

**WITNEY TRAFFIC ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Held on Tuesday, 10 January 2023**

**At 2.30 pm in the Gallery Room, The Corn Exchange, Witney**

**Present:**

Councillor A Coles (Chair)

Town Councillors:	A Prosser J Aitman	T Ashby
Others:	M Brooker D Enright T Bayliss A Lyon D Miles	West Oxfordshire District Council Oxfordshire County Council Stagecoach West Oxfordshire Community Transport Parish Transport Representative
Officers:	Adam Clapton Claire Green  Mike Wasley Duncan Stewart	Deputy Town Clerk Administration Support - Planning & Stronger Communities Oxfordshire County Council Oxfordshire County Council
Others:	1 member of the public.	

**T1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Liz Duncan, Chris Hulme from Thames Valley Police, and Kevin Hickman from Windrush Bike Project.

**T2 TO ADOPT AND SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27TH SEPTEMBER (COPY ENCLOSED)**

**Resolved:**

That, the minutes of the Witney Traffic Advisory Committee meeting held on 27 September 2022 be approved and signed by the Chair.

**T3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation at this point in the meeting.

**T4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT COVERED IN THE ACTION PLAN OR SUBSEQUENT ITEMS**

There were no matters arising from the minutes of 27 September 2022.

T5 **TRAFFIC SCHEMES AREA OPERATIONS - OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

The Committee received and considered the report from the Oxfordshire County Council Infrastructure Locality Team concerning updates on several projects underway in Witney.

Included within this were updates on the Windrush Bike Project Barriers Report, Schemes to be delivered from Windrush Place S106 funding, the Witney Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP), the A40/B4022 Shores Green Access, Bridge Street Area Options, and Burwell Meadow Low Traffic Neighbourhood.

**Resolved:**

That, the report be noted.

T6 **TRAFFIC & ROAD SAFETY - OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

The Committee received and considered the Traffic & Road Safety Report from the County Council Area Operations Officer, including the remaining lining programme. Following the report, Members were invited to raise any comments.

Members reported the following items at the meeting:

- The absence of on-road speed limit markings following the introduction of the revised speed limits.
- The new bus stops on Oxford Hill did not have 'bus cages' marked out.
- Junction linings at Queen Emma's Dyke.
- The 'SLOW' road marking had not been reinstated on Valence Crescent since the re-surfacing work, this issue has previously been reported but not yet acted upon.

Members were updated that the signage for implementation of new 20mph limits was continuing to be reviewed. On-road markings were not a legal requirement, but requests could be submitted for areas of concern.

Members were updated that the consultation period for Traffic Calming at The Leys was now complete. Given that objections had been raised, the OCC Officer would need time to review and address the issues that had been raised ahead of the proposal being determined. Further input from Witney Town Council and Witney Traffic Advisory Committee was welcomed for consideration by OCC Officers and Cabinet Members.

**Resolved:**

1. That, Members should email the OCC Officer directly with the details of any lining works required and include specific locations; and
2. That, Members should email the OCC Officer with areas of concern for speed limit road markings. These would be considered for the works list; and
3. That, Oxfordshire County Council budget setting is in process for 2023/2024 works, a further update will be available at the next meeting of this Committee; and

4. That, Witney Town Council would submit further feedback on the Leys traffic calming proposal to OCC following further engagement with nearby residents

*Councillor A Prosser arrived at 2:45pm*

T7 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A resident from Madley Park joined the meeting at 2:50pm and asked to speak about the bus stops and bus services from Madley Park. With the express permission of the Chair this was permitted at this point during the meeting.

**Resolved:**

1. That, Cllr Aitman, as ward member for Witney East, contacts the resident further should information be forthcoming and;
2. That, the Town Council investigates the condition of the bus shelters.

T8 **WITNEY HIGH STREET**

The Oxfordshire County Council Programme Lead for the Witney High Street Scheme attended and gave a brief update, followed by questions from Members.

The Committee were advised that no key dates or timescales had been confirmed but plans were in progress. Stakeholder briefings had already started, and further briefings would take place at the end of January/beginning of February. Pre-design public engagement would be in the Spring, potentially the beginning of May. The engagement, design and consultation processes would take several months, possibly a year to bring to fruition due to the amount of work involved.

**Resolved:**

That, the verbal update be noted.

*Councillor D Enright arrived at 3:34pm - During the discussion item T8 Witney High Street*

T9 **WITNEY LOCAL CYCLING & WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN**

The Chair and other Members acknowledged the amount of work that had been invested to date and that these efforts had resulted in a solid draft plan resulting from a good variety of online and in-person engagement. Members reflected on a well drafted initial list of priorities, a good framework upon which more work could follow.

A member raised the issue of a refuge island at Witan Way (when you were crossing near/from Farm Mill Lane).

Improvements for the five-ways roundabout were discussed, there was mixed feedback about the idea of a 'Dutch roundabout'. Members agreed that more needed to be done to come up with a proposal that did work and offers a safer solution for all users.

Members discussed the ongoing proposals for traffic calming measures at The Leys. Further improvements for pedestrians and cyclists were suggested, including the potential for a segregated use path.

**Resolved:**

1. That the Draft Plan be noted and,
2. A consultation response be submitted to Oxfordshire County Council on behalf of the Committee encompassing the points discussed.

**T10 PUBLIC TRANSPORT UPDATE**

The Committee received a verbal update from the Parish Transport Representative.

The government funded £2 Bus Fare Cap Scheme has been welcomed and applied to Stagecoach services in Witney.

The West Oxfordshire Community Transport services did not benefit from the fare cap scheme, but Members were reminded that the child fare of just £1 applies to individuals aged from 5 years to 25 years – young residents could travel anywhere in the town for £1.

The Committee were updated on work happening behind the scenes to accommodate the forthcoming Botley Road closure in Oxford.

**T11 20MPH ON WOODSTOCK ROAD**

The Committee received correspondence from the Head Teacher of Wood Green School, acknowledging the positive impact of reduced traffic speeds following the introduction of a 20mph speed limit on Woodstock Road.

**Resolved:**

That, the correspondence be noted, and the letter be acknowledged by Witney Town Council Officers.

**T12 CYCLISTS AND ENFORCEMENT OF 20MPH SPEED LIMIT**

The Committee received correspondence from a resident concerning cyclists exceeding the new 20mph speed limits.

A Member advised that in general, cyclists did not have a legal obligation to adhere to the same speed limits as motorists. Speed limits listed in the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and the Highway Code related to motor vehicles. It was possible for local byelaws to impose speed limits, no such byelaw could be referenced for Witney.

**Resolved:**

That, Witney Town Council Officers respond to advise the resident of the limited application of speed limits.

T13 **MADLEY PARK PEDESTRIAN CROSSING**

The Committee received correspondence from Cllr. Ruth Smith concerning parking on Harvest Way, particularly near the Barleyfield Way turn.

**Resolved:**

That, Witney Town Council would forward this correspondence to Oxfordshire County Council to explore further.

T14 **ITEMS RAISED AT THE MEETING**

The Deputy Town Clerk read out an update from Thames Valley Police regarding the newly introduced speed restrictions and enforcement via community Speedwatch schemes.

The following items were raised for inclusion on the next agenda:

- Community Speedwatch – start formulating a plan.
- The consideration of a pedestrian crossing at West End
- Bridge Street Area Appraisal

**Resolved:**

That, the issues raised be added to the next agenda.

T15 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING(S)**

Members were advised that the next scheduled meeting of this committee would be on Tuesday 21 March.

**Resolved:**

That, the date of the next meeting be noted.

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The meeting closed at: 4.20 pm

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Chair