

BANBURY TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Banbury Traffic Advisory Committee held at The Town Hall, Banbury on Wednesday, 24 May 2023 at 2.00pm.

Present: Cllr Kieron Mallon Banbury Town Council (Chairman)
Cllr Rebecca Biegel Banbury Town Council
Cllr Fiaz Ahmed Banbury Town Council
Edward Henley-Burns Stagecoach

Officers: Mark Hassall Banbury Town Council
Martyn Surfleet Banbury Town Council
Jacqui Cox Oxfordshire County Council
Mike Wasley Oxfordshire County Council

01/23 Apologies

Peter Monk Banbury Civic Society
Chris Hulme T.V. Police
Robert Duxbury Banbury Town Council

02/23 Declarations of Interest

None.

03/23 Minutes

IT WAS AGREED that the Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 22 Feb 2023 be received.

04/23 Banbury Town Council - Bus Shelters – Verbal Update

With the initial Bus Shelter Survey completed consultation has begun with O.C.C, Clear Channel and Stagecoach to push forward with the introduction of Real Time Information boards on bus stops in Banbury, as well as the introduction of “green” living roofs on shelters situated on arterial routes within the town. The survey has highlighted intended stops may require updated electrical circuits to allow for the addition of real time information boards, this is to be discussed further with Clear Channel on shelters within their ownership.

A further meeting is required and the results will be brought to the committee for the next meeting in August.

05/23 Residential Parking Zones

The committee was verbally updated that a consultation regarding resident parking zones within Banbury, and namely in the vicinity of Bear Garden Road is underway. The chairman has requested and **IT WAS AGREED** that an update be brought to the committee by a representative of O.C.C at the next meeting in August 2023.

05/23 Oxfordshire County Council – Combined Report on Transport Policy/Strategy & Area Operations

Local Walking and Cycling Improvement Plan (LCWIP)

The consultation on the Banbury LCWIP closed on 26 February. Officers have analysed all the responses registered online, sent via email correspondence and voiced to officers at the drop-in session at the Town Hall. Amendments are being made to the document to respond to the areas of concern or objection. The final document will go to Cabinet Member Decisions on 20 July 2023.

Local Transport & Connectivity Plan - area travel plans

An initial introductory session was held with businesses at the Chamber of Commerce's breakfast meeting in January, with some helpful discussion and input. Approval of an LCWIP for the town, work on bus service improvements, the schemes mentioned below, and work with the district council on the town centre vision will all feed into the development of the area travel plan.

Tramway Road accessibility improvements

The detailed design contract for the scheme started on 20 March and trial holes commenced the week after with one left to complete. Hazardous materials were found through this work and the pedestrian link between Tramway Road and Station Approach had to be closed while these were removed. The contractors have moved quickly with this work and should have cleared before the TAC meeting.

OCC has commissioned an independent inspection of the bridge over the river that connects to the station forecourt following concerns raised by OCC's Asset Team.

The delivery team are continuing with land discussions and engaging with other stakeholders as the scheme progresses towards construction.

Cherwell Street bus measures

Oxfordshire's Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) deal with DfT includes identifying bus service improvement measures along Cherwell Street to overcome some of the issues that the bus services have with accessing the town centre.

The project team for this work is just being formed and the options assessed ahead of the design stage. Officers will engage with local Members, the district and town council, the bus operators as well as other stakeholders throughout the project. This will need to link in with the wider projects including the town centre vision and wider bus service improvements.

Active Travel Options Work

OCC has been awarded revenue funding to assess the options and develop concept designs for two active travel corridors in Banbury, in line with the emerging LCWIP.

(i) The first is to consider active travel access to and from the north east along Overthorpe Road (including access to the villages to the east of the M40), connecting westwards to Bridge Street, via the Bridge Street Park to Spiceball Park and north out of the town. This is part of a regional greenway being developed with Buckinghamshire and South Northants.

(ii) The second is a western corridor route including Ruscote Avenue, part of Warwick Road, Orchard Way, Queensway to the two secondary schools on Springfield Avenue.

