

# Witney Traffic Advisory Committee Meeting of Witney Town Council



**Tuesday, 12th January, 2021 at 2.30 pm**

To members of the Witney Traffic Advisory Committee - L Price, J Aitman, L Duncan, D Enright, J King, A Coles, T Morris, S Bartington, Yvonne Constance, Ted Fenton, J Croxton, K Hickman and A Lyon (and all other Town Councillors for information).

You are hereby summonsed to the above meeting to be held in the **Virtual Meeting Room via Zoom** for the transaction of the business stated in the agenda below.

## **Admission to Meetings**

All Council meetings are open to the public and press unless otherwise stated.

Admission to this meeting will be online by virtue of The Local Authorities & Police & Crime Panels (Coronavirus)(Flexibility of Local Authority & Police & Crime Panels Meetings)(England & Wales) Regulations 2020.

Zoom login details of this meeting will be published on the Council's website prior to the meeting.

## **Recording of Meetings**

Under the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 the council's public meetings may be recorded, which includes filming, audio-recording as well as photography.

As a matter of courtesy, if you intend to record any part of the proceedings please let the Town Clerk or Democratic Services Officer know before the start of the meeting.

## **Agenda**

1. **Apologies for absence**

To receive and consider apologies for absence.

2. **Public Participation**

Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting. Any member of the public who so wishes may speak, at this point in the meeting, for a maximum of five minutes on any matter relating to an item on the agenda.

3. **Minutes** (Pages 3 - 6)

To receive and consider the minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2020.

4. **TAC Action Plan** (Pages 7 - 8)

To receive and consider the Traffic Advisory Committee Action Plan.

5. **Climate Emergency**

This is a standing item on the agenda to discuss how the Committee might support the Town Council, which has declared a Climate Emergency.

6. **Report of the Principle Officer - Traffic Schemes Area Operations (North) - Oxfordshire County Council**

To receive and consider the report of the Principle Officer – Traffic Schemes Area Operations (North) – to follow.

7. **West Witney Bus Service Allocation**

To receive and consider a report on West Witney Bus Service Allocation from the Town Council's Independent Transport Representative, Mr David Miles.

8. **Update from Oxfordshire County Council on Active Travel Grant** (Pages 9 - 10)

To receive an update from Oxfordshire County Council on the Department for Transport's Active Travel Grant.

9. **Items Submitted to the Town Clerk** (Pages 11 - 12)

To receive and consider a request from a resident for speed bumps on Cogges Hill Road, Witney.

10. **Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting is 23 March 2021.



Town Clerk

**WITNEY TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE  
WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL**

**Held on Tuesday, 29 September 2020**

**At 2.30 pm in the Virtual Meeting Room via Zoom**

**Present:**

Councillor L Price (Chair)

Councillors:	J Aitman	A Coles
	L Duncan	Ted Fenton
	D Enright	K Hickman
	J King	A Lyon
Officers:	Nicky Cayley	Democratic Services Officer
	Sharon Groth	Town Clerk
Others:	0 members of the public.	

**T745 ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Cllr Laura Price was proposed and seconded to continue as Chair. Members were in favour.

**RESOLVED:** that Cllr Laura Price be elected Chair until September 2021.

**T746 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for their absence were received from County Cllrs Bartington and Constance, District Cllr Toby Morris and John Croxton from Thames Valley Police.

**T747 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of the public present for this item.

**T748 MINUTES**

The Committee received and considered the minutes of the meeting held on 14 January and the notes of the special meeting held on 5 June 2020.

Cllr Enright said that he had sent apologies for the special meeting.

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2020 and the notes of the special meeting held on 5 June 2020 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair

T749 **TAC ACTION PLAN**

The Committee received and considered the action plan from the last meeting and revised this where required. This is attached to the minutes.

T750 **CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

This was a standing item for the agenda. Members discussed Oxfordshire County Council's bid for the Department for Transport's Active Travel Emergency Fund. The Council's bid was more than the amount that could be applied for and until the result was known, there was nothing that could be pushed on with. This included the East/West cycle link.

A member commented that in terms of the proposed Park and Ride at Eynsham she hoped that buses would be running to Witney as well as to Oxford. Trevor Bayliss replied that initially it was planned for the S2 to run through the park and ride but the timetable would need to be looked at.

Cllr Fenton reported that he and other councillors were still pushing the District Council on electric vehicle charging points.

Cllr Coles wondered how pollution issues could be added into the committee. These were not getting better and it was probable that that members needed to "knock heads together" at the District and County Council levels as it was not being addressed.

