

BANBURY TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Banbury Traffic Advisory Committee held at The Town Hall, Banbury on Wednesday, 27 November 2024 at 2.00pm.

Present: Cllr Kieron Mallon Oxfordshire County Council (Chairman)
Ed Massey Stagecoach
Peter Monk Banbury Civic Society
Vicki Lewis Banbury BID
Robert Wingrove BADI
Paul Bonsor Banbury Active Travel Supporters

Officers: Jacqui Cox Oxfordshire County Council
Colm McAllister Oxfordshire County Council
Helen Durkin Banbury Town Council
Mark Recchia Banbury Town Council
Cllr Rebecca Biegel Banbury Town Council
Bob Duxbury Banbury Town Council

Also in attendance:

13/24 Apologies: Chris Hulme Thames Valley Police
Jim Smith BCAG & Banbury Active Travel Supporters
Cllr Ian Harwood Banbury Town Council
Andrew Bowe Cherwell District Council

14/24 Declarations of Interest
None.

15/24 Minutes
IT WAS AGREED that the Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 28 August 2024 be received, subject to a minor correction to the attendance list whereby Sim Smith be changed to read Jim Smith.

16/24 Oxfordshire County Council Report on Transport Strategy & Area Operations

Transport Policy/Strategy Update

1. Tramway Road accessibility improvements

- Construction started on the 21st October, which included closing the Tramway pedestrian access to the station while contaminated land is cleared and the new roundabout between Tramway Road and Station Approach is built. This will stay closed until May 2025. The construction programme ends in September 2025.
- A public information event was carried out on 29/10/24, below are observations and feedback:
 - Although there were some concerns about the pedestrian diversion, due to abundance of cooperative advertisement, the pedestrian access on Tramway has not caused the level of concern anticipated. There hasn't been any non-compliance from pedestrians. Concern about a lack pedestrian crossing on Swan Close and the Bankside junction in the current design, which was included in the previous public consultation. Overall, the scheme has been well received by the public so far, most of questions about the scheme were on the future routing of buses through Tramway and expanding the scheme south to Swan Close and Bankside. OCC have been in talks with Network Rail regarding the plastic barriers on Station Approach bridge, they don't have plans to change this right now, but we continue to express that we would like a more attractive permanent solution to the barriers that align with the Tramway scheme.

2. Cherwell Street bus service improvement scheme

CMD approval was obtained in October to progress into Preliminary and Detailed Design. The construction start date has been pushed back until May 2025 to coordinate with Tramway Improvement's Traffic Management which means the completion date would be the end of March 2026. DfT have approved this extension.

November – January 2025 – Preliminary design and highway simulation modelling
February 2025 – Engagement and Public Consultation
February – May 2025 – Detailed Design
May 2025 – Seek approval to construct
May – end of March 2026 – Construction period

PRESENTATION WAS SHOWN FOR THE AGENDA NUMBERED 3 BELOW.

3. LCWIP schemes

Eastern active travel corridor – a presentation on the concept design for this priority LCWIP route will be provided at the TAC meeting. Depending, on the level of funding allocated by the DfT, officers intend to put the scheme forward for capital funding through Active Travel Tranche 5 to complete the Feasibility Design. There will be more information from Active Travel England on funding in December.

- OCC to speak to Bob Duxbury in reference to cycle lane widening
- Presentation to be circulated for group to comment on.
- It was noted that OCC plan to widen the cycleway to 3 metres.
- OCC (Colm McAllister) to speak with BTC about potential use of Bridge Street Park.

Western active travel corridor – Capability & Ambition Funding (CAF) provides revenue support to enable authorities to develop schemes for future capital bids for schemes identified within LCWIPs. The current allocation of CAF funding has been secured to carry out concept design work (similar to what has been produced for the Eastern Active Travel Corridor). The project will commence in the New Year. Additional funding has been requested to undertake junction designs for Warwick Road and Bloxham Road.

- **It was noted that this could possibly include Ruscote Avenue.**
- **OCC mentioned that this design is being looked at between now and September 2025.**

4. Canal Towpath to Station Approach steps

The internal business case to release s106 funding to deliver steps from the canal towpath to the station forecourt has been approved. Officers were currently negotiating with the landowner. It was noted that this needed to happen sooner rather than later, due to the current safety conditions. However, the date given by Milestone for the footpath works was May 2025.

5. Banbury town bus services

Bus stops had been installed on the A361 for Frontier Park (new employment site near M40 J11), funded from S106 monies. They would be served by routes 200 and 500 (journeys via Chacombe). Officers were negotiating for the introduction of additional journeys to support shift working relevant to the development. Members felt provision would need to be made for shift working.