Along the western corridor route, there is some s106 funding towards the Warwick Road roundabouts and the A361 junctions with Queensway and Springfield Avenue. Work looking at these junctions will also be undertaken so there is a complete picture for this corridor, although delivery may need to be in phases depending on funding opportunities.

Public Transport

The Banbury bus network has recovered well in patronage terms following the pandemic, however prior to Covid it was one of Stagecoach's worst 10 performing depots in the UK and costs have risen substantially in the last few years.

A number of service changes are taking place on 4th June:

- Service 200 (Banbury – Daventry): Minor timetable changes to improve reliability.

- Service 500 (Banbury – Brackley): Service extended to Bicester, replacing service 505. New route in Brackley. Evening service extended to Brackley (previously terminated at Middleton Cheney).
- Service B9 (Banbury Gateway – Hardwick): Minor timetable changes to improve reliability. Buses towards Banbury Gateway depart from Banbury Bus Station, not Bridge Street.
- Service S4 (Banbury – Oxford): Timetable changes throughout. Evening service diverted via Oxford Airport.

All of these services are supported in whole or part by Oxfordshire County Council. Since 2nd May the Council has also been financially supporting KATS community bus services B7A, B7B and B8 for journeys after 1300.

Stagecoach have proposed timetable and route changes to services 488/489, to operate via Bloxham Road instead of New Road in Milcombe, via The Bourne rather than High Street in Hook Norton and to omit Over Norton. These changes are for punctuality reasons and are under consideration.

The contracts for services B3, B4, B5 and B9 expire in November 2023. The Council will shortly be undertaking a consultation to identify what if any changes should be made to the bus network, including better coverage of employment areas, longer operating hours and/or changes to routes and frequencies.

The Council has set aside funding for new rural bus services (£800k), better bus information (£100k) and community transport grants (£250k outside Oxford) in its 2023/24 budget. Officers are currently considering what measures might be taken with the available funding, with schemes previously identified in the BSIP as the priority.

Nationally, the £2 fare cap will now continue until October 2023 at which point it will be increased to £2.50 until November 2024. The Government have announced that English local authorities will receive a share of £160m over the next two financial years for service support; further details are awaited. Operators will receive a share of £140m over the same period.

A new timetable for Chiltern Railways starts on 21st May. All train times have been changed, with a more consistent service pattern of up to two trains per hour between Birmingham Moor Street, Banbury and London Marylebone.

Lining Planned Works

Below is what is programmed so far, if there are any specific sites that you feel need to be on this programme then your input would be appreciated.

Old Parr road	All Markings	Q2
Southam Road	All Markings	Q2
Ruscote Avenue	All Markings	Q2
Junction of Park Rd / Hill Rd	Refresh junction markings	Q2
M40 Junc. 11	Road Markings	Q2
Banbury cross roundabout up to the junction with the A361	All Markings	Q2

Traffic and Road Safety Current Project/s

- Vegetation cut-back on Hennef Way and Concord Avenue is 90% complete. Sign cleaning still to be done: -
 - o Still outstanding, Milestone have been instructed to do this work.
- There is scope to improve the signage on the A361 north approach to include a lane board to match the carriageway markings; we have yet to design and to establish the likely costs.

