

BANBURY TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Banbury Traffic Advisory Committee held at The Town Hall, Banbury on Wednesday, 30 August 2023 at 2.00pm.

Present:

Cllr Kieron Mallon	Banbury Town Council (Chairman)
Cllr Rebecca Biegel	Banbury Town Council
Cllr Fiaz Ahmed	Banbury Town Council
Trevor Bayliss	Stagecoach
Peter Monk	Banbury Civic Society
Robert Wingrove	BADI

Officers:

Martyn Surfleet	Banbury Town Council
Robert Duxbury	Banbury Town Council
Jacqui Cox	Oxfordshire County Council
Mike Wasley	Oxfordshire County Council
Ian Connick	Oxfordshire County Council

08/23 Apologies:

Mark Hassall	Banbury Town Council
Chris Hulme	T.V. Police
Edward Henley-Burns	Stagecoach

09/23 Declarations of Interest

None.

10/23 Minutes

IT WAS AGREED that the Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 24 May 2023 be received.

11/23 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 November.

12/23 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 November 2023.

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

Local Walking and Cycling Improvement Plan (LCWIP)

The LCWIP was approved by the council’s Cabinet Member for Highway Management at a meeting on 20 July 2023. The next steps will be detailed consideration and prioritisation of routes, which will include local county and district councillors, members of this group and other interested parties.

Tramway Road accessibility improvements

The detailed design work started at the end of March 2023, as did trial holes. The issue over the bridge over the river outside the station forecourt has been resolved.

The impact of the asbestos on the delivery costs and timescales is being assessed. A round of engagement with stakeholders is underway. The final design and cost estimate is still being worked on.

Cherwell Street bus improvement scheme

Study and design work for bus service improvement measures along Cherwell Street are about to get underway. The scheme is being funded through the Bus Service Improvement Plan from DfT and aims to save around two minutes per journey and improve bus journey time reliability as part of measures to support bus services post-lockdown and encourage more sustainable journey choices in the town.

The project team has finalised a brief for consultants and will engage with local Members, the district and town council as well as other stakeholders in the next couple of months. This will need to link in with other 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.

Canal Towpath to Station Approach steps

The 'muddy bank' linking the canal towpath to Station Approach is being investigated with a view to constructing steps and potentially a ramp to enable formal access between the station and the town centre without the need to cross any roads.

Difficulties with identifying the landowners have been overcome, and officers have engaged with the Canal & River Trust and Chiltern Railways. The next stage will be to engage with Network Rail and initiate negotiations with the landowners. There is s106 funding available for the design and construction of the scheme, although total costs are yet to be established.

Public Transport

Bus service changes from 3rd September:

500: Banbury – Middleton Cheney – Brackley - Bicester

The 0555 Banbury to Bicester and 0720 Bicester to Banbury journeys will run 5 and 10 minutes earlier respectively to allow school children more time to get to school. On school days, the Bicester to Banbury journey will also continue to Banbury and Bicester College to provide a new transport link for students.

S4: Banbury – Deddington – Kidlington - Oxford

There will be a new express route (X4) on weekday mornings and afternoons, providing fast links between Banbury, Oxford City Centre and Oxford Rail Station. Route X4 journeys will not serve Adderbury, Deddington Market Place, Steeple Aston or Tackley.

Additionally, existing S4 journeys at 0555 from Banbury to Oxford and 0725 from Oxford to Banbury will run 10 minutes earlier so that school children arrive in good time to start their day.

These X4 journeys are being funded by OCC using BSIP+ funds (more on this below).

BSIP+

Many local transport authorities have been allocated revenue funding from DfT for this and the next financial year, to cover the cost of service withdrawals resulting from the reduction in pandemic related financial support that bus operators were receiving directly from DfT. Excess funding is to be used for revenue priorities in our BSIP. Oxfordshire's allocation is £963,741.

Banbury Town Bus Survey

The bus service consultation received nearly 400 responses which we are working through. In order to give us more time to consider these matters, we have decided to delay introduction of any revised services until February 2024 and instead have requested prices for continuation of the existing network until then.

The consultation outcomes report will be published and available on the Let's Talk Oxfordshire portal when it is available.

Traffic & Road Safety Report**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	Sept 23
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: -
 - 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.
 - 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 cut-back is complete and a new lane board has been instructed
 - 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.
 - 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.

