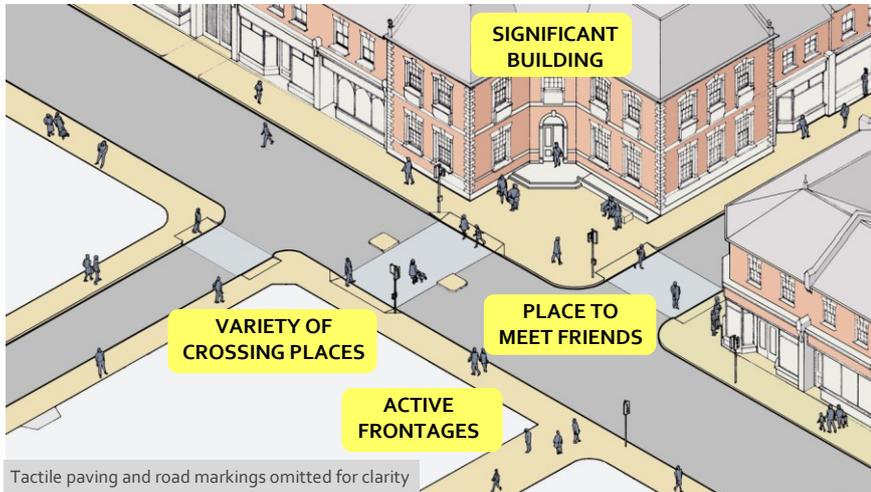


Design and manage a street as a place as well as for movement



The same road junction is also a place where people expect to meet in pleasant surroundings



It is often the spaces between buildings that we subconsciously react to and remember



Streets that are attractive allow us to make our own choices on what to do and where to go

PLACE AND MOVEMENT

Manual for Streets published by the Department for Transport in 2007 reminds us that a street performs two functions: as a distinct place with its own characteristics and as a conduit for movement. One of Manual for Streets' key recommendations is that increased consideration should be given to the place function of a street.

The design or adaptation of a street can enhance its individual character or sense of place. It can help emphasise the qualities that local people appreciate such as the setting of important landmarks and the contrast between a narrow intimate passage and the bustle of a high street.

It is possible to significantly enhance the place function of a street without compromising safety.

QUALITY OF BUILT FORM

To respect the place function of a street, we need to analyse what contributes to its quality. Though the design and architectural style of individual buildings is important, their position in relation to the street and to other buildings may have more effect on the character of a place and be more memorable.

Seen at the corner of a busy high street, a building might appear to have command over a formal paved area, perhaps a town square. In a narrow passage the same building could simply contribute to a delightfully small scale intimacy.

It is often in the spaces between buildings where human activity and social interaction take place. These spaces should be designed or adapted to respect or enhance a street's sense of place.

HEALTH AND ECONOMIC WELLBEING

Given the opportunity, people will engage in a very wide range of activities and movement patterns within a street. Streets that are interesting and pedestrian-friendly allow people to make their own choices on what to do and which route to take.

The greater variety of activity that a street can accommodate – walking, sitting, chatting with friends, browsing and window shopping - the more successful it is likely to be. Streets that are interesting (and not dominated by motor vehicles) can encourage people to walk more or cycle as part of their daily routines leading to a healthier lifestyle.

Streets should be comfortable for pedestrians to use. This includes places where people can cross the road or share spaces with vehicles without feeling intimidated.