Contact officers:

Place Planning North:

placeplanningnorth@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Jacqui Cox – Place Planning Manager - North

07919 298304 jacqui.cox@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Louise Waite – Place Planning Team Leader - Cherwell

Colm McAllister – Senior Transport Planner

Natalie Moore – Transport Planner

Monna Pun – Assistant Transport Planner

Amanda Dodsworth – Engagement & Coordination Officer

Public Transport

Dave Harrison – Principal Public Transport Planner

07901 331751 dave.harrison@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Traffic & Road Safety

highway.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Billy Evans

17/24 Matters Raised by Members

Banbury Active Travel Supporters.

1. Update re traffic speeds and safety measures around St Mary's School (Southam Road), Harriers School (Bloxham Road) and Queensway School (on Queensway itself). This issue was raised at the OCC meeting re the 20mph speed limits on Sep 5th.
 - **OCC** - Site visits carried out including with local County Cllr. Area Ops Team are drawing up a possible scheme for Queensway. PPN met this week with School Engagement Officer and working together on potential ways forward including funding of measures.
2. Update re improvements to the canal path from Station Road.
 - **OCC** – Met with landowners' agent in late November and we are awaiting response.
3. Improvements to the Bridge Street traffic signals to reduce confusion re right-turning traffic and reduce waiting times for pedestrians.
 - **OCC** - Will be part of the Cherwell Street Scheme.

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1. George street left turn filter light onto lower Cherwell Street, this has been a problem for years, causing much aggression and needs addressing.
 - **OCC** - This will be addressed in the Cherwell St Scheme. This has been passed onto the Signals team.
2. Bridge Street / Cherwell Street right turn road markings (arrows), is there any news on these being done?
 - **OCC** - This will be part of the Cherwell St Scheme.

3. Southam Road resurfacing between Tesco & the 3 Pigeons Pub, is this on the agenda to be done?
 - **OCC** - Have highlighted the area mentioned in the meeting (Hennef Way RDB to Castle St) to OCC Highways Maintenance team.
4. Nursery drive / Ruscote Avenue wrong markings showing through, the road markings were painted incorrectly and were painted over, they are now showing again.
 - **OCC** - Colm McAllister has emailed OCC Maintenance team on this already and will chase up.
5. New roundabout on Bloxham Road, when will road signs be erected?
 - **OCC** - believe all the approved signs have now been put up for the roundabout access to the Wykham Park development.
We are however aware of one direction sign that has been damaged and is due to be replaced when some upcoming remedial work is carried out.
If this is not the location in question, then please let us know.

Banbury Civic Society

1. Potholes - criteria for attention, specifically Browning Road towards Banbury.
 - **OCC** - When it comes to schemes being included in the programme, this first depends on the treatment that is identified. This will then be ranked against over schemes using our local ranking priority system, this looks at things such as condition, safety, local hierarchy to name a few things. We also do look at collaboration opportunities, this is when we have a number of schemes in a similar area that can be delivered at the same time to save money.
For schemes to get on the initial list this comes from multiple sources such as our annual condition surveys, safety inspection, and public enquires. This is when they are looked at in more detail to confirm the relevant programme.
2. Street furniture repairs.
 - **OCC** - Have contacted OCC Street Lighting
3. Pedestrian Crossing at A361 / Queensway / Springfield Road - halo lights on globes.
 - **OCC** - Have contacted OCC Street Lighting
4. Hidden direction sign at bottom of Windsor Street hill (Northbound)
 - **OCC** – Please report to FIX My Street.
5. Tramway scheme - timetable for works
 - a) Detailed drawings
 - b) Provision for pedestrian and cyclist access from the south and west.
 - c) Access to the east car park for commuters approaching from Cherwell Street (Bridge Str / Merton Str signals).
 - d) Bus service re-routing to achieve a Mobility Hub?

OCC - Covered by OCC Update

6. Which highway schemes are scheduled for investigation for improvement using Sec 106 monies?
 - **OCC** - A review is ongoing, but we are looking to ring-fence funding for larger interventions, such as the Hennef Way corridor, Oxford Road, Eastern and Western AT corridors. We'll be reviewing the schemes with the County Members first and then we will share the details at a future TAC meeting.
7. Cherwell Street Bus Improvement Scheme – Covered by OCC Update

Cllr Rebecca Biegel – Banbury Town Council

New considerations

Before commencing discussion on the items raised a brief discussion was held with regards to 20mph signs, with OCC officers being asked when this was going to be implemented? OCC officers advised that no date could be given as yet, as there was a statutory order making process to follow. OCC officers agreed to send the 20mph documents to the Clerk to circulate.

