

WITNEY TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on Tuesday, 23 March 2021

At 2.30 pm in the Virtual Meeting Room via Zoom

Present:

Councillor A Coles (Chair)

Councillors:	J King J Aitman	L Duncan D Enright
Other Members:	J Croxton K Hickman A Lyon D Miles M Upton	Thames Valley Police Windrush Bike Project West Oxfordshire Community Transport Parish Transport Representative Oxfordshire Association of Blind
Officers:	Mike Wasley Odele Parsons Sharon Groth Adam Clapton	Oxfordshire County Council Oxfordshire County Council Town Clerk Deputy Town Clerk
Others:	4 members of the public.	

T767 ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR THE MEETING

As the Chair of the Committee, Cllr Price had sent her apologies, the Committee was required to elect a Chair for the meeting. Cllr Coles was proposed, seconded and duly elected.

RESOLVED: that Cllr Coles be elected Chair for the meeting.

T768 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs L Price, T Fenton, Y Constance, S Bartington and T Morris. Further apologies were received from Maria Wheatley from West Oxfordshire District Council.

T769 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Committee adjourned to receive public participation from the Windrush Valley Traffic Action Group (WiVTAG) who addressed the Committee regarding the Burford Bridge Closure to 7.5 tonnes.

After the address, the Committee reconvened.

T770 **MINUTES**

The Committee received and considered the minutes of the Witney Traffic Advisory Committee meeting held on 12 January 2021.

T771 **TO ADOPT AND SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 JANUARY 2021**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Witney Traffic Advisory Committee meeting held on 12 January were a true and accurate account and should be signed by the Chair.

T772 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT COVERED IN THE ACTION PLAN OR SUBSEQUENT ITEMS**

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the Witney Traffic Advisory Committee meeting held on 12 January 2021.

T773 **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

The Committee received requests from the Oxfordshire Association of Blind and the Town Clerk, proposing the Parish Transport Representative, to be co-opted members of the Witney Traffic Advisory Committee.

Members were unanimous in their decision and were hopeful that the two organisations and its representatives would be able to offer new and informative perspectives on items debated by the Committee.

RESOLVED:

1. That Oxfordshire Association of Blind be co-opted onto the Witney Traffic Advisory Committee, with the current named representative as Mark Upton; and,
2. That the Parish Transport Representative be co-opted onto the Witney Traffic Advisory Committee, currently David Miles; and,
3. That the Witney Traffic Advisory Committee terms of reference be updated to reflect these amendments.

T774 **ACTION PLAN**

The Committee received and considered the Action Plan from the last meeting as circulated with the agenda.

T700 - Baffle Barriers It was confirmed this work was on the County Council work plan for the new financial year.

T700 – Shore’s Green Members heard there had been an update on the A40 scheme and it appeared there were increased costs, not covered by the existing funding. There would be a further public consultation held during the summer.

T700 – Marriott’s Walk Officers advised the works here had been completed. In response to a member enquiry, it was confirmed the road hump was the same height as the previous one and would not be heightened.

T700 – Yellow lines Officers advised a consultation on yellow lines at Compton Way and Judd’s Close had taken place and a report was being presented to an OCC Committee later that week.

T760 & T762 Members noted these actions concerning parking in Corn Street and Ducklington roundabout were monitoring issues, with no discernible updates at the current time.

T775 **CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

The Town Clerk advised there was no update from the Town Council concerning the Climate Emergency. The Chair asked if this item was appropriate for this committee and it was agreed that the District and County Councils should be asked if they would like to provide information on how their initiatives affect the climate emergency at future meetings.

RESOLVED:

That officers from West Oxfordshire District and Oxfordshire County Councils be invited to present relevant information to this committee at future meetings.

T776 **ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEMES - UPDATE**

Members were advised an active travel update formed part of the report from the Oxfordshire County Council Locality and Area Operations teams.

T777 **20'S PLENTY FOR OXFORDSHIRE**

The Committee received a presentation from Cllr Liz Duncan supporting the 20’s Plenty for Oxfordshire scheme.

