

**OXFORD PEDESTRIANS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER NO 66
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2005**

Welcome to Issue Number 66 of Oxford Pedestrians' Association Newsletter!

Apologies for the lateness of this newsletter. Your Newsletter Editor was in Las Cruces, New Mexico, where pedestrians scarcely exist at all. In Las Cruces early in the mornings (at around 5am) one can see joggers jogging for miles before work. But during the rest of the day (8am-8pm) all the roads, which are uniformly wide and do not necessarily have pavements, are full of fast traffic. There are very few crossings, and no pavement extensions. The roads are designed and constructed wide and sweeping with smooth curved corners, and there are no local shops, only big markets and supermarkets which one drives to. Public transport is scarce or non-existent. The thing which impressed upon me the centrality of the private car the most, however, was the car park at El Paso airport, a small airport with 38,000 spaces and a shuttle to drive people to their cars.

- 1. At our Annual General Meeting on September 26th, Oxford Pedestrians' Association adopted a Constitution and elected a Chair, Paul Cullen. Here are his words to members: "It is an honour and a privilege to be elected Chair of OxPA. This is one of the biggest and most influential local walking lobby groups in the country, and we have many people to thank for their commitment and effort. Among those, Corinne Grimley-Evans, our Secretary, deserves special thanks. I know we shall continue to draw upon her wisdom and energy. There are many others of course, who contribute to making OxPA's voice heard. The Constitution will help ensure that OxPA is managed and developed in consistent ways. We are planning an annual programme of meetings for members and supporters, including some city-based walks. We also intend to hold occasional joint meetings with other groups that share OxPA's concerns. We hope that the first of these will be with cycling group Cyclox in the spring. Lastly, we intend to pursue some targeted campaigns. **With this newsletter you will find a questionnaire in which we ask you to identify your preferred three campaigns for the year ahead. Do please fill it in and return it, so that we can campaign on the matters that are of most importance to our members.**" You can contact Paul Cullen at: 8 Richmond Road, Jericho, Oxford OX1 2JJ; tel: 426805; e-mail d_paul_cullen@ntlworld.com**
- 2. The Westgate proposal. Before submitting it to the democratic City Council planning process, Capital Shopping are consulting on their latest proposal to build a huge new shopping centre extending from the current Westgate Centre down to Oxpens Road. The proposal includes a replacement for the multi-storey car park, and the demolition of the housing for vulnerable people on Abbey Place and the demolition also of the Duke of York pub, to provide the space for this. Capital Shopping hopes to attract 10,000 extra shoppers per day into Oxford. **Significantly, the proposal does not allow enough space to take the buses out of Queen St.** Representatives of Capital Shopping say the scheme would be 'economically unviable' if space was allowed for a bus route on the land they want for shops. They propose a small turning circle for buses on Oxpens Road but this is to be for the extra Park and Ride buses the scheme would generate. **To get involved in the consultation please contact Ruth Johnson or Nicky Winch on 01483 415915, or complete an on-line feedback form on www.westgateoxford.co.uk, or ring the hotline on 0500 855 371, or write to: The Westgate Partnership, FREEPOST CAPITAL SHOPPING CENTRES, 40 Broadway, London SW1H 0BU.****

3. **Transport 2000's Streets for People have launched '20's Plenty!'** a new campaign calling on the government to make it easier to designate 20mph speed limits. Road crashes are the leading cause of mortality in children, but little action has so far been taken to reduce traffic speeds in urban areas. At present, introducing 20mph speed limits is a long and expensive process. '20 is Plenty!' calls on the government to make it easier for Local Authorities to designate streets as 20mph zones, and presents an opportunity to influence the Road Safety Bill as it passes through Parliament. On 22 November, the 20's Plenty! National Day of Action will see campaigners around the country taking to the streets to call for a reduction in speed limits on a road near where they live. **OxPA is looking for volunteers in Oxford to join us standing at road sides holding placards at 4 sites for up to an hour. If you would like to come, please ring Paul** (tel no at end of Newsletter). There is a free '20's Plenty!' Action Pack to help communities plan their events and show local authorities and Government that people really do want 20mph limits on the streets where they live. Interested? Please contact: **linda.beard@transport2000.org.uk or telephone: 020 7613 7718.**
4. **A new issue of the popular Pavement Parking stickers was launched on September 20th.** The stickers are funded by the Police and Local Authorities. For the launch photos, members and supporters posed with a wheelchair, and had great difficulty pushing it past the selfishly parked car on Aston Street. **The police officer stuck the sticker on the windscreen, so if you choose to use these useful, effective and empowering leaflets, don't worry about breaking the law! Stickers are available free at the Town Hall, County Hall, St Aldates Police Station and the Public library.**
5. **The public consultation on the Draft Air Quality Action Plan is now underway.** All consultation materials can be found on <http://www.oxford.gov.uk/services/air-quality-action-plan.cfm>. Or they can be obtained from Ramsey House, St Ebbe's St. **Responses to the draft action plan and further comments can be submitted at the web address above or sent to the following address by 2nd December 2005:** AQAP Consultation, Environmental Health, Ramsay House, 10 St Ebbe's Street, Oxford OX1 1PT. From Monday 7th December there will be a joint display with the County Council in Ramsay House reception, with booklets for both the Local transport Plan and Air Quality Action Plan, plus the use of an on-line terminal. There will also be sites at: Sainsbury's Westgate Centre and in the Westgate Library. Electronic copies of the draft Local Transport Plan (LTP) produced by Oxfordshire County Council are available from: **<http://www.transaction.org.uk>.** For comments on the draft LTP please contact the County Council by 6th January.
6. **A survey of vehicles illegally passing through the High Street bus gate showed 60 illegal movements per hour in the morning, and far more than that in the afternoon.** It is all very well to talk about imaginative measures to reduce air pollution in central Oxford where it is very polluted, but surely enforcement of current measures ought to be one of the first and simplest moves.

Our last meeting this year is on Tuesday November 22nd at 7pm in Oxford Town Hall. We'll be showing slides of Car Free Day in Oxford, and in Zurich where's it's a city festival. Please come, and please bring a friend. Everyone is welcome!

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