Members suggested that a letter should be sent to both Council's asking them to install real time pollution monitoring systems. The Chair offered to draft this letter and then feed it back via the Town Hall.

A member queried as to what had happened to the idea of school streets. The Chair explained that none of the schools had confirmed that they wanted to take part. There would be work needed if funding was received.

The same member asked about the barriers in the high street and whether they could be replaced with planters. The Chair replied that it was unclear how long the current restrictions would last.

Trevor Bayliss of Stagecoach raise the issue of the difficulties experienced by bus drivers turning left out of Corn Street. Ideally, they needed the space to be completely clear rather than having signage there. The Chair wondered if the signage could be moved to the area after the bus stops.

The Chair pointed out that there were now issues with Church Green due to The Angel's outside seating with people trying to leave the area on the entry side.

A member said that it was difficult for bus drivers to go down High Street now that disabled parking had been moved to outside the Co-Op.

Members continued to discuss the pros and cons of the Active Travel measures in the High Street.

**RECOMMENDED:** that the Town Clerk writes to Giles Hughes and copies in Frank Wilson advising that the Traffic Advisory Committee was supportive of the measures for pedestrians and cyclists in the High Street, but the Committee would like the District Council to liaise with the County Council Highways on making Church Green safer and enabling buses to make the left turn out of Corn Street onto High Street safely.

Cllr Price would write to the District and County Councils asking them to install real time pollution monitoring systems.

**T751 UPDATE FROM OCC LOCALITIES COMMITTEE**

Members were pleased to see the information exchange between the County Localities Committee and the Traffic Advisory Committee continuing.

**RECOMMENDED:** that the update be noted.

**T752 REPORT OF THE PRINCIPLE OFFICER - TRAFFIC SCHEMES AREA OPERATIONS (NORTH) - OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

The Committee received and considered the report of the Principle Officer – Traffic Schemes Area Operations North. The zebra crossing at Station Lane was going ahead. Cllr Fenton said that Odele Parsons had said that there would be an underspend and he had asked if this could go towards a crossing on Ducklington Lane. Mike Wasley said that a lot depended on what the section 106 agreement said. The Chair asked if Mike Wasley could get some details of a timetable from Odele Parsons.

Kevin Hickman asked if there was a cycle route to the new Lidl store.

*Cllr Aitman left at 3.30pm.*

Cllr Enright replied that he thought there was an active travel plan for Lidl and he would forward this to committee members. Mike Wasley agreed to see what he could find out.

A member asked if there was a date for the completion of Park Road resurfacing. The Chair replied that there was not but it was on the list for the next financial year. She had flagged it as high priority.

**RECOMMENDED:** that the report be noted.

**T753 ITEMS SUBMITTED TO THE TOWN CLERK**

The Committee received and considered the items submitted to the Town Clerk.

**Dangerous Crossing at Deer Park**

Cllr King asked if another set of traffic lights could be afforded. There were a lot of people crossing the road and he thought the crossing needed moving to the Deer Park side.

Kevin Hickman added that there should have been a crossing that met up with the cycle lane coming out of Deer Park and the bridleway but this was not in the planning conditions.

Members recalled the section 106 agreement taking a long time and it was possible that this could have been included. Mike Wasley advised that a puffin crossing would cost in the region of £60,000 - £80,000.

*Andrew Lyons left the meeting at 3.45pm.*

Cllr Fenton said that he would have a look to see if there was any S106 money.

**RECOMMENDED:** that the items be noted and:-

1. that Mike Wasley be asked to ask Odele Parsons at OCC to look into the dangerous crossing at Deer park issue and to see if any funding could be identified and that Kevin Hickman looks into this and writes a report from a layperson's viewpoint;

*Cllr Fenton left the meeting at 3.50pm.*

2. that the Democratic Services Officer goes back to the resident and explains that site visits had been done and signage had been increased – and also to guide the resident towards the East Witney Area Development plan as there may be the possibility of a crossing included in this;
3. that as Lidl is now leaving the site, the traffic situation should ease as there is a condition on the Lidl Unit meaning that it cannot be used for high traffic retail.

T754 **DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

The Committee noted the dates of the next meetings.