- This work is 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.
- 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 in September
- A proposal for Birds mouth fencing and double yellow lines in Bloxham Road Service Road – consultation for the double yellow lines is under way, 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.
 - 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.
 - 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 are currently being advertised.
- A proposal is under consideration to introduce waiting restrictions in Dukes Meadow Drive to prevent damage to verges caused by inappropriate parking. As yet no funding has been identified for this.
- 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 has now removed the temporary water-filled plastic barriers
- 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 details of local walking groups would be provided to O.C.C for future consultation on the LCWIP routes.

IT WAS ALSO AGREED that stagecoach will feedback to the committee on matters relating to the proposed Cherwell Street improvements.

14/23 Matters Raised by Members

CLlr Rebecca Biegel – Banbury Town Council

Q - Speeding on Fairway/Cromwell Road

A – Matter for TVP

Q - Illegal parking on Britannia Road

A – Raise with CDC traffic wardens, also feedback to OCC regarding illegal parking

Q - E-scooters being ridden dangerously on pavements - are there any suggestions for greater awareness campaigns/signs

A – As currently E-Scooters are illegal outside trial Zones this matter can be raised with TWP as well as CDC traffic wardens

Q - HGV overnight parking on Thorpe way industrial estate

A- Possible integration with the Local Plan to implement facilities for HGV drivers

Q - Progression on signage to stop HGVs going down Daventry Road

A – OCC to investigate signage in the surrounding area to help mitigate large HGV traffic accessing Daventry Road

Q - Progression on lane markings and surface repairs on the M40 junction 11 roundabout.

A – Partial Line re-marking of the roundabout has been scheduled

Robert Wingrove – BADI

Q - I can see from previous minutes that the council have scheduled to relining of the M40 J11 roundabout. Could I please ask when the work will be done at the latest date?

A – Partial Line re-marking of the roundabout has been scheduled

Q - There has been a few RTC's on the gateway roundabout . What are the plans going forward regarding this junction?

A – OCC to look at possible S106 funding to investigate further into the infrastructure of the roundabout.

Q - Any news on getting the road surface sorted at Longford park primary school junction?

A – Works have been started on resurfacing works, unconfirmed on materials used, tarmac should have been laid. Further investigation into the block pavers needed.

Q - The sign on the Oxford road for the Army Reserve centre blocks the green traffic light on the left. Can this be moved to give clear line of sight on approach?

A – OCC have assigned an officer to investigate and amend as necessary

Q - Flooding regularly happens outside the Morrisons fuel station. Does the council have any knowledge if this is being looked into?

A – OCC have begun investigations into this matter

Peter Monk – Banbury Civic Society

Q - Middleton Rd / Merton Str - signal phasing. Signal phasing at other locations.

A – OCC to look into traffic light phasing across Banbury

Q - Hennef Way - foliage and signs.

A – Tree works have been issued to cutback foliage on Hennef Way

Q - Broughton Rd. - traffic conditions.

A – Possible solution via LCWIP, weight limit with exemptions for public transport proposed. Possibility for further signage directing large goods vehicles to the M40 installed across town.

Q - Southam Rd. (Tesco) roundabout - Traffic management.

A – Talks between OCC and Tesco in progress to tackle issues of traffic on the Southam Road roundabout. OCC to push for progress.

Q - Broad Str. / Marlborough Rd. - Signage and priority markings.

A – OCC to investigate junction for lines and signage and to feedback results

Q - Developer's direction signs on traffic signals and other street furniture

A – BD to remind CDC regarding developer signage and fly posting

Q - 20mph – Policy

A – Main road to remain at current speed limits, smaller residential roads proposed to be 20mph

Ian Connick – Oxfordshire County Council

Q - We are trying to establish the ownership of the footpaths to and from Royal Voluntary Service Cornhill Centre next to the Bolton Road car park. We have had, through Cllr Banfield, reports of cars driving along the footpaths to and from the centre endangering pedestrians, and I have promised to ask the fonts of local knowledge if they know

- Who owns the land

- How the centre was allowed to construct parking places

A – The land falls between the ownership of Cherwell District Council and the Lease Holder of the RVS building.

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 November 2023.

15/23 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 29 November 2023 at 2pm

The Meeting ended at 3.45pm.