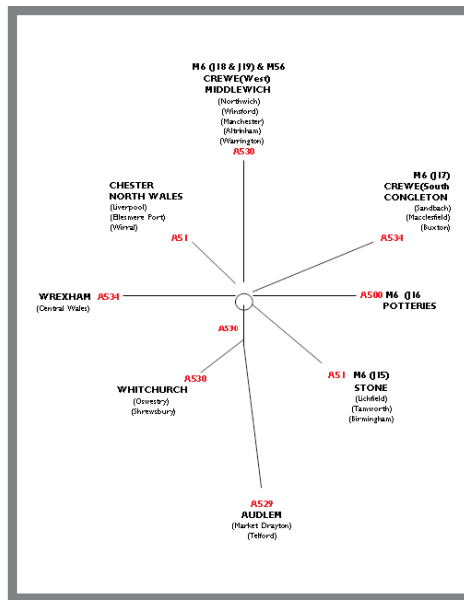
## GATHERING THE EVIDENCE

In the previous newsletter we mentioned that we are collecting a dossier of evidence regarding various incidents that have taken place along Hospital Street, i.e. dangerous driving, near misses, blocking of access etc. We felt it would be easier if we provided you with an incident report form that can be easily filled in and returned to Roger Dutton at 132 Hospital Street. Enclosed is a form. However, if you require further forms these can either be photocopied or printed off from our website <http://www.hospital-street.co.uk>

## POINTING THE WAY

We can also announce that the committee have submitted a substantial document reviewing directional signage, road classification and designation to the County Council, local Crewe and Nantwich Councillors, the Department of Transport for the North West and Gwyneth Dunwoody MP.

This submission points out clearly how badly the various major routes around Nantwich have been signed and suggests ways to correct this and to reclassify various roads. This will then ensure that all through traffic will be diverted away from the town centre.



The maps on these pages were part of the Association's report on directional signage and road classification.

◀ The map on the left shows the main routes that converge on Nantwich. If the Association's recommendations are adopted through traffic will be directed around the town rather than through it as now.

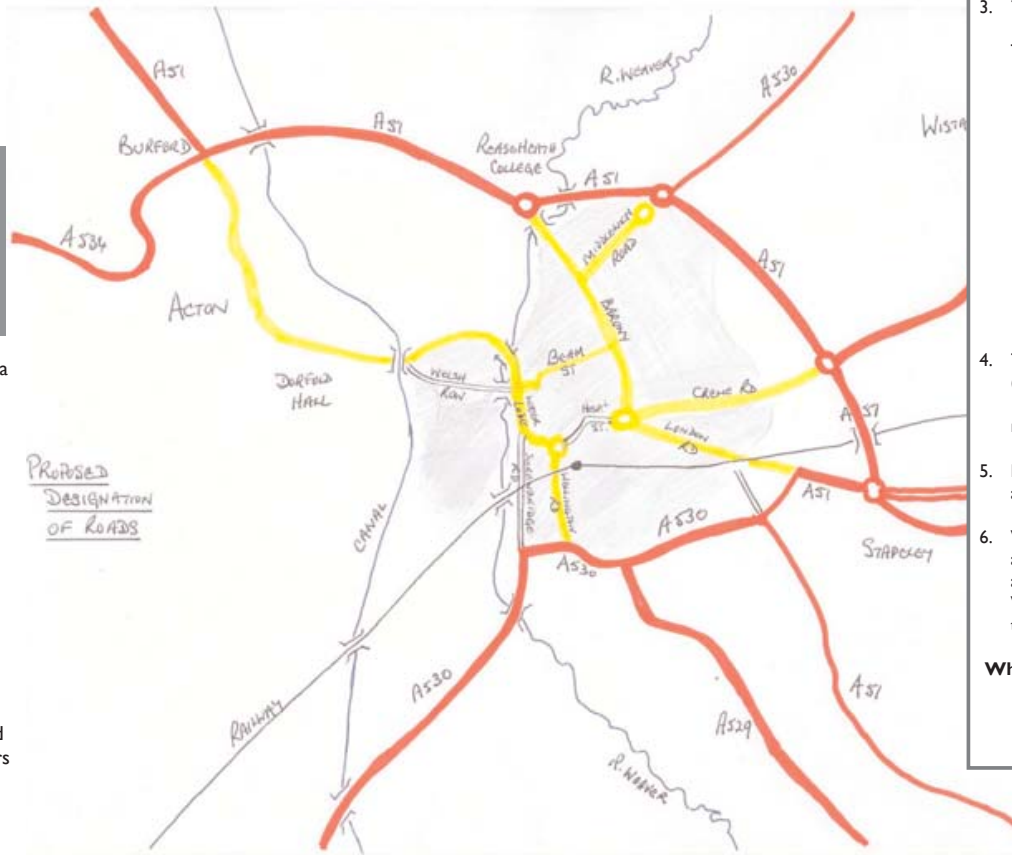
In the map below the town centre roads are designated in yellow on the original and the through traffic roads are designated in red. For more information visit the HST website. ▼

## MEETING AREA TRAFFIC ENGINEER

Back in June the committee met with the Area Traffic Engineer to discuss the traffic situation on Hospital Street and how by working with the council these problems can be addressed.

The council informed the committee that there is currently a problem with funding the re-signage of Nantwich, which could cost at least £150,000, and that this issue would be part of the next Local Transport Plan. The committee was also informed that the association would be consulted with regard to the Local Transport Plan which will come into effect in 2006.

Another meeting between the committee and the Area Traffic Engineer and Local Councillors is scheduled on 18 September 2003.



## Hospital Street Association Survey of Heavy Vehicle Usage of Hospital Street

A survey of usage of the two-way section of Hospital Street by vehicles was undertaken during July 2003. Vehicles were logged during one hour periods in a scatter throughout weekdays with no sessions duplicated.

The direction of travel was noted and a total of 1,042 vehicles recorded.

The initial objective was to try to identify firms whose vehicles are the most frequent users of this stretch of road in order to approach them with information about the by-pass routes and a request that these routes should be used in future.

### Conclusions

- 498 different firms (50%) were logged in addition to 196 unidentified vehicles (20%), which includes 8 horseboxes and 6 heavy tractors with trailers.
- Of the above named firms 353 were logged only once, and a further 84 were logged only twice; a total of 437 recordings. After allowing for unmarked vehicles 54% of vehicles logged used the route twice or less.
- 7 firms registered a total of more than 1.0% of total vehicles logged.

These were:

H J Lea Oakes	13	1.3%
Wincanton	13	1.3%
Barratts Coaches	12	1.2%
Builders Centre	11	1.1%
Scanlans	11	1.1%
H ST Feeds	11	1.1%
Gro Continental	10	0.9%
Total		8.1%

**It is thought by this Association that writing to these firms would have no significant impact on the problem.**

- There is a consistently higher number of vehicles travelling in a Westerly direction (57 %) compared with an Easterly direction (43%). This finding, combined with the high number of casual users, highlights that the root cause of the problem lies in incorrect road signing.
- In excess of 80 vehicles per hour were recorded during the heaviest periods and the average was 38 vehicles per hour.
- Whilst vehicles were logged travelling along Hospital Street, observers were also aware of large numbers of heavy goods vehicles (which were not logged) which are in the habit of using London Road, Crewe Road, Millstone Lane/Barony, and Wellington Road. These vehicles are clearly "through traffic" and ought to be using the by-pass route.

**Whilst Hospital Street is probably the most seriously affected the problem of misuse of roads by heavy vehicles affects the whole town.**