

**Sent:** 23 December 2021 15:39

**Subject:** Traffic violation.

To: Traffic Advisory Committee

Re: Pedestrianisation of High St, Witney

I am writing to the committee because my life was at risk recently due to the inadequate design of the traffic management in High Street, Witney. My concern stems from an incident where I was nearly knocked over by a car driving on the wrong side of the road on Saturday 18th December at about 4.30pm.

I was walking along Welch Way towards the High Street in order to cross the High St at NatWest Bank. As I stepped off the pavement a small car suddenly appeared from the left (from Bridge St. direction) and swerved towards me, clearly in order to get around the traffic blocking method - the 'planters' - and passed at speed mere inches away from me. The driver either did not see me about to cross the road, or chose not to brake to avoid me. Fortunately, I was able to step back quickly and wasn't injured, however I was badly shaken and shocked. The car was travelling at quite a speed and I was so shocked and stunned at what had happened, I was unable to get the car registration number and despite later telephoning Thames Valley Police, they were unable to do anything about it.

Clearly the road layout as it stands is totally unsatisfactory and someone is going to be killed unless something is done immediately. Drivers entering the High Street at either end, must cross to the opposite side of the carriageway to avoid the planters, and so transgressing the 'keep left' signs - in itself a moving traffic violation. Note that even local busses must do this! There isn't even a sign advising pedestrians to 'look both ways' as they cross to the pedestrian refuge in the middle of the street - this in itself could lead to tragedy. Elderly or infirm pedestrians are obviously at great risk in crossing the road at either end of the High Street by the planters as things stand.

As I understand the traffic restrictions in the High Street are to be made permanent I think the design requires serious and immediate reconsideration. Furthermore, will a camera be installed like in High St Oxford, in order to catch drivers who break the traffic restrictions? Clearly the restrictions are being heavily abused as drivers ignore the signage.

I would urge the council to make changes right away or they could be faced with a totally unnecessary tragedy and all the bad publicity that would attract.