

# Witney TAC Report by Oxfordshire County Council

## March 2024

### Place Planning Team Update

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#### 1. A40/B4022 Shores Green, Access to Witney (Major Project, funded)

Please direct any queries to [a40corridor@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:a40corridor@oxfordshire.gov.uk).

Please see webpage [A40 Access to Witney | Oxfordshire County Council](#)

Planning permission for the Scheme was granted by the County Planning Authority in July 2023. A further planning application to make some minor design variations as a result of design evolution was granted permission in March 2024.

A Public Inquiry to determine whether the Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPO) and Side Road Orders (SRO) required to deliver the Scheme was held on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The CPO and SRO will allow the County Council to assemble all the land needed, and to make the necessary alterations to the highway, to deliver and construct the Scheme. There was only one objection to the orders considered at the public inquiry. Following the close of the inquiry, the Inspector will now write a report to the Secretary of State (SoS) for Transport recommending whether or not the Orders should be confirmed. The SoS will then determine whether the orders should be confirmed (this decision is typically within 3 to 6 months). In the meantime, the council remains committed to seeking to acquire all of the land interests that it requires for the scheme through private negotiation wherever possible.

Detailed design work is now underway. A build contractor has been engaged to develop delivery and construction plans and to work with the designer, project team and the County Planning Authority to discharge all planning conditions over the next 3 to 6 months. Construction of the Scheme is programme to commence in late 2024 (subject to confirmation of CPO and SRO – see above).

The project team also working with South Leigh and High Cogges Parish Council to deliver a traffic calming scheme along South Leigh Road, Station Road and Chapel Road that will be delivered as part of the Access to Witney scheme construction. There will be public notices regarding the relevant traffic regulation orders published in Spring 2024.

#### 2. High Street and Market Square Active Travel 3 (Stage: Design and implementation - funded)

Webpage: [Witney High Street and Market Square enhancements scheme](#)

Email: [witneyhighstreet@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:witneyhighstreet@oxfordshire.gov.uk).

Phil Jones Associates (PJA) have been appointed to the Feasibility and Preliminary Design stages of work through competitive tender process. Throughout the design phase we will be holding three member briefings, led by PJA, where we will update on progress and present emerging designs and seek feedback to inform the proposed design. This work will culminate in the public consultation of the proposed design to seek feedback from across the community.

### **3. Bridge Street Area Options Appraisal Report (stage: Investigation/ feasibility)**

Officers have finalised the Bridge Street/West End Link Options Assessment report from consultants Pell Frischmann. Engagement with all Councillors for Witney from Witney Town Council, West Oxfordshire District Council and Oxfordshire County Council has taken place as well as with the developers of the North Witney Strategic Development Area. This has raised a number of queries which officers are working through. Public engagement is being planned for later in the year.

Following the engagement, the County Council will confirm its position on the preferred scheme through the forthcoming Witney Area Travel Plan, a subsidiary document to the Oxfordshire Local Transport and Connectivity Plan, which will be subject to public consultation in its own right.

### **4. Fiveways Roundabout, Vision Zero Programme**

The OCC Vision Zero Strategy consultation closed 10 March 2024.

As part of delivering Vision Zero cycle safety and connectivity has been identified as a key issue at a number of locations across Oxfordshire. Funding in the region of £800,000 has been allocated to look at six locations. One of these is the Fiveways Roundabout (Welch Way, Corn Street Ducklington Lane, Curbridge Road, Tower Hill) in Witney.

Milestone are preparing a number of options for officer consideration with a view to engaging stakeholders once a recommended option is identified.

The main aim is to slow motorised traffic entering and traversing the roundabout.

The types of measure being considered include increasing the diameter of the roundabout island which would reduce the carriageway space; installing formal zebra crossings on each arm of the roundabout; and installing raised tables or humps on the entry arms to the roundabout.

### **5. Corn Street and Fiveways Roundabout (Feasibility Design, Capability and Ambition Fund)**

Funding from the Active Travel England Capability and Ambition fund has been used for high-level feasibility design to make a safe space for cycling at Fiveways Roundabout and in Corn Street, as part of the cycle route running east-west across Witney. Milestone have focussed on a 'Dutch style' roundabout design for Fiveways, one that has protected space for cycling. Milestone are currently looking at the opportunities for Corn Street. Once completed it is anticipated that stakeholder and public engagement will take place towards the end of 2024 on both locations at the same time. Both of these locations are priorities within the Witney Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP).

### **6. Windrush Place Active Travel Schemes (S106 Funded)**

It was previously report that design work for enhancements to the bridleway including widening the path, surfacing in flexi-pave and installing lighting; along with a Pegasus (horse) signalised crossing on Deer Park Road where the bridleway crosses the road and a second signalised crossing at the southern end of Deer Park Road close to the Curbridge Road roundabout was due to commence in March 2024. Due to a number of internal resource constraints this has not happened. We apologise for this and appreciate this is both disappointing and frustrating. Officers are currently setting up a different route to design and construction, rather than wait for internal resources to become available.

Due to the increasingly poor surface condition of the bridleway in the short term we aim to conduct works to level and resurface the bridleway with compacted stone and self-binding

gravel to provide an improved surface. We are now progressing the procurement process and once this is complete, we will receive a date from the contractor to carry out the work.

**7. Pedestrian Crossing/zebra crossing at West End (unfunded)**

This scheme was put forward to the Road Safety and Accessibility budget for 2024/25 on this occasion the scheme has not been awarded funding. This scheme remains unfunded. Other funding opportunities will be considered as they arise.

**8. Madley Park Path Improvements**

In November 2023 OCC submitted a bid to Active Travel England to improve the surface and lighting of the path from Oxford Hill to Woodbank, at Madley Park, as part of a much longer active travel route running east-west across Witney as prioritised within the LCWIP. We are awaiting an outcome from Active Travel England.

**Items which status has not changed since last meeting:**

**9. Traffic Lights on Woodford Way**

This scheme remains unfunded. Detail discussed at September 2023 meeting.

**10. Introduce 'Keep Clear' markings at the dropped kerb crossing points on Harvest Way**

This scheme has been added to the lining programme. Detail discussed at September 2023 meeting.