



Walk Talk

Newsletter of Oxford Pedestrians Association

September - October 2009

Welcome to Newsletter 89 of the Oxford Pedestrians Association

OxPA is not political! In our last Newsletter there was a reference to the well-recognised constitutional anomaly that transport policy for Oxford City is determined by the Oxfordshire County Council's ruling party, which does not contain any members elected by City constituencies. A complaint has been received that our comment indicates that OxPA has some kind of political affiliation. Not so. OxPA is strictly non-political, and, as our record shows, supports good ideas and opposes bad ones regardless of their political origins.

Oxford Streets for People: September 22nd is the traditional date for European Car Free Day - or *In town without my Car* - as it later became known. There has been an Oxford celebration on September 22nd since 2001, if not before, and this year it takes place during European Mobility Week, when the Oxford Civic Society will work with the City Council to promote **Oxford Streets 2009**. The aim is to transform our streets into spaces for all, to encourage local groups to hold street parties and events during the weekend September 19/20th, when people will be able to enjoy their streets without motor traffic. It is also an opportunity to consider ways of improving street design to create more friendly liveable streets for the future. For details visit the website oxstreets.org.uk or phone Richard Bradley 01865 762418.

Walk&Talk 2009 Also during the week from September 16-22, OxPA Chairman Paul Cullen will be leading daily lunchtime walks from Bonn Square. These are a series of themed, city-centre 'walkabouts' celebrating our glorious city and for all to share and talk about what they discover:

Gargoyles & Grimaces Wednesday 16th

Folios & Fossils Thursday 17th

Spires & Choirs Friday 18th

Teahouses & Taverns Saturday 19th

River & Stream Sunday 20th

Clocks & Chimes Monday 21st

Morris & Motors Tuesday 22nd

A detailed itinerary will be made available daily, and published on the website oxstreets.org.uk. Come to the meeting point from noon onwards. Bring friends or colleagues if you wish, or join a small group for an accompanied stroll at 2 pm.

Local Transport Plan 3: Sept 4th deadline

Consultations for the third LTP have begun and stakeholders are being encouraged to contribute at various stages of the fifteen-month process before implementation in

2011. Visit www.Oxfordshire.gov.uk or phone 01865 815659 to get involved. To ensure maximum focus on the needs of more vulnerable road-users, OxPA has worked with other travel groups to create the **Oxfordshire Active Travel Strategy**. This will be distributed to local groups throughout the County in time to help them in persuading County Transport Planners to implement best practice for improved walkability.

New Inn Hall Street

The appearance of New Hall Street after weeks of road works has left many of us somewhat disappointed! What began as a splendid vision of equality for walkers, with no kerbs and a level surface, has sadly materialised as a wider road with ugly yellow lines. However, we are very heartened to learn from the responsible County Officer that this is merely a short transitory phase. The yellow lines are only reflective tape which will be easily removed without damaging the new surface just as soon as the Department for Transport (DfT) gives

approval to designation of the whole street as a restricted parking zone. Once this is in place it will be possible to ticket any vehicle infringing the restriction. Let's hope DfT gives permission soon before the beautiful paving stones and cobbles are damaged by illegal parking. A further encouraging point is that the black asphalt will become more muted as it ages, blending in with the natural colour of the chippings to produce a more appropriate tone for an Oxford street.

Local Correspondents

We would love to hear news from members throughout the city, both to put in **Walk Talk** and to post on the OxPA website. Please send or email us with your views on current issues, and news you would like to publicise, along with items from local and national newspapers. Photos, preferably sent electronically, of roads and pavements needing attention – or better still, before and after shots where action has been taken - will greatly add to the interest of our website. See contact details below.

More blocked pavements

Parked cars are not the only obstacles to free movement for pedestrians on Oxford's narrow pavements. Residents in East Oxford have found that wheelie bins are being left outside front gardens, in spite of Council instructions to the contrary. See our website for a photo of a typical pavement scene with pavement space reduced to less than 18 inches by parked car and wheelie bin! If you or your neighbours are inconvenienced – or even house-bound – by your pavement made impassable, send us your details and get in touch with your City Councillor to ask why Council bin collectors are not leaving wheelie bins and re-cycling boxes more considerately.

Child-shaped bollards help slow traffic

They may look like a new foe for Doctor Who, but child-shaped bollards that give the impression they are about to cross the road are the latest attempt by a council to slow drivers as they pass local schools (see photo on website). The steel mannequins cost £350 each and have been placed outside Avenue Primary School in Leicester to help enforce a 20mph speed limit. The

danger faced by children is highlighted by the fact that one of these bollards has already been knocked over.

Retirement of Newsletter Editor – Sushila Dhall writes:

I have enjoyed immensely being OxPA's Newsletter Editor for 13 years since its beginning. I am now standing down for two reasons: I am not computer literate enough to manage the new format adequately, and I often did not get the newsletter done in time for it to be out by the beginning of the two months it represented. However I remain a keen and active member of OxPA and look forward to somebody else being responsible for the Newsletter. I will contribute items for consideration for inclusion as every member is always invited to do. Long may OxPA walk tall and proud!

OxPA is very grateful to Sushila for her inspiring editorship over these years. We look forward to continuing to benefit from her skills and energy while allowing her a little more time to pursue her many other interests

Next meetings:

September 22nd at 7pm in the Town Hall, when our invited speaker will be Steve Hayes, of Oxfordshire County Council on "A Better Train Station for Oxford". Open to all – bring friends and family to join in the discussion of how this vital part of our transport system is being developed.

Annual General Meeting

October 27th 2009. At 7.00 pm Oxford Town Hall. Come and have your say.

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