1. There is an increasing need for traffic lights at Hennef Way / Ermont / Wildmere Road roundabout. Is this possible for consideration?
 - **OCC** - This has been assessed previously but has shown to cause queuing on the M40 J11 off slips. Further analysis of the whole Hennef way corridor is expected to start in Q1 of 25/25.
2. There are much needed improvements to pavements for people with pushchairs / mobility issues. Are there any schedules for specific pavement improvements around the town?
 - **OCC** – There is on-going discussion and work through Banbury 2050 and other strategies that focus on accessibility to the town centre for visitors. The Chairman advised that a schedule was reported on the OCC Locality Meetings, but the best approach was to log issues on Fix My Street.
3. There are no easy crossing points to access the station from Hightown Road, (getting across Bankside for slower or mobility impaired walkers is a nightmare). Is this possible for consideration?
 - **OCC** - This was descope from the current Tramway scheme (including signalling Tramway/Swan Cl & Bankside/Hightown junctions) due to financial constraints. This would be phase two of Tramway pending funding and is identified in the Local Plan alongside the Canalside site. It is in our 4-year work programme.
4. Are there any updates on ANPR in the town centre to stop traffic in pedestrian areas?
 - **OCC** – We have raised, they will check on a response.
5. Are there any updates on parking restrictions to tackle HGV parking on Overthorpe Road near the industrial estate?
 - **OCC** – This is covered under the Eastern Corridor Scheme.

6. There are reported increases in HGV traffic along Southam Road towards town. Are there known issues?
 - **OCC** - This is HS2, nothing we can do as governed by parliament.
7. There is a much-discussed need for a crossing on Bretch Hill near Bradley Arcade shops for pupils going to and from Orchard Fields Community primary. In the absence of a crossing is there any solution which could improve safety - e.g. signage and parking restrictions?
 - **OCC** - An OCC School Engagement Officer is reaching out to Orchard Fields Community primary school regarding this
8. Several new bus stops are appearing on the Stagecoach app in Hardwick so are there further details with proposed dates for extension of bus services across the estate.
 - **Stagecoach** – These are ghost stops, they are not actually on the routes.
9. There is continued overcrowding and resulting service delays on buses used by school children at peak times. E.g. Service 500 to Middleton Cheney and 76 to Stratford. Are there plans to address these issues?
 - **OCC / Stagecoach** - Individual schools really need to look at putting routes on, maybe a need to lobby South Northants & Warwickshire Councils.
10. Major pothole problems in Hall Close near Bloor Homes. Is there maintenance scheduled?
 - **OCC** - This is not adopted land yet; Bloor Homes are liable.

18/24 Rolling updates for existing items

OCC Officers were asked in the August meeting to provide a full written update on all of the following issues, and also on Lambs Close / Kildare Crescent, in preparation for the next meeting.

1. **Progress with funding for the work informed by the survey of Dukes Meadow Drive to provide more crossing points.**
 - a) The weight limit / no access signs to the industrial estate at the Southam Road j/w Beaumont, and funding for the work informed by the survey of Dukes Meadow Drive to provide more crossing point are being reviewed by the Traffic and Road Safety team.
2. **Progress with the weight limit or no access to Wildmere Road industrial estate signs at intersection of Middleton Road / Banbury Road.**
 - a) Analysis is needed here, will be assessed in the Hennessey Way Corridor study which will start in Q1 of 25/26.
3. **Update on lower Cherwell Street bus service improvement scheme.**
 - a) The signalling for Cherwell Street is being reviewed between OCC and our design contractors including the SB right-turn lane on Concord Ave and moving the signage islands.

- b) If four-inch kerbs on Bridge St East are installed instead of the proposed layout, it would cause delays to traffic without the benefits to pedestrians. Removing the pedestrian island will provide more space on the carriageway.
- c) It was noted that the SB Concord Ave left-turn lane has capacity, this was reviewed, but having traffic heading straight on the Cherwell St using the left lane would cause queueing across the junction, due to a pinch point on Cherwell, as vehicles would need to merge into one lane straight after the junction.

4. Updates on feasibility study for a one-way traffic scheme on Queens Road.

- a) Checking with the Highway Safety team if there is anything on file.

