

Northwich Pedestrian Subway – Your views on its future

About the survey

Cheshire West and Chester Council and Northwich Town Council would like your views on the future of the Northwich pedestrian subway once we have installed the proposed ground level crossings in the same place. Do you think it would be useful to keep the subway or should we fill it in?

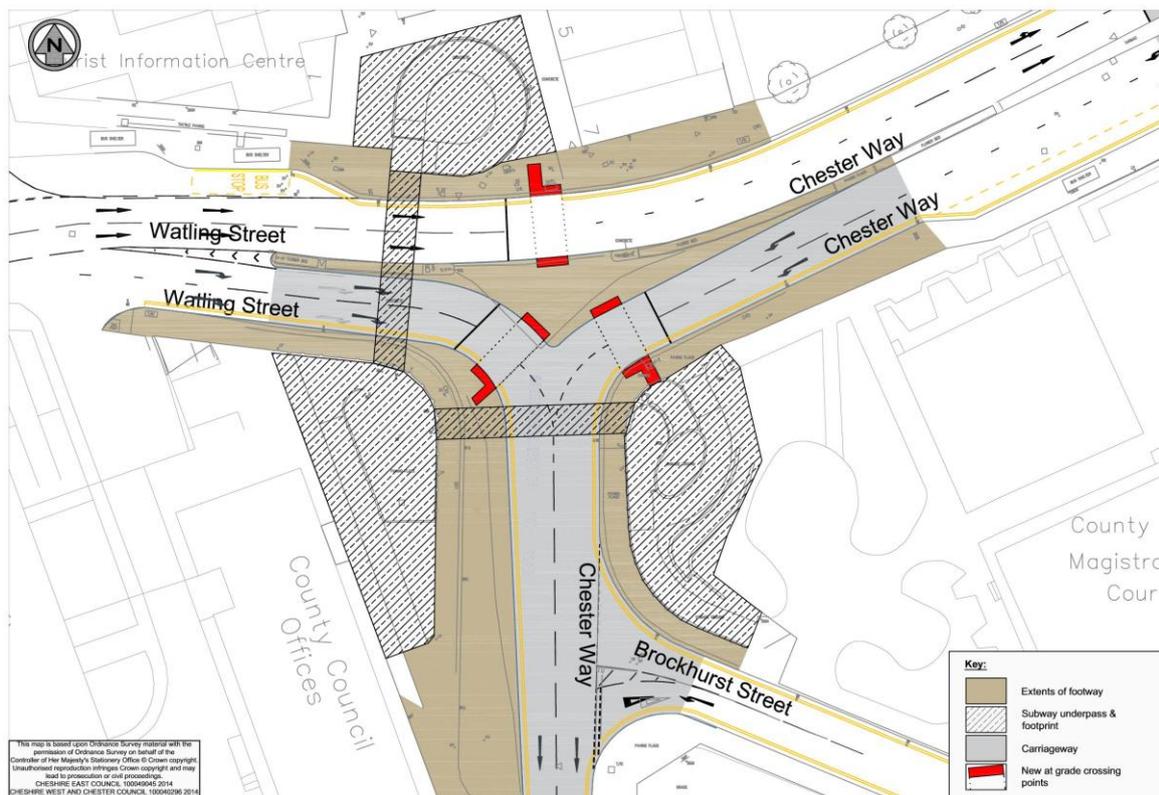
Background

The pedestrian subway in Northwich town centre was built in the 1960s when this type of crossing was popular as it was a convenient method of ensuring pedestrians and vehicular traffic were kept apart to reduce accidents and injuries.

The Northwich subway has three entry/exit points for:

- the shopping centre
- new Memorial Court
- former Council building

In recent times there has been a movement towards subways being filled in. However the Northwich subway is inspected weekly and generally is in good condition, there are no crime and disorder issues and litter does not seem to be a problem. The map below shows where the new pedestrian crossings will be located.



There are three new crossings being installed which, from above, look like a triangular shape with an island in the middle.

- Crossing one is from outside the Sea Farer restaurant to the central island
- Crossing two is from the new lifestyle centre to the central island
- Crossing three is from the old Council offices to the central island.

The image also shows the current subway entrances and exits which are close to the new crossings.

Link to regeneration

Northwich town centre is currently undergoing a transformation with new developments on Baron's Quay, a new leisure complex opposite the shopping centre on Chester Way / Brockhurst Street and road changes to form a gyratory route around the town centre.

Cheshire West and Chester Council has received Pinch Point funding to make permanent the gyratory system and this incorporated three new ground level pedestrian crossings, highlighted in the diagram above in red, giving similar entry and exit routes as the subway but via a central island.

The pedestrian crossings have been installed irrespective of the subway being in place as this is a condition of the Pinch Point funding agreement. The crossings work was completed at the end of October 2014.

As part of the Pinch Point funding application a traffic assessment was conducted to determine the effects of introducing the three new crossings and the findings concluded that traffic would be able to flow more freely.

Cost and Impact

The installation of the pedestrian crossings has raised the question of whether or not the subway should be filled in. Local councillors have mixed views, but are keen that local residents and businesses have a voice in the decision.

One effect of filling in the subway would be the creation of additional open space by removing the walls around the junction which would mean more community space outside the new Memorial Court. Should the decision be that the subway be filled in then this could be good timing to do the works as it coincides with the new Memorial Court building works. The cost of filling in the subways is about £500,000 including public realm works, but the Pinch Point funding for carrying out the junction work does not include this, and neither does the regeneration funding.

Give us your views

The consultation period will run from 6 October 2014 to 30 November 2014. The survey is anonymous and no personal data will be collected. You can give your view on this website, alternatively, should you wish to fill in a paper copy then please contact:

- Northwich and Winsford Locality Team, Wyvern House, Winsford, CW7 1AU
- Telephone: 01606 288843
- Email: NorthwichWinsfordLocality@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Completed paper questionnaires and enquiries should be addressed to the Northwich and Winsford Locality Team at the above address. Businesses in the town centre will be consulted via the Business Improvement District network by Groundwork Cheshire.

Other formats

Council information is available in audio, Braille, large print or other formats. If you would like a copy in a different format, in another language or require an interpreter please contact by one of the following methods:

- Email: equalities@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk,
- Telephone: 0300 123 8 123,
- Textphone: 18001 01606 8670670

Consultation

Q1a: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to fill in the pedestrian subway in Northwich?

Agree

Neither agree
nor disagree

Disagree

Don't know

Q1b: Please tell us your reasons in the box below

Q2: How often do you use this Northwich pedestrian subway?

Daily

Weekly

Monthly

Less often
than
Monthly

Never

Thank you for taking part in this survey.