



# Walk Talk

Newsletter of Oxford Pedestrians Association

Number 87 – May-June 2009

Welcome to Newsletter number 87 of Oxford Pedestrians Association! This is the best time of year for walking; dryer, brighter, not too hot, the air fragrant with blossoms. However, in late spring rain showers, there is still 'pooling' and big puddles appearing at pedestrian crossing junctions. Giant obstructive puddles appear at some crossings. Cllr Ian Hudspeth has declared that he agrees with all of OxPA's publication, 'A More Walkable Oxford' and supports its aims. One of these is to reduce 'pooling' by better drainage and planning of drains. Members can help by reporting puddles to our City Transport Tsar, Councillor Ian Hudspeth, c/o County Hall, New Road, Oxford OX1 1ND, or email: [ian.hudspeth@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:ian.hudspeth@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## Have you renewed your OxPA membership?

Some time ago we sent reminders to those people who had not renewed their membership. Some people have still not yet renewed, and this is a final reminder that if you have not done so by the time the next WalkTalk is published, it will be assumed you no longer wish to be a member and your details will be removed from OxPA's database. This will mean you will not receive this interesting bi-monthly publication in future. We hope that people who have not yet renewed membership will now do so, for it is only by having a substantial membership that OxPA can truly claim to represent people's views about the walkability of Oxford. If you are unsure about whether you are a paid up member, please give Ray Jones a call on 01865 865070, or e-mail [rhj@phonecoop.coop](mailto:rhj@phonecoop.coop)

## Twenty is Plenty: Major Success

On 23<sup>rd</sup> April the County Council's cabinet member for Transport, Councillor Ian Hudspeth, agreed to adopt the recommendation for 20mph on Oxford's residential streets, and some parts of the main road network especially in the city centre. OxPA and Cyclox, [the founding

members of the *Life Begins At 20 campaign*], and many residents groups and Area Committees had asked in the consultations that the bus routes be included; being places where much walking and cycling take place, where the road has to be crossed and where there is greatest risk to vulnerable road users. *However we are happy with 20mph on all other residential streets, in itself a major victory for walking and traffic calming groups.*

## Have your say on Road Safety

The government has published '**Making Britain's Roads Safer - join the debate**'. With Oxford at last adopting 20mph limits on residential streets [except major traffic routes], the government now intends to encourage other local councils to implement 20mph on all but major through routes. It says that its key priorities include reducing the number of road deaths; pedestrian and cyclist casualties in our towns and cities; protecting children and young people.

Find details of the report by logging on to [http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open/road\\_safety\\_consultation/](http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open/road_safety_consultation/) or obtain a copy from DfT, 76 Marsham Street, SW1P 4DR.

**Please respond before 14th July.  
County adopts a Walking Policy**

At the same meeting the County adopted a Walking Policy, having been without one for five years. The new policy document addresses five points and is far too rudimentary – but the County Council say they will be consulting on transport policy in the next eighteen months as they prepare their third Local Transport Plan for 2011 to 2016. OxPA will be involved in making the case for stronger policies to support the one way of getting about that is, or should be, available to all of us.

**What do you want to see in the County's walking policies? Let us know please. We'll produce a list of your objectives for walking policy in a future edition of WalkTalk.**

#### **Osney Lane reunited**

As we go to print the final touches are being put to the refurbished footbridge over the railway south of Oxford station. It has been a long wait for the two ends of Osney lane to be joined once more. Do celebrate the re-making of the connection by walking across the bridge, and perhaps stopping to contemplate the effects of all the proposed growth at Oxford station.

#### **Oxford-Marylebone rail proposals**

Chiltern Railways has been doing the rounds with their 'Road Show' revealing proposals for their new service [*with a new 'Parkway' station at Water Eaton*]. Full details can be found on their web site [www.chiltern-evergreen3.co.uk](http://www.chiltern-evergreen3.co.uk). With so much investment going into the railways there should be similar complementary investment to upgrade walk routes to and from the station. Please have your say by responding to the consultation. **You can speak to Chiltern Railways about it on 01865 384896, and respond to their consultation by e-mailing [consultation@chiltern-evergreen3.co.uk](mailto:consultation@chiltern-evergreen3.co.uk).**

Please let OxPA have a copy of your consultation response, copying it by e-mail to [info@oxpa.org.uk](mailto:info@oxpa.org.uk).

#### **Elections in early June**

At this time of year all politicians will tell you that they are the party who supports

walking, cycling, reducing air pollution, or whatever is known to be healthy and 'good for the environment'. **Be sure to ask your candidates for their party's voting record on issues that you care about.**

**Check our updated website  
[www.oxpa.org.uk](http://www.oxpa.org.uk).**

This is where you will find our policies and responses to consultations, and OxPA's views about walkability matters in Oxford. Take a look and let us know what you think about our reinvigorated website.

#### **Next meetings**

**Our next meeting is an evening walk on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May**, when we will enjoy the evening air with one of the walks from our popular book 'Oxford on Foot'. **Meet at 7pm on the Town Hall steps.**

**Our following meeting will be on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June** when among other things we will be discussing '**What to seek in the County's next walking strategy**'.

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