

## Transport Interchange

Transport Interchange schemes, such as the new one at Gloucester, are the subject of much attention. Mindful of financial, planning and other tedious detail, a small team of expert members of Hereford Civic Society now present a discussion document for Hereford Station:

We start with

- An impressive Grade 2 listed station building overlooking the overwide City Link Road and the Post Office Sorting Office
- The prospect of two monolith blocks – the Health Centre and the Student Accommodation

We have thought beyond the usual way that Herefordshire Council approaches new development. Rather than consider the site in isolation we have proposed including access via the new Health Centre grounds.

We have paid attention to cost and ease of construction.

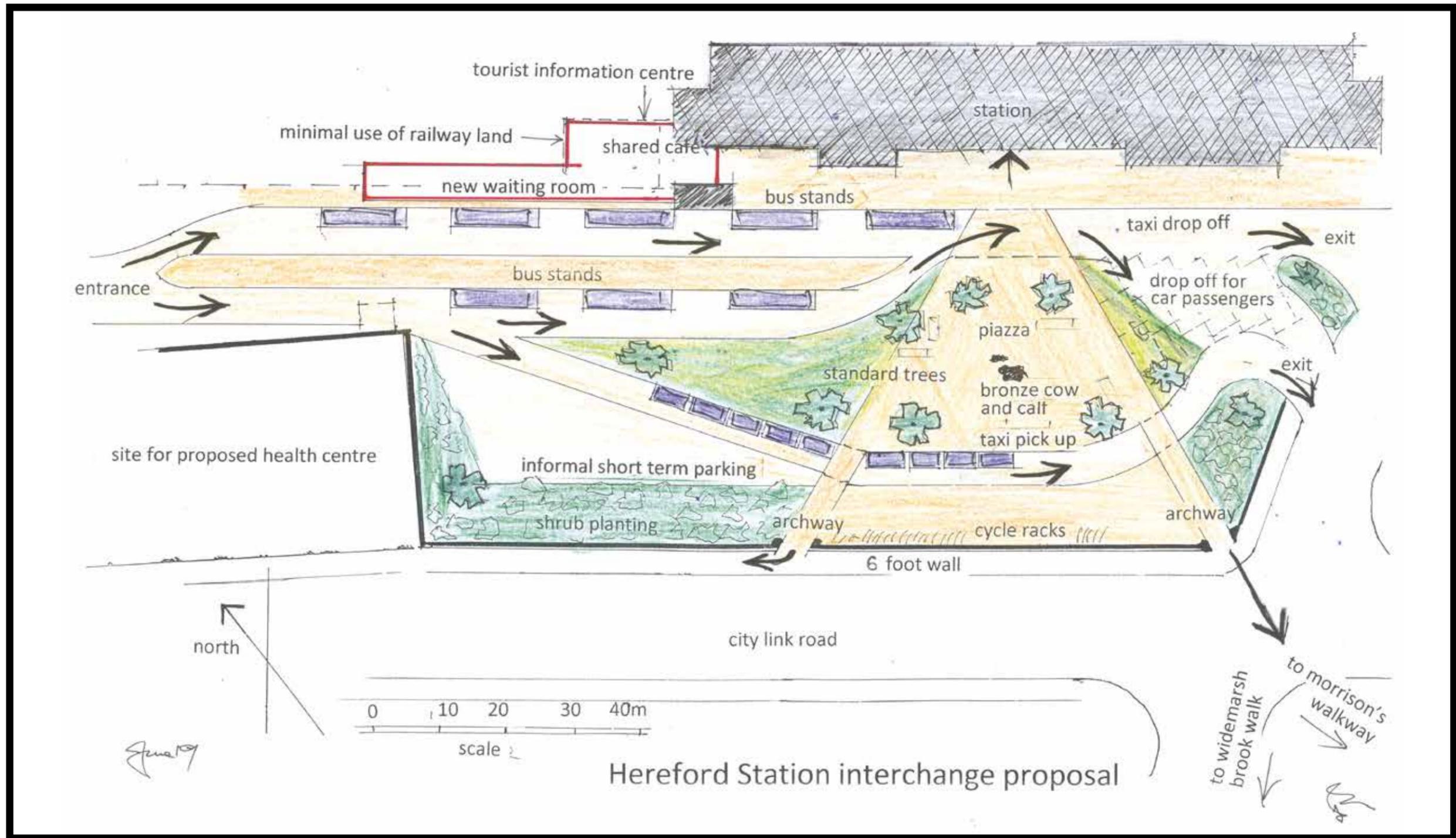
We present the draft drawings to generate discussion, we believe it deals with many of the difficulties presented.

## Our proposal creates a new meeting PLACE and includes

- creating a new piazza enclosed by a six foot high wall to shield visitors from the less than welcoming outlook when exiting buses and trains
- substantial areas of planting and trees to reflect our County
- a bronze cow and calf being relations of the bull in High Town
- dealing with neighbouring ownerships and some gentle Compulsory Purchase Orders to enable an easy flow of traffic



# INSPIRATION



## The details

Access to the interchange will be via a road to the west of the Health Centre with egress over the road from the existing railway carpark. This will require some Compulsory Purchase Orders, fully justified because they enable a pragmatic solution for the public benefit. An enlarged café, shared with the station, will be created to the west of the present station café and link into a waiting room with Tourist Information Centre. Buses will have easy access, not requiring reversing,

and stands allocated using the latest high tech system. A piazza immediately outside the station entrance will become an informal meeting place with standard trees; from here will be two routes, each through an archway, for pedestrian and cycle use which will directly connect with the two previous proposals from the Society. The **Widemarsh Brook Walk** – leading to the new University and Old Market in Blackfriars Street and the **Morrison Gateway** across their carpark into Commercial Road.

