

BANBURY TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Banbury Traffic Advisory Committee held at The Town Hall, Banbury on Wednesday, 29 November 2023 at 2.00pm.

Present:	Cllr Kieron Mallon	Banbury Town Council (Chairman)
	Cllr Rebecca Biegel	Banbury Town Council
	Cllr Fiaz Ahmed	Banbury Town Council
	Cllr Tony Ilott	Banbury Town Council
	Edward Henley-Burns	Stagecoach
	Edd Massey	Stagecoach
	Peter Monk	Banbury Civic Society
	Robert Wingrove	BADI
	Chris Hulme	Thames Valley Police

Officers:	Mark Hassall	Banbury Town Council
	Robert Duxbury	Banbury Town Council
	Jacqui Cox	Oxfordshire County Council
	Mike Wasley	Oxfordshire County Council
	Ian Connick	Oxfordshire County Council
	Andrew Bowe	Cherwell District Council

16/23 Apologies:

Martyn Surfleet	Banbury Town Council
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17/23 Declarations of Interest

None.

18/23 Minutes

IT WAS AGREED that the Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 30 August 2023 be received.

13/23 Oxfordshire County Council – Combined Report on Transport Policy/Strategy & Area Operations

Transport Policy/Strategy Update

Tramway Road accessibility improvements

The impact of the discovery of asbestos on the delivery costs has been significant, but the engineers are still confident that funding can be secured, and that the final design work will be completed in January 2024.

Further consultation will then take place before construction commences in March/April 2024, with completion expected by March 2025.

Cherwell Street bus improvement scheme

The consultants have now been appointed and have already conducted a site visit with officers to familiarise themselves with Banbury in general and the proposed location in particular.

One of the first steps will be to engage with local Members, the district and town council as well as other stakeholders. The work will need to link in with other projects including the town centre vision and wider bus service improvements.

Local Walking and Cycling Improvement Plan (LCWIP)

Following approval of the LCWIP in July route studies and prioritisation will commence next year.

These will involve walking each route with local county and district councillors, members of this group, other interested parties and an engineer to discuss improvements in detail, including local linking routes and to estimate a rough cost.

The prioritisation process will consider the opportunities for delivery of measures by development sites, the need to address safety concerns, any quick wins that can be picked up through the maintenance programme, improvements that can be installed as part of other schemes and through

the above process the identification of routes where the greatest benefit can be achieved for the best cost ready for any opportunities to bid for Government funding.

Active Travel Options Work

Initial work is almost complete on the study of active travel access to and from the north east of Banbury along Overthorpe Road (including access to the villages to the east of the M40). The next phase will be consultation with local Members and interest groups, and officers are liaising with the engineers to ensure they engage with the right people.

The same engineering team will look at the options for active travel along the western corridor along Ruscote Avenue, Orchard Way, Queensway and connecting to the two secondary schools on Springfield Avenue. S106 funding is available to also look at the Warwick Road and Bloxham Road junctions along this corridor.

Canal Towpath to Station Approach steps

Officers have had lengthy discussions with the Canal & River Trust and Chiltern Railways, and have also sought advice from the council's legal and property teams. The next stage will be to engage with the landowners' representatives to attempt to negotiate an agreement on use of the land.

As previously reported, there is s106 funding available for the design and construction of the scheme, although total costs are yet to be established.

Public Transport Services

Banbury Town Bus Survey

The survey analysis report has now been published, and is linked from the original survey page:

<https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/banbury-town-bus-services>

Popular improvements people asked for included buses to the railway station and Horton Hospital and later buses. Many people said they liked the services as they are and don't want changes. Poor service reliability (late or cancelled buses) was also raised by several people.

Bus service changes

Retendering for routes B3, B4, B5 and B9 is in progress, informed by the bus services survey. In light of limited funds and the survey results, our priority is to maintain the network as it currently is, together with a new service for the Chalker Way employment area for which there is specific developer funding available. The new contracts will come into effect on 31st March 2024.

