

Banbury Town Council

Mark Hassall ACMA
Town Clerk & RFO



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Banbury
Oxfordshire
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Our Ref: BTAC 22/02/2023
Your Ref:
Please ask for: Martyn Surfleet
Email:
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Date: 15 February 2023

To: All Members of the Banbury Traffic Advisory Committee.

You are hereby requested to attend a Meeting of the **BANBURY TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE** to be held at The Town Hall, Bridge Street, BANBURY on **Wednesday, 22 February 2023** at 2.00pm, for the transaction of the following business:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mark Hassall'.

Mark Hassall
Town Clerk & RFO

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED

1 Apologies

Contact Martyn Surfleet (01295 250340).

2 Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests in items on the agenda, **and the nature of that interest**, in accordance with the Localism Act 2011, the Banbury Town Council Code of Conduct and Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (Please refer to the notes at the end of Agenda).

3 Minutes of the last Meeting

To approve as correct the Minutes of the Meeting held on 30 November 2023 (**Enclosed**)

4 Oxfordshire County Council – Combined Report on Transport Policy/Strategy & Area Operations

To consider a combined report including transport policy and strategy updates, along with information on traffic updates and defects in the Banbury area. (**To Follow**)

5 Items raised by Members

Peter Monk - Banbury Civic Society

Carried over from last meeting –

- Bridge Str / Merton Str. -signal phasing

New items – further information is sought on the following -

- Residents Parking Zone.
- 20mph zones.
- Oxford Rd / Windsor Str. signal phasing.
- Oxford Rd. / Farmfield Rd.
- Redundant information and direction signs
- Longford Park - mini roundabout markings

6 Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

To consider the LCWIP proposals as set out by Oxfordshire County Council. **(Enclosed)**

7 Banbury Bus Shelter Review

To consider the minutes of the meeting of Banbury Town Council officers and stakeholders regarding bus provisions and bus shelters within Banbury. **(Enclosed)**

8 Date of the next Meeting

Wednesday, 24 May 2023 at 2.00pm in the Town Hall.

Notes on declaration of interest

- (i) Any Member arriving after the start of the meeting is asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests as necessary as soon as practicable after their arrival even if the item in question has been considered;*
- (ii) In such circumstances, the Member must withdraw from the meeting room, and should inform the Chairman accordingly.*

It is not practical to offer detailed advice during the meeting.

BANBURY TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Banbury Traffic Advisory Committee held at The Town Hall, Banbury on Wednesday, 30 November 2022 at 2.00pm.

Present: Cllr Colin Clarke Cherwell District Council (Chairman)
Cllr Rebecca Biegel Banbury Town Council
Cllr Fiaz Ahmed Banbury Town Council
Alex Fisher Banbury Civic Society
Robert Wingrove BADI
Edward Henley-Burns Stagecoach

Officers: Mark Hassall Banbury Town Council
Robert Duxbury Banbury Town Council
Martyn Surfleet Banbury Town Council
Mike Wasley Oxfordshire County Council
Ian Connick Oxfordshire County Council
Jacqui Cox Oxfordshire County Council

15/22 Apologies

Chris Hulme T.V. Police
Cllr Kieron Mallon Banbury Town Council
Peter Monk Banbury Civic Society

16/22 Declarations of Interest

None.

17/22 Minutes

IT WAS AGREED that the Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 31 August 2022 be received.

18/22 Oxfordshire County Council – Combined Report on Transport Policy/Strategy & Area Operations

Tramway Road accessibility scheme

The Planning Application for a scheme to provide bus and taxi access to the station and town centre and car access to the west car park by opening up the connection between Tramway Road and Station Approach with associated improvements to walking and cycling has been approved.

The issues raised by Network Rail concerning a bridge over the river on Station Approach have been overcome, and the aim is to begin construction of the project summer next year for completion by summer 2024.

Local Walking and Cycling Improvement Plan (LCWIP)

The draft LCWIP document for formal consultation is in the final stages of completion. There have been ongoing issues over the quality and accessibility of the maps, which have resulted in repeated delays, but the document will shortly be on the council's website for consultation which will run into next year. As part of the consultation a face-to-face session will be arranged in Banbury where people can put their suggestions and concerns directly to council officers.

The final document will go to the Cabinet Member for Transport in March 2023 for approval and will be adopted at Cabinet as part of the Banbury Area Travel Plan later that year. Approval of the LCWIP will put Banbury in a much stronger position to negotiate with developers and bid for government funding for improvements to active travel infrastructure.

Local Transport & Connectivity Plan (LTCP) area strategy

Work on the Banbury strategy is just starting up – the programme was reviewed and phased so that the resources available could manage the work. Officers are gathering background data and information and will discuss their initial findings and thoughts with the local County Councillors in January. Stakeholder workshops will be arranged for late January/early February.

Recent funding bids

Bids for tranche 4 of the Active Travel Fund are due to be submitted before Christmas, although this date is yet to be confirmed by the DfT. This round is expected to include both revenue and capital funding. The emerging LCWIP will put Banbury in a stronger position to bid this time around, depending what the criteria are and any local prioritisation.

