

Dear Chair of the Witney Traffic Advisory Committee,

I'm contacting you in the hope that you can help us with a local traffic issue we as a group of neighbours are concerned about. In the summer of last year we were in contact with Laura Price, previously a county councillor and Chair of the Witney Traffic Advisory Committee, about our wish for our residential street to become a Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN), in line with the town council's wider commitment 'to ensure a cleaner and better future for its residents'. Unfortunately, Laura stood down as a councillor recently, so isn't able to help us any further.

Even before we entered the recent lockdowns, we were concerned about the increased volume and speed of traffic on the residential street where we live, Burwell Meadow in Witney (OX28 5JG). However, having experienced the benefits of reduced traffic noise and air pollution during the lockdowns and then the return to near normal traffic levels again when the lockdowns were eased, we feel even more strongly that measures need to be taken to permanently reduce traffic flows here.

Burwell Meadow is a housing estate from the mid-80s which unfortunately has a through road bisecting it, linking Burwell Drive and Thorney Leys. The road was originally designed with bends to reduce speed. However, improvements in car technology mean vehicles can now corner at much higher speeds and drivers and motorcyclists often approach this chicane in the road as if it were part of a race track.

At the moment, we feel that the Burwell Meadow through road is not a safe environment for walking or cycling, due to the number of cars using it, their speed and the increase in light goods vehicles and occasionally HGVs using the route. The bends in the road also make visibility difficult for pedestrians and cyclists. The road leads to two primary schools at one end and a nursery at the other, so children frequently use the route, as well as elderly residents, some of whom use mobility scooters.

Recent government announcements suggest residents may be able to request residential roads be changed from 'rat runs', like ours, to access only routes or LTNs, which is ideally what we would like to see happen for Burwell Meadow.

During a visit she made to the site, Laura Price suggested that as a group of neighbours we should conduct a survey of Burwell Meadow (BM) residents. We went ahead and leafletted all the residents on the estate, despite the difficult restrictions we've all been under, inviting them to complete an online survey. Some headlines from the results were:

- 90% of respondents wanted to see through traffic reduced
- 82.5% wanted BM to be access-only at all times
- 92.5% favoured a 20mph speed limit
- 42% were interested in joining a residents' group to campaign for reduced through traffic
- 30 residents wanted to be part of a smaller organising group on this issue

We're happy to let you have the full breakdown of the results if you would like to see them.

We've recently been advised by Eric Owens of the County Council (see email below) that as a next step we should organise a traffic classified flow and speed survey. He advised that while the County Council does not have available funds to conduct these surveys, they can be carried out independently. and 'it is commonplace for local parishes or towns to fund these surveys and they can be commissioned through Oxfordshire County Council'. Please could you let us know whether Witney Town Council would be able to support us in funding and commissioning a traffic survey of this kind?

We've copied this email to David Harvey, town councillor for Burwell ward, for information.

Thank you in advance for any help you can give.

Kind Regards,

Michael Lockwood (on behalf of Burwell Meadow residents' group)