The bus services survey highlighted a lack of awareness of the KATS bus routes (B1, B7A, B7B, B8), with people asking for services to the areas these routes already serve. KATS are a not-for-profit community transport operator who operate timetabled bus services open to the public. To assist with raising awareness Stagecoach have agreed to include timetables for these routes in their latest Banbury area bus timetable booklet.

BSIP+

As part of our BSIP+ funding allocation, the Council are exploring with operators the potential to introduce a new discounted countywide day and weekly ticket for adults and young people aged up to 19 valid on all operators' services. Further details will be revealed in due course.

New rural bus links

The Council are examining the possibility of restoring and improving some bus services to villages north and west of Banbury, including Hornton, Horley and Hanwell. This has been out to consultation and subject to agreement services are expected to commence early next year.

£2 national fare cap

This has been extended to 31 December 2024. In addition, all passengers boarding Sunday bus services in Oxfordshire will benefit from a £1 flat fare for the four weekends before Christmas.

Traffic & Road Safety Report

Lining Planned Works

Lining works are now complete for financial year 23/24. We are currently in the process of compiling the programme for 24/25. If there are any specific sites that you feel need to be on this programme, then your input would be appreciated.

Traffic and Road Safety Current Project/s

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.

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. The cutback is complete, and a new lane board is now in place.

Replacement of the damaged direction sign at the exit to A361 is now complete.

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, this work is now complete.

Funding has been confirmed for the installation of three 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. Grimsbury has now been included in the overall Banbury speed limit consultation, which is ongoing. Once confirmed 20mph VAS units can be instructed for Middleton Road

Related to this a proposed 20mph scheme for Nethercote has been sent to the TRO team and will be taken to committee in January, along with the other 20mph locations.

A proposal for Birds mouth fencing and double yellow lines in Bloxham Road Service Road. Funding has been identified and we will be raising a task order to undertake the work shortly.

Additional 40mph repeaters have been instructed for Oxford Road, plus the cleaning of existing repeaters. This work is now complete.

New 'Pedestrians Crossing' warning signs have been ordered for Bankside following concerns raised by residents. This work is now complete.

A handful of locations have been identified in Edmunds Road where waiting restrictions could be removed to provide more residents' parking. These proposals have been approved and removal of the lines instructed.

A proposal is under consideration to introduce waiting restrictions in Dukes Meadow Drive to prevent damage to verges caused by inappropriate parking. Funding has yet to be identified for this.

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 in the new financial year.

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 in due course.

Highways and Drainage, Area Ops Team

Planned Works

An interactive and continually updated map of the major maintenance programmes is always available on the County Council's website, via following the link;
Map highway-iams.uk

IT WAS AGREED that the report be noted.

Bus Shelter Realtime Information and Living Roofs Update

Real Time Information

Progress has been made and the installation of Real Time Information has begun to roll out across the identified bus shelters within Banbury, approximately 4-6 shelters have been fitted with RTI panels with ongoing electrical works being undertaken on the remaining sites. Discussions are ongoing with electrical contractors to confirm the timescales for installing the remaining (non-shelter) displays.

14/23 Living Roofs

Clear Channel have confirmed that the installation of Living Roofs on selected bus shelters within Banbury will commence from the 1st quarter of 2024. Precise dates and work schedule pending.

Further updates on the progress of both schemes will be brought to the next scheduled meeting in February 2024.

IT WAS AGREED to receive and note the update on Bus Shelter Realtime Information and Living Roofs

14/23 Matters Raised by Members

Cllr Fiaz Ahmed – Banbury Town Council

Q - Parking Spaces being expanded on Bear Garden Road / West Bar, causing issues in the area.

A – Stagecoach are aware of the issues as it has been causing delays to bus routes within the area. Street parking is handled by James Whiting at OCC, members request that Stagecoach liaise with officers at OCC to review the issues caused and bring solutions / updates to the next meeting of the committee.

Q - No pavement on left hand side of the roundabout on Overthorpe Road, dangerous for pedestrians walking to / from work.