- o The new 40mph speed limit has recently been introduced and we will be designing new Informatory signage to suit for meanwhile a substantial vegetation cut-back has been instructed so that the existing signage can be properly seen.
- o Replacement of the damaged direction sign at the exit to A361 north has been instructed. However, this is yet to be complete owing to contractor resource difficulties.
- o There are issues with the way the speed limits on the Northamptonshire side of the county boundary have been signposted and we are seeking to have this corrected. We have been asked by TVP to correct the speed limit signage and have now undertaken a technical survey, including the signs in Northamptonshire, and this work will be instructed shortly.
- Funding has been confirmed for the installation of 3 new vehicle-activated speed signs in Middleton Road, this work will shortly be instructed, however as we only have confirmed funding for single-display units (i.e. not variable ones) these units will be ordered once the proposed 20mph speed limit has been consulted on and approved.
- Related to this a proposed 20mph scheme for Grimsbury has been sent to the Localities team so S106 funding can be confirmed. Consultation for this scheme is now complete, objections have been received, so will need to be presented at Cabinet Members Decision.
- A proposal for Birds mouth fencing and double yellow lines in Bloxham Road Service Road – consultation for the double yellow lines will shortly take place, however funding is still to be confirmed for the fencing.
- Additional 40mph repeaters have been instructed for Oxford Road, plus the cleaning of existing repeaters.
 - o This is not yet complete owing to contractor resource difficulties.
- New 'Pedestrians Crossing' warning signs have been ordered for Bankside following concerns raised by residents.
 - o This is not yet complete owing to contractor resource difficulties.
- A handful of locations have been identified in Edmunds Road where waiting restrictions could be removed to provide more residents' parking. These proposals will be advertised once funding has been identified. This is now with legal team to be advertised.
- A proposal is under consideration to introduce waiting restrictions in Dukes Meadow Drive to prevent damage to verges caused by inappropriate parking.
- New box junction markings have been introduced at the entrance to Amazon off Southam Road to prevent delivery vehicles blocking access to adjacent residential properties. Amazon will be asked to remove the temporary water-filled plastic barriers, once cleared a request for parking enforcement will be made.
- Works to tidy Up / rework existing signage on the Hennef way / Concord Avenue Roundabout will be undertaken in the new fiscal year. We are aware of a number of damaged signs at this junction which will be dealt with together as part of a scheme. A technical survey has been carried out and works will be instructed once funding has been confirmed.
- Funding has been identified to remove half of the chicane at the top of Bretch Hill so that buses can get through safely. This work has been designed and will be instructed shortly.
- New vehicle-activated speed signs have been ordered for the 20mph speed limit on Stratford Road.

IT WAS AGREED that the report be noted.

IT WAS ALSO AGREED that officers from O.C.C will liaise with the committee on matters regarding the LCWIP and Local Connectivity plan.

06/23 Matters Raised by Members

Cllr Fiaz Ahmed – Banbury Town Council

Q. Request for Queens Road in Neithrop to be a One-Way street.

A. Residents have been consulted in previously on the matter of one-way systems in the area, but the feedback was inconclusive, and so a non-starter.

Q. I would like to know how to improve the Road Hump on the pelican crossing after the Daventry Road junction that I believe is always damaged.

A. Partial repair works have been completed, but a **full evaluation of the site is needed**.

Cllr Rebecca Biegel – Banbury Town Council

Q. Parking on pavements where insufficient access is left for wheelchairs pushchairs etc. is it possible to have a targeted crackdown.

A. Cars parked on pavements causing obstruction are a matter for the Police, please advise effected residents to contact Thames Valley Police via their website or by calling 101.

Q. Vehicle volume monitoring in Nethercote were traffic going the wrong way through the village from A422? Suggestions for assessing the problem.

A. **A full evaluation is required Officers will look into this matter and report back to the committee.**

Q. Extra Litter bins in needed in key areas e.g. Middleton Road / Causeway. How can we initiate a highways survey to see assess suitable locations?

A. Waste Bins are a matter for Cherwell District Council, further bins should be able to be installed as long as they do not obstruct lines of sight for vehicles. Please contact Ed Potter at Cherwell District Council for further information.

Q. Speed limiting measures needed in Warwick road due to large no of collisions in area between Belgrave Cres and Orchard Way. Are there proposals to consider extension of 20 mph zone to this stretch of Warwick Road.

A. A workshop regarding 20mph zones is underway and the whole scheme is under review. This matter also feeds into the Local Connectivity Plan and LCWIP so further work is needed to establish most effective routes.

Q. Lack of dropped pavements for crossing Dukes Meadow drive in the vicinity of Nicking road roundabout and Winter Gardens Way roundabout. When and how can this long-standing issue be addressed! Also speeding is an issue in this area to be noted.

A. Due to changes in landscape due to new housing developments, this area will require review from O.C.C officers to identify solutions as well as identify possible funding routes for works.

IT WAS AGREED by the Chairman that officers from O.C.C will liaise with both Cllr Ahmed and Cllr Biegel to review matters in relation to the issues raised above, and feed back to the committee on the results.

07/23 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 30 August 2023 at 2pm

The Meeting ended at 3.22pm.