Public transport

Whilst bus patronage on the Banbury network has recovered better than many other areas of Oxfordshire, primarily for demographical reasons, a new 'status quo' has emerged at approximately 85% of pre-Covid fare paying passengers.

Demand for concessionary bus travel has remained significantly lower, at c.65%. Stagecoach initiated a campaign including encouragement for persons eligible for the bus pass to apply, as well as attempting to stimulate demand through increased use by existing pass holders. OCC understand this was through a range of media including direct mailshot and newspaper adverts.

However, it is clear that 100% of a bus network cannot be sustained by 85% or fewer of its passengers – particularly when the network was poorly performing to start with – and several changes to bus services were made on 28 August 2022 to try and place the Banbury network on a more sustainable path.

Of these changes, the most controversial was the reduction of service 500 (Brackley – Banbury) to hourly on Mondays to Saturdays and the withdrawal of the Sunday service. Following discussions with Stagecoach, OCC have funded the reinstatement of the Sunday service until August 2024, with a small contribution from West Northamptonshire Council. OCC have provided funds on the basis that the Banbury town centre economy benefits from out-of-county visitors, and the provision of a bus service may reduce weekend traffic to employment, retail and leisure destinations. The same justification will be used to provide continuing funds towards retention of service 200 (Daventry – Banbury), which has been run under a number of short-term agreements since Stagecoach announced plans to withdraw it in February 2022. OCC have recently issued a tender for its continuation until April 2023, pending further discussions with West Northamptonshire on funding up to August 2024.

In national terms the Government made a last-minute decision to continue providing Covid recovery funding to bus operators and OCC until March 2023, although many decisions on the network had already been made by this point and there was insufficient justification to make any further alterations. OCC's share of this funding is being used to support services 200, 500 and S4 in this area, but further changes to the network at a later date cannot be ruled out.

As stated in the last update, OCC were one of only 31 local authorities in England to receive a share of funding for our Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP). £12.7m is expected to be invested in the next three years to provide infrastructure improvements, including a bus lane in Cherwell Street, and for some service enhancements.

The Government will release funds for this financial year once our Enhanced Partnership (EP) has been made, which is expected to be on or shortly after 10 January 2023. The EP, which is a legally binding schedule of commitments by OCC and bus operators, has passed through the operator objection stage unscathed and is now out for consultation with statutory stakeholders – of which Cherwell District Council is one.

The Government has proposed a £2 cap on single bus fares from 1 January to 31 March 2023 inclusive. This is a voluntary scheme and our understanding is that operators will be offered a fixed sum to take part, based on some data they provide. Further details are not expected to be available until mid-December.

IT WAS AGREED that the report be noted.

19/22 Matters Raised by Members

Councillor Rebecca Biegel – Banbury Town Council

Q - To prevent flooding due to blocked storms and the resulting emergency intervention are there any plans for preventative storm drain maintenance by OCC contractors?

A - At the moment we are concentrating on inspections of the classified network this fiscal year. Otherwise, we are reactively responding to flooding issues as they are reported. There will shortly be a review and revise the method of cleansing of drainage assets going forward.

Peter Monk – Banbury Civic Society

Q - Concerning the apparent problems with the bridge over the R. Cherwell at Station Approach. Would it be possible to get some information from Network Rail as to clarify whether it is the bridge deck of the balustrades that are the problem? And could clarification and timetable for repairs from Network Rail be provided?

A - This bridge is being looked at as part of the proposed Tramway scheme, which in part has prompted Network rail to put vehicular barriers on their bridge which they assessed to be weak. Oxfordshire County Council are now looking to carry out their own assessment of this bridge to see whether or not it is fit to carry buses as part of the Tramway scheme. Network Rails assessment, based on conservative assumptions indicated that the bridge has a 7.5t load carrying capacity on the carriageway and that the verges are even weaker. Network Rail have reviewed the assumptions on which this assessment was based and believe that some of these were overly conservative and believe that normal buses can still be safely carried on the carriageway, but the edge beams are particularly weak and at risk of collapse and recommended the provision of temporary vehicular barriers to help prevent vehicle loading on these areas. Network Rail had not put these vehicular barriers out as they had proposed and we queried this, which prompted them to erect these barriers.

Q - Better co-ordination of road works. Traffic on the A361 has been almost continuously disrupted by works at different locations between Banbury and Bloxham. First the Bloxham Vale roundabout, then utility works, then shared footway works, then the new roundabout for Banbury 16 and now works at Bloxham (that are undoing some of the shared footway works). During this period a significant east-west route has suffered delays for getting on for two years with little relief.

