

OXFORD PEDESTRIANS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER NO. 71
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2006

Welcome to Issue number 71 of OxPA's Newsletter! With the heat-wave past and school term approaching, many of the visitors who thronged central Oxford this summer have left the city centre in relative peace once more. The soon-to-be decluttered High Street is showing glimpses of the great improvement it will become when the works have finished. While we commend the County on the good work being done there, we have to ask, 'Why did they get the timing so badly wrong?' True, the High is always busy, but to embark on such long running and major disruption at the peak season of the year for foot traffic was surely unwise. We hope the lessons of poor timing will have been learned and that such mistakes are avoided in future.

- 1) Car Free Day, or to give it its more meaningful title 'In Town Without My Car' is to be celebrated with many events in Broad Street on Friday 22 September.** OxPA will have a stall there, and we'll be giving away **free cake**. Come and meet us, and enjoy some cake with OxPA. We'll also be giving away pedometers to the first ten new members to enrol on the day – so bring a friend and enrol them.
The celebrations are also beginning to spread out to the wider city. **The people of All Saints Road in Headington intend to celebrate the day with a street party between 3.30pm and 6pm.** Do give them your support if you are in the neighbourhood.
- 2) Come to OxPA's Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 24th October, at 7pm in the Town Hall. We will be electing new committee members and would really like to welcome some new faces 'on board'.** As OxPA's voice comes to be more widely heard, a little extra support is always welcome. Not only do you get to meet like minded people – it's enjoyable too. So do come and offer your support. **At the AGM we will be have a presentation from Inspector Graham Sutherland of Thames Valley Police's City centre Unit.** Come and hear his views about 20mph limits, footway parking, footway cycling, tackling street crime and other aspects of policing our streets.
- 3) Life Begins at 20 is the campaign for a 20 miles per hour speed limit on City roads.** Jointly launched by OxPA and cycling group Cyclox, it was recently inaugurated by the Lord Mayor at the Beech Croft Road street party. There is a substantial case for reducing the effects of speeding vehicles on city streets. Injuries to pedestrians from motor vehicles are reduced in number and severity; streets become usable again by young and old alike. Much of the clutter that supports motor traffic can also be swept away. We'll be telling you more about Life Begins At 20 soon. Come to our stall on Car Free Day and find out how you can get involved.
- 4) OxPA's summer picnic was a great success.** Members enjoyed lunch in balmy weather beside the Thames. This was the second of our outdoor events, and with both having been enjoyed by all concerned, we will certainly be organising more. It has become apparent that members do want to be involved in OxPA meetings, but that Tuesday nights at the Town Hall are out of the question for some. Daytime and weekend meetings help address that. If you've ideas for meetings, do let Corinne or Paul know. (See phone numbers at end of newsletter.)

- 5) **The Core Strategy for the West End** is moving ahead. OxPA was at the consultation meetings held earlier this year. Much of what we sought is being reflected in the Preferred Options document which has now been published. Do please submit your own comments on the proposals whose outcome will shape much of the city centre for the next century or more. There will be a workshop on Saturday 30th September from 10.00 a.m. at St. Aldate's Parish Centre, 40 Pembroke Street. If you would like to attend, contact Mark Jaggard, City Council Planning Policy Manager on 252847. Also see the Preferred Options document on the web at www.oxford.gov.uk/LDF (then select West End AAP) or at the City Council's Ramsay House (St Ebbe's Street) and Blue Boar Street offices on weekdays from 08.30 a.m., and at public libraries (check dates).
- 6) **Little Clarendon Street is improving.** After a long campaign, traffic calming is to be reinstated in Little Clarendon St. This popular shopping and dining street is a notorious short cut for drivers seeking to avoid Beaumont Street. Hopefully it will be free of through traffic one day.
- 7) **Westgate Proposals.** OxPA believes that the Westgate proposals could worsen the extensive crowding in the city centre. People who wish to object to the Westgate Development, e.g. on grounds of inadequate attention to people's needs when on foot (or for any other reason), should lobby the City Council's Strategic Development Control Committee; Elise Benjamin, tel. 202257, is its Chair. She can give details of how to ask the Secretary of State to have it "called in". The proposals should come before the Committee towards the end of September.
- 8) **A new Pedestrians Association for Chipping Norton is to be formed on 12th September.** Fed up with conditions in the town due to the dominance of A44 motor traffic over local foot traffic, some of Chippy's townsfolk are to launch their own local group. If you want to support the new group, telephone Shirley Toulson on 01608 643365.
- 9) **OxPA's Footway Obstructions Survey.** Thanks to all those who have returned a survey form already. These examples will help us in persuading the authorities to take further action. There is another chance to contribute, by giving instances on the survey form enclosed with this newsletter. *Do you know of streets where footways are made impassable, or nearly so, by parked vehicles or clutter? Tell us about them.* Do please complete the form and send it back. If we don't know about such streets, we can't speak for them.

OUR NEXT MEETINGS:

Friday 22nd September, 'In Town Without My Car' – come and see us, and enjoy a piece of OxPA cake, during the day in Broad Street.

Tuesday 24th October, 7pm at the Town Hall – Annual General Meeting – and hear Inspector Graham Sutherland of Thames Valley Police talk about policing our streets.

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