5. Progress on twice yearly schedule for storm drain clearance across Banbury.

- a) Have requested an update from OCC Highways Maintenance team.

6. Progress on possibility for 'restricted time' parking to be introduced on Overthorpe Road approaching the industrial estate.

- a) The onus is on them to propose a scheme which suits their local needs and then we can act in an advisory capacity and carry out the required legal aspects. All this can take anywhere from 6 month to a year. To introduce the restriction, we need to promote a Traffic Regulation Order, which will be advertised during a formal consultation. If no objections are received during the consultation, the Order can be brought into operation with lining and signs on the ground. If there are objections, these will be reported at the appropriate Committee where a decision will be made, taking into account levels of support and objections.

7. Progress with analysis of parking on roads adjacent to Hightown Road.

- a) A scheme in such a location is likely to receive many objections from residents who, should the scheme be implemented, would be prevented from parking outside their homes. If this were the case the scheme would likely be rejected at the committee hearing. However, another option to consider is that the HGVs operator's licence is renewed periodically. There may be conditions on the operator's licence on where it's kept overnight so maybe this is something to explore. We have raised this with Cllr Cherry who has contacted Thames Valley Police.

The proposals for the Hightown Road area went out to public consultation on the 31st October and it closed on the 22nd November. The plan is to take a report to our cabinet members decision meeting in December: https://url6.mailanyone.net/scanner?m=1tE4DV-00000003U5I-40bw&d=4%7Cmail%2F90%2F1732183800%2F1tE4DV-00000003U5I-40bw%7Cin6e%7C57e1b682%7C26876167%7C13522657%7C673F08350A75B4611FAA104D582B8CAE&o=%2Fphte%3A%2FItsoatsfk.xtlesorgir.dhauovb%2Fbn.kh_uroigtyhpo_wnrd_ara4202gnik&s=W0cW1_uzxTaAIO4mPZJDzb9EAxQ

Oxfordshire County Council

Items raised at the previous meeting

- **Other items**

- a. **Regarding the large HGV recovery vehicle parked on Bretch Hill opposite William Morris school;** This has also been raised by Cllr Cherry also, our Traffic and Road Safety team have reviewed this, it should cost £3,840.00 to cover legal work, consultation and associated procedural / administrative functions. On top is the cost of lining and signing work, which can in many situations be extensive and expensive. Unfortunately, the County has no resources for this work as a County scheme but is able to pursue if external funding is made available. We work this way with local Towns and Parishes who wish to promote such restrictions.

The onus is on them to propose a scheme which suits their local needs and then we can act in an advisory capacity and carry out the required legal aspects. All this can take anywhere from 6 months to a year. To introduce the restriction, we need to promote a Traffic Regulation Order, which will be advertised during a formal consultation. If no objections are received during the consultation, the Order can be brought into operation with lining and signs on the ground. If there are objections, these will be reported at the appropriate Committee where a decision will be made taking into account levels of support and objections.

A scheme in such a location is likely to receive many objections from residents who, should the scheme be implemented, would be prevented from parking outside their homes. If this were the case the scheme would likely be rejected at the committee hearing. However, another option to consider is that the HGVs operator's licence is renewed periodically. There may be conditions on the Banbury Town Council operator's licence on where it's kept overnight so maybe this is something to explore. We have raised this with Cllr Cherry who has contacted Thames Valley Police

- b) **We have been in contact with the parking enforcement team regarding cars parked on the footway of Bridge Street West, outside the barbers.** They replied in September stating that since April this year the following deployment has taken place in Bridge Street as a whole; 394 visits have been made resulting in 84 Penalty Charge Notices being issued. They have requested OCC's parking contractors, Trellint to pay attention to the particular area mentioned to ascertain the parking situation.
- c) **There were concerns around town centre deliveries and allocations in Market Place, Parsons Street;** There are dedicated loading bays on Market Place and deliveries can take place in Parsons Street so long as they adhere to the access restriction for the pedestrian zone. There are no projects to review loading this year. For clarity we have attached a plan of the restrictions in Banbury Town centre.
- d) **Improvement access to Rother Rd bus stop- Bus stop bay installation.**
There is funding available for the bus stop clearway box at a marked bus stop on Rother Road to assist a passenger with mobility limitations, the next stage before installing the clearway box is a consultation with the residents which the Road Safety team are working on.
- e) There is on-going discussion and work through Banbury 2050 and other strategies that focus on accessibility to the town centre for visitors.

Date of next meeting - **Wednesday 26 February 2024 at 2pm.**

The Meeting ended at 3:40pm