



# OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (WITNEY (PHASE 1B), SCHOOL STREETS, PROHIBITION OF MOTOR VEHICLES) (EXPERIMENTAL) ORDER 2021

### STATEMENT OF REASONS

As part of the Department of Transport funded 'active travel' programme, the Council is to introduce Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders (ETRO) to facilitate the introduction of "School Streets" within parts of Oxfordshire. These aim to create a safe, welcoming and attractive environment where children, parents and teachers can walk, cycle, scoot or park and walk to school with less risk of air pollution and traffic congestion. Creating a car-free environment outside school gates will also support social distancing once children return to school following lockdown.

School Streets will create places where children can thrive, be healthier and happier because they are: being more active, enjoying improved air quality, getting a boost to confidence from active travel, and getting more chances to be sociable once social distancing restrictions are relaxed.

During closure times at school 'pick-up' and 'drop-off', roads around the school site will only be open to people walking, cycling, and anyone in a vehicle who is exempt. A lead steward assisted by volunteers from the school and local community will manage and marshal the road closures by operating temporary barriers and opening them for any exempt vehicles. Exempt motorists include residents on the closed streets, blue badge holders, emergency vehicles, plus any council organised home to school transport for students with additional needs. Work will continue during the experiment with the schools to ensure that anyone with specific needs is not affected.

The Experiment will be closely monitored during its operation and any comments/complaints that are received will be given due consideration with a view to deciding whether the experiment, or any part of it should become permanent.

The County Council continues its responsibility to consider the provision of convenient and safe movement of motor vehicles and other traffic, and the proposed measures are aimed at ensuring that <sup>1</sup> danger is minimised whilst <sup>2</sup> facilitating the effective and safe passage of traffic, <sup>3</sup> access to amenities and <sup>4</sup> improve local air quality.

Detailed documents accompany this document.

Date: 24 May 2021

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for the Corporate Director for Environment & Place  
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<sup>1</sup> *Section 1 (1) (a) Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984*

<sup>2</sup> *Section 1 (1) (c) Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984*

<sup>3</sup> *Section 1 (1) (f) Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984*

<sup>4</sup> *Section 1 (1) (g) Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984*