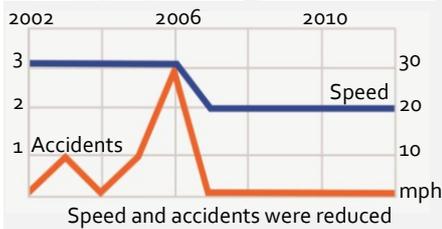


# Combine road safety with amenity



Pedestrian refuge and white lines were replaced by an uncontrolled junction and a courtesy crossing



## SELF EXPLAINING ROADS

Drivers need to know what to expect in the road ahead. This happens in a self-explaining road. Case studies show that drivers regulate their speed in response to anxiety. If the road ahead looks dangerous or there is uncertainty, speed is reduced.

Though the circumstances of each case need to be considered individually, there is evidence that where central white lines have been removed in village and residential roads, traffic speed has been lowered and accidents reduced. At Julian Road, Bath, a pedestrian refuge at a junction, together with white lines in the centre of the road were removed and replaced with an uncontrolled junction and a courtesy crossing. The arrangement is informal and drivers can see that the way ahead is not straightforward. Drivers reduce speed in order to cope with any unexpected activity.

Changes in the road layout to increase uncertainty reduced the likelihood of accidents

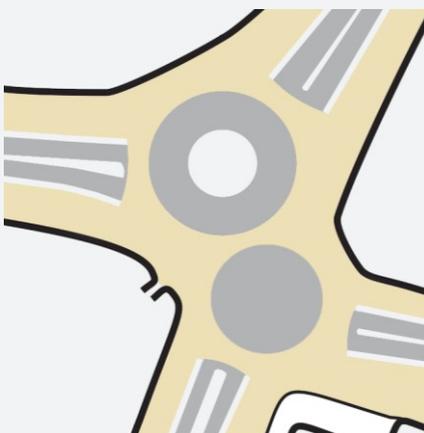
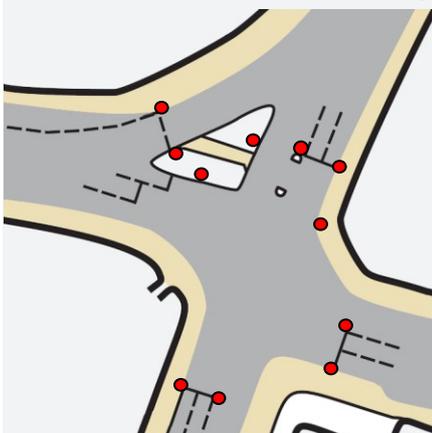


## TIME TO REACT

Having alerted drivers to the possibility of hazards in the road, the next step in the design process is to make sure the hazard will be seen. At a recently completed scheme at Poynton, Cheshire, a complex arrangement of traffic signals has been replaced with an uncontrolled junction in the shape of a double mini roundabout. Vehicles entering the junction approach slowly but continuously in a free flow single lane. Drivers are able to cope with and give way to pedestrians on courtesy crossings and then negotiate individually with other drivers as they move through the junction.

The success of the scheme relies on low speed and drivers watching what other road users are doing, with no clear indication of who has priority. This allows all drivers to respond safely to any additional unexpected events that might occur.

Accident reduction was accompanied by tangible enhancements to the quality of the place



## ADDED QUALITY

Successful traffic schemes are those which are safe and also improve the feel of the area. Places need to have a soul and be pleasant. Good design is about what humans actually feel and relate to.

Traffic schemes can contribute to the best characteristics of a place. Redundant traffic signs, guard railings, white lines and in some places traffic signals can be removed to improve road safety. In many places there will be opportunities to do more: provide hard or soft landscape, or trees.

There is no guarantee that schemes designed to preformed design "standards" are automatically safe in every circumstance. Innovative designs that help drivers to expect, understand and react to hazards can have the added advantage of being tailored precisely to the local characteristics of a place. They can emphasise the quality of the countryside, village, small town, urban area or city.

● Signals at controlled junction  
Average of 6 accidents a year  
Queues on all approach roads

Signals removed. Lower approach speed  
Average of 3 low severity accidents a year  
Queues reduced. High flows maintained

Slower speed at junctions reduces accidents and the severity of the accidents that do occur