The scheme was concerned with reducing speed limits in residential areas and was lobbying the County Council to adopt a default 20mph limit in town centres and villages. The results from this would offer better value for money than the current piecemeal approach and

County Council Officers advised it was aware of the scheme and understood the issues. It had many synergies with the open Local Connectivity consultation and design guides for new developments were being updated which would help.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Witney Traffic Advisory Committee supports the 20’s Plenty for Oxfordshire scheme; and,

2. Asks that the scheme is debated at a Witney Town Council meeting of the Climate, Biodiversity & Planning Committee.

T778 OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL INFRASTRUCTURE LOCALITY TEAM AND AREA OPERATIONS TEAM UPDATE

The Committee received and considered the update provided by the County Council Infrastructure Locality and Operations Teams.

Members heard that discussions had taken place on the West Witney bus service between County Council officers and developers, and the latter had assured that the spine road on the development would be open in the summer.

There was also an update on traffic calming at Cogges Hill Road. At the last meeting, the committee had heard speed data would be required to add any measures and there was currently no funding for this. However, there was some submitted with the East Witney Planning application and from that three sections of raised road had been requested as the County Council's response. There was nothing further warranted at this time.

RESOLVED:

That the report and the updates provided be noted.

T779 OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL TRANSPORT AND CONNECTIVITY PLAN - VISION CONSULTATION

The Committee were made aware of the Oxfordshire County Council Transport & Connectivity Plan – vision consultation.

Members heard this document raised a number of overarching plans for the period up to 2050. The Town Council's Climate, Biodiversity & Planning Committee had already composed a response on its behalf. The Chair encouraged members of this Committee to consider the plan consultation and enter their comments directly.

RESOLVED:

That members of the Committee submit their views directly to Oxfordshire County Council via the consultation on its website.

T780 BURFORD BRIDGE CLOSURE TO 7.5 TONNES

The Committee considered the Burford Bridge closure to 7.5 tonne vehicles and the impact this had on the surrounding villages and the centre of Witney.

There was agreement that this was a difficult situation, and that Oxfordshire County Council would need to look at the evidence on whether it was working and how the issues raised by WiVTAG could be addressed. With particular concern to Witney was the increase of traffic through Bridge Street and knock-on effect for air quality, councillors for this area would need to be aware of this and lobby, as necessary. It was agreed that the Committee supports the aims of WiVTAG but the issue should be referred to Witney Town Council for further discussion.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Committee supports the goals of the Windrush Valley Traffic Action Group (WiVTAG); and,
2. Asks that this issue be referred to Witney Town Council for further discussion.

T781 TRAFFIC SAFETY - DUCKLINGTON LANE/MCDONALDS & TESCO ACCESS ROAD

The Committee received correspondence submitted to the Town Clerk concerning the build-up of traffic on Ducklington Lane from the McDonalds/Tesco service road.

Members recalled this issued had been presented to them before and at the time there was no resolution as the police had advised there was no enforceable action to be taken. There was agreement the situation had been exacerbated during the Covid-19 lockdowns and with the opening of a gym accessed by the same road the issue was not going to get any better. The Committee felt that every avenue of engaging with the relevant authorities and businesses should be sought before deciding nothing further could be done.

RESOLVED:

That the Chair of the Committee meets on site with representatives of Oxfordshire County Council Highways, the local policing team and McDonalds.

T782 HOLLOWAY ROAD - TRAFFIC CALMING

The Committee received correspondence submitted to the Town Clerk concerning potential traffic calming measures in Holloway Road, Witney.

Members were unaware there was an issue with anti-social late-night driving along this road so were thankful the resident had brought this to their attention. It was agreed that further information was needed before any recommendation could be passed by the Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the Chair (Cllr A Coles) speaks to the local neighbourhood policing team about this issue and feeds a response back to the Committee.

T783 ITEMS RAISED AT THE MEETING

There were no further items raised by members at the meeting.

The Chair however noted this was the last Witney Traffic advisory Committee meeting before local elections in May. As County Councillors Laura Price and Suzanne Bartington were not standing for re-election it was agreed that this Committee should offer them its thanks for their support on local transporting and highways throughout their tenures.

RESOLVED:

That official letters of thanks be forwarded to Cllrs L Price & S Bartington for their support given to the Witney Traffic Advisory Committee.

T784 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING(S)**

Members received the dates and times for the future meetings of the Witney Traffic Advisory Committee, 2021-22.

RESOLVED:

That the future meeting dates of the Committee be noted.

The meeting closed at: 4.00 pm

Chair