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The meeting closed at: 4.09 pm

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Chair

**ACTION PLAN**

<b>Minute no.</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible person</b>	<b>Further Action</b>	<b>Date complete</b>
T700	Problems with 'Baffle Barriers' for mobility scooters	Kevin Hickman has now submitted comprehensive review doc to WTC. Only one barrier was owned by WODC. None were WTC's. Others either private developers or OCC.	N/A	To push forward we need OCC advice and a commitment to not signing off developments without barriers being correct. Invite an OCC officer to speak about this.	
T700	Traffic concerns at the Ducklington Lane junction	Request for a left turn arrow into Thorney Leys.	Mike Wasley/Odele Parsons	Awaiting funding for modelling of junction. This was an item for the OCC strategy team.	
T700	Shores Green Junction	Preliminary surveys complete; topographical surveys due later this month; engagement taking place with utilities; initial strategic and local traffic modelling complete; 3 short listed option to be assessed further; Scheduled to meet East Witney SDA developers mid October; view to public consultation in late 202/early 2021	Mike Wasley		
T700	Marriots Walk Crossing – barriers/controlled crossing	Lighting complete, tree removal not required, agreed planters are not suitable barriers and awaiting relining by OCC	Mike Wasley	OCC to reline existing area, before removing block paving and resurfacing with blacktop.	
T700	Request for yellow lines at Compton Way and Judds Close	Ongoing issue. County Councillors looking into funding for this.	Mike Wasley	Update at next meeting.	
T701	Parking in Service Road at Welch Way	No TRO so could not be enforced. OCC to repaint Keep Clear on turning circle	Mike Wasley	Paving had been completed	September 2020

**ACTION PLAN**

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**Nicky Cayley**

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**From:** Sayers, Jonathan - Corporate Services <Jonathan.Sayers@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 10 December 2020 14:30  
**To:** WitneyTCInfo  
**Subject:** Update from Oxfordshire County Council on Active Travel Grant

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

As you may well be aware, Oxfordshire County Council successfully won a greater than expected allocation of the Department of Transport's Active Travel Grant in the second and final share in November.

This amounts to £2.9 million; a great win for Oxfordshire. In addition to this, the county council has been awarded additional £1.4m active travel funding for cycle schemes in Witney and Bicester via the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP). This means that in total, the council now has access to £4.3 million to transform active travel.

Amid a series of issues on democratic processes/consultation and some poorly executed schemes across the country in the first round, the Department of Transport has firmly outlined the need for meaningful consultation in this round. There has been guidance issued on representing the views of the silent majority rather than coming under the influence of outspoken individuals and pressure groups.

To help Oxfordshire County Council fulfil this obligation, officers have prepared an outline to be uploaded to our website on 11 December on the details of the schemes as well as how and under which applicable criteria schemes will be consulted on. In addition, the website update will give details of the stages and expected timing of applicable consultations.

The update will also give general detail on the scope of the schemes we will spend the funding on. This will cover the communities and specific streets involved as well as the current planned timescales involved in the work. Alongside this detail, our officers have outlined the corresponding milestone dates of both planning and consultation.

The goal is to offer straightforward and transparent information to county council members, residents and related stakeholders. It should be noted that the website will be updated with any changes to schemes or dates so this will not be a static page.

It has not been possible to involve outside groups and stakeholders to the extent that would be the norm under the immense deadline pressure officers have faced to submit the schemes to meet the critical DfT deadlines.

The plans also align firmly with the council's planning commitments of working toward the goals of the council's Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP 5) and carbon reduction combined with active communities. Many schemes also align with the goals of the Local Cycle Walking and Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) county council members have approved.

Now the deadlines have been met, officers will be looking to collaborate with stakeholders early in 2021 on the plans to make sure the schemes are developed in a democratic, representative and fully consulted manner to see them succeed.

Regards,

Jonathan Sayers

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**\*Please clarify any acronyms in emails\***

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## Request for Speed bumps on Cogges Hill Road

To whom it may concern,

I raised this request with Oxfordshire County Council, however they advised that I need to contact the Witney Parish Council first for approval. I called directly, however was told to put my request in writing so that it can be raised with the Traffic Advisory Board at their next meeting.

I would like to make a formal request to have speed bumps installed on Cogges Hill Road. This is a 30mph road, yet cars exceed 50mph on a regular basis. It is very close to Blake C of E Primary school, as well as a number of shops and doctor's surgeries and I believe poses a serious risk to human life. An especially dangerous point is the unmarked crossing behind Blake's Avenue which is very blind, and our cat was recently killed here in a hit and run.

I am begging for speed bumps, or some sort of speed control system, to be put in place to bring people's speed down, please.

I hope to hear from you soon, so that all lives may be better protected as soon as possible.

Kindest regards,

Damian Holland

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