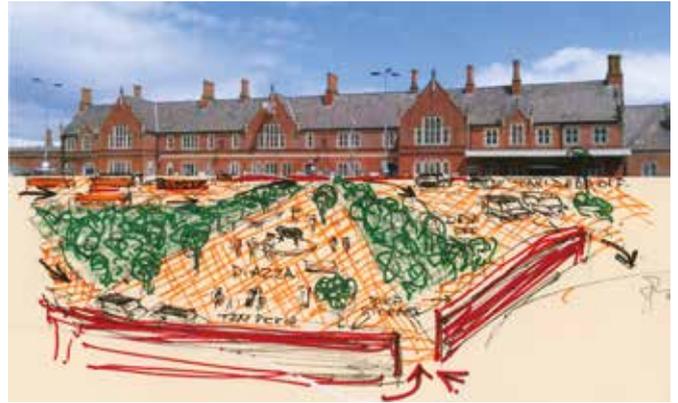
Taxis will drop off immediately in front of the station building and pick up from a stand to the south of the piazza. Travellers arriving by car will be dropped off to the east of the interchange and short-term parking for waiting drivers will be to the west. Cycle racks will be added to the surrounding walls as cycling becomes more popular (there will be no bulky containers, these will be of the European variety). The Railway car park could be extended as a multi-

storey of the demountable type to allow for changes in habit over the coming decades. The piazza will be much like an agora - a central public space as in ancient Greek city-states. The literal meaning of the word is 'gathering place' or 'assembly'. It is financially achievable with low cost construction costs –no extravagant architecture, just an oasis of calm for travellers often in a rush. Much more than the boring shelters portrayed in the site hoarding!

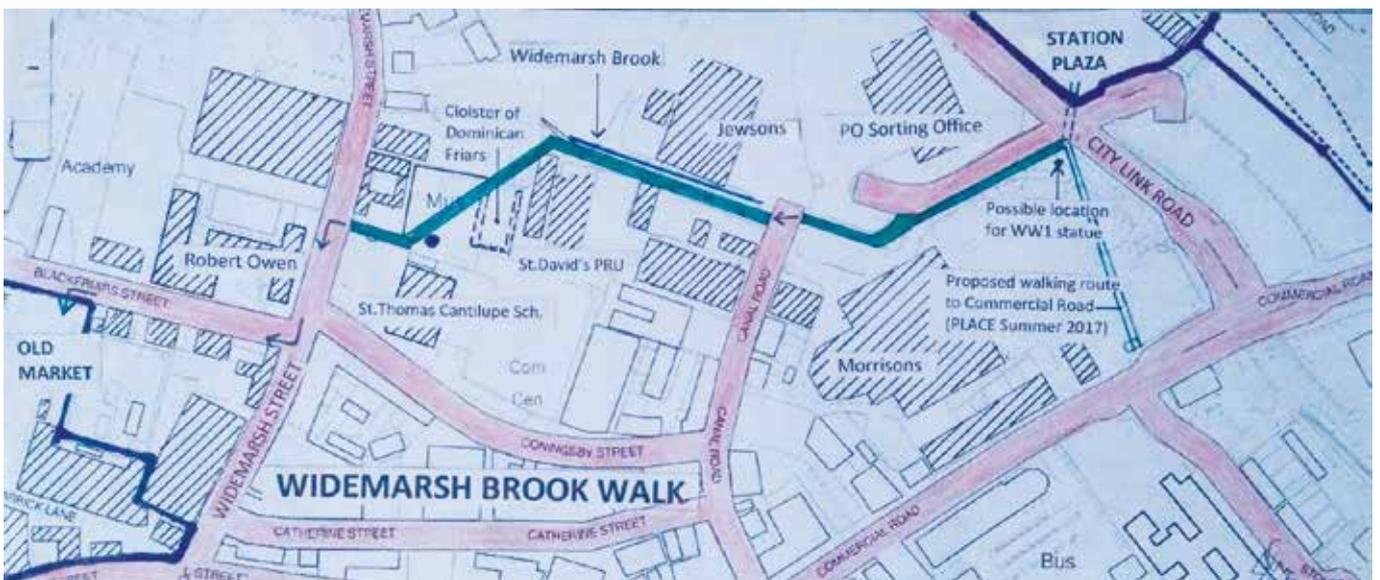
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Our previously promoted Morrison's Gateway approach through their carpark. This drawing shows the proposed six foot high wall – note that much of the imposing front elevation is still visible above the boundary wall.



Architects initial draft sketch – bird's eye view. Once through the archway pedestrians will be greeted with a clear view of the station, and what will feel like an enclosed piazza complete with the progeny of our popular High Town's bull, in bronze.



This proposal was first promoted in our Summer 2018 edition of PLACE, where full details of our logical route were described. In our Summer 2017 edition of PLACE, full details of the simplest way of accessing Commercial Road, High Town and the Cathedral were shown – Morrison's Gateway. Full articles available on our web site: [www.herefordcivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.herefordcivicsociety.org.uk)



**Hereford Civic Society**