A - Unfortunately, this is not something that can be coordinated any better as they are all works associated with developments rather than utility works themselves. Developers do not order their utility work until they require it for site. We do not have any advance notice of this work and the most we get is 3 months' maximum. A utility does not apply for permits until the developer places the order. All these come in at different times and different phases of the development. We have tried many times to pull all the work together, but it doesn't work like that from the developer's side. Unfortunately Planning does not take into consideration any work that has recently been undertaken or how the work is to progress on the ground. Developments are given a timescale to complete works. We are as frustrated as many with the continued raft of works on this road and the waste of time and effort put into the footway scheme which is now to be undone. None of this is under the Network Team's control.

Q - New school Bloxham Grove Rd

A - S278 development driven by DfE. Traffic signals keeping road open as they wanted more closures. There are 11 phases of work totalling 46 weeks, phase 9 resurfacing overnight 5-9 December so this is nearing completion, approx. 6 weeks into New Year. Still to have some 2 way lights down from 4 way lights already in place. This is the worst case scenario as they are currently ahead of schedule.

Q - Wykham Park Farm

A - Wanted 3 weeks for closures to complete works. No closures now as all work including resurfacing will be under lights. Highway works now complete. Will need to come back when houses underway to do a TWU connection, to be connected from Lansdowne Close but low impact on the road. Reason it is coming so far is the volume required is more than local supply currently. Remaining work for development will be offline.

Robert Wingrove – BADI

Q - Could the County Council please provide an update of a date as to when the Motorway junction 11 will be repainted?

A - We will shortly be seeking quotation to undertake this work, with a view to deliver in March April.

21/22 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 22 February 2022 at 2pm.

The Meeting ended at 2.50pm.

Banbury Bus Shelter Review

Present: Alison Aydin – Banbury Town Council
 Mark Hassall – Banbury Town Council
 Martyn Surfleet – Banbury Town Council
 Edward Henley-Burns – Stagecoach
 Nigel Godfrey – Clear Channel
 Chris Spry – Oxfordshire County Council

Real Time Information:

Members discussed the topic of Real Time Information (RTI) being introduced to bus shelters within Banbury.

Actions	Person Responsible
To share details of partnerships with other companies / Local Authorities relating to Clear Channels current roll out of RTI.	Nigel Godfrey
To return to the group with specifications of bus shelters to assess suitability for RTI technology. These include: • Height Clearances • Bracket Attachments • Electricity Supply • Solar Options	Nigel Godfrey – To provide specifications Chris Spry – To assess viability for shelters in question / send engineer to short list.
To assess current provision of shelters with power supplies suitable for RTI, as well as investigate possibility of introducing power to shelters on Arterial routes.	Nigel Godfrey – To provide information on suitable advertising shelters with power supply. Alison/Mark – To draw up list of desired shelters to begin roll out of RTI

Advertising:

Members discussed details regarding advertising on shelters and confirmed agreements within the Clear Channel contract regarding BTC's use of advertising space going forward. It was **NOTED** that as per contract terms, Clear Channel will provide advertising space free of charge for any unsold digital or paper advertising space subject to availability.

Actions	Person Responsible
Clear Channel are to provide specifications for both digital and printed advertising for use by Banbury Town Council.	Nigel Godfrey

Green Roofs:

Members discussed the roll out of green roofs on shelters within Banbury.

Clear Channel have begun identifying suitable shelters within Banbury to install Green Roofs, but due to tree coverage preventing direct sunlight exposure, more work is needed to finalise selections. As per contract terms Clear Channel are to provide at their cost 8 new 3-bay living roof shelters to replace existing locations, 3 of which are to be located on Bridge Street, with 5 further sites to be identified.

BTC expressed that they would like to see green roofs on arterial routes within the town on roads such as;

- Oxford Road, Bloxham Road, Middleton Road, Southam Road, Warwick Road.

Actions	Person Responsible
To propose a list of desired sites for Green Roofs within the Town for Clear Channel to evaluate.	Alison Aydin
To report back to members on proposed sites in further detail and discussion.	Nigel Godfrey

Relocation / Repurposing of Existing Bus Shelters:

Members discussed further the removal and relocation of existing shelters with the aim to improve provision as well as respond to resident complaints. It was generally **AGREED** that due to route changes that removal / relocation of existing shelters would need to be assessed on a case by case basis.

Actions	Person Responsible
To respond to members regarding the relocation of a shelter on The Fairway to Stratford Road.	Nigel Godfrey – Will pass colleagues email to Alison for confirmation.
To send through details of current bus routes and any potential alterations to enable BTC/CC to evaluate shelter provision.	Edward Henley-Burns
To check with OCC (Jacqui Cox) regarding funding for modal shift to fund shelter repurposing.	Alison Aydin / Mark Hassall

Members **AGREED** to set a date for a follow up meeting follow up on actions listed. It is proposed that the meeting will take place the **week commencing 27th February 2023**. Invites for said meeting will extend to include Jacqui Cox from OCC local transport team, with the hopes to have further information on Modal Shift and cycling and walking plans within Banbury.

It was **NOTED** that the minutes of this meeting will be taken for discussion at the meeting of the Banbury Traffic Advisory Group on 22nd February 2023, at which point any points raised will be brought back to this group for discussion at the next meeting.

Meeting ended:
14:15