A – Overthorpe Road Adj to “The Tile Studio” being used as footway by pedestrians which causes safety issues for drivers passing by. Possible to be looked at within the LCWIP proposals as well as the introduction of Physical Barriers to encourage pedestrians to cross onto the proper footpath on the opposite side of the road. OCC officers to review and provide updates to the next meeting of the committee.

Cllr Rebecca Biegel – Banbury Town Council

Q - Update on possible parking enforcement / restrictions around the Thorpe Way industrial estate.

A – Ongoing issue across not just Banbury, but nationally. Members request that TVP patrol and issue tickets to deter parking obstructions caused by lorries. Members request that provisions for a possible overnight lorry park be included within the Banbury Local Plan/ 2050 Vision as industry is due to grow and the issue will continue to compound.

Q - Will the 20mph limit be extended along Warwick Road between Neithrop Avenue and Parklands.

A – Banbury 20mph scheme is still under consultation and members are encouraged to provide feedback and concerns on proposals. Details have been issued via the BTC Planning officer.

Q - Update on possible one-way traffic flow system in Queen’s Road.

A – Subject to sufficient resident interest in the possibility of traffic regulation in the Queen’s Road and surrounding areas, the relevant officers at OCC can look to launch a public consultation / resident survey on the matter.

Q - Survey of possible CPZ in roads used inconsiderately by non-residents to leave vehicles in order to access the hospital and the Railway station.

A – See Answer Above.

Q - Vehicles in pedestrian areas of Town particularly during the Fair

A – Members request that officers correspond with OCC with regards to enforcement under part 6 Powers as well as request an update on ENP cameras within pedestrianised areas of the high street.

Q - Update on the survey of dropped kerbs for more pedestrian crossing points along Dukes Meadow Drive.

A – Survey and initial drawings complete with pending safety review. Once complete a program for delivery will be issued pending budget allowances for 2024/25.

Q - Are there any possibilities to reintroduce Coach links to Birmingham and London airports from somewhere in the town if not the town centre.

A – Possibly up for review from stagecoach. Very early stages.

Robert Wingrove – BADI

Q - Bridge street crossroads needs repainting. When approaching from Grimsbury turning right to Cherwell Street (Spiceball) and visa-versa from the town hall turning right to lower Cherwell street. Arrows need painting to highlight the near side to near side , slide turn . As it stands it's a free for all and you put your life in your own hands when doing this turn.

A – Will be added to the painting program and will be looked at in the next financial year 2024/25.

Q - Warwick road B4100 approaching downhill towards Ruscote avenue. First mini roundabout is fine . The Next roundabout has 2 lanes . Left lane is used towards Ruscote Ave and the right is used to go ahead . Could we ask the council to paint dedicated? arrows depicting these lanes? Left lane with a left arrow to Ruscote Ave and right lane with an ahead arrow. We witness many a near miss at this roundabout due to unmarked lanes.

A – Will be added to the painting program and will be looked at in the next financial year 2024/25

Q - Spiceball roundabout approaching along concord avenue from Hennef way needs remarking.

A – Will be added to the painting program and will be looked at in the next financial year 2024/25

Q - The box junction on lower Cherwell street at the range needs repainting and the timing of the lights at said junction need looking into.

A – Will be added to the painting program and will be looked at in the next financial year 2024/25. Phasing at lights will be investigated by officers at OCC.

Peter Monk – Banbury Civic Society

Q - Vehicles parking on the footway (Bloxham Road east of Queensway) - a hazard for those either with limited eyesight or using Buggies (of all sorts).

A – PSO Patrols are in place to issue tickets to cars parked on the footpath, this should deter parents for parking going forward.

Q – Extended time taken to effect repairs to island guardrails (Cherwell Str at Bridge Str.)

A – Previously mentioned, will be investigated by officers at OCC, with an update brought to the next meeting.

Q - Information from recent traffic counts / survey.

A – Information will be shared with members once received by OCC officers.

IT WAS AGREED by the Chairman that officers from O.C.C will feed back to the committee on the results of the above raised matters at the next meeting in 21 February 2024 where necessary.

15/23 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 21 February 2024 at 2pm

The Meeting ended at 3.42pm.