



Walk Talk

Newsletter of Oxford Pedestrians Association

November - December 2009

Welcome to Newsletter 90 of the Oxford Pedestrians Association

Oxfordshire's Head of Transport, **Steve Howell**, addressed our October meeting, and gave his response to OxPA's ***A More Walkable Oxford***. During a frank and informative questions session he covered the whole range of transport policy, leaving us encouraged by his interest and understanding of issues affecting walking in the City. Visit the OxPA website for a fuller account of the meeting.

Local Transport Plan 3 – what do you want the County to do for people on foot? *Have your say*

However we travel, parts of our journeys are made on foot. What aspects of your walking experiences should the County Council aim to improve? The Council is preparing its third Local Transport Plan and wants your views. Write to: The LTP Team, Environment & Economy, Oxfordshire County Council, Speedwell House, Speedwell Street, Oxford OX1 1NE, or e-mail them at localtransportplan@oxfordshire.gov.uk .

Oxford Station to be enlarged? *Have your say*

Network Rail has published proposals to enlarge Oxford station. The numbers of people using the station have grown by more than a quarter recently, and another 30% growth is expected. How will these extra people get to and from the station? From whatever direction, the walk is uncomfortable and unsafe. Let Network Rail know what needs to be done to complement station enlargement, **before 27 November** please, at Great Western RUS Consultation Response, RUS Programme Manager, Network Rail, Floor 4, Kings Place, 90 York Way, London N1 9AG. Or e-mail them at greatwesternrus@networkrail.co.uk .

Oxford's Low Emission Zone a let-down? *Have your say*

The Oxford Mail and Times have both focused recently on the shortcomings of Oxford's proposed Low Emission Zone. It

will only apply to buses in the city centre, meaning that important pedestrian routes congested by vehicles other than buses will continue to be highly polluted. These include Longwall, Beaumont Street, Worcester Street and Hythe Bridge Street – the latter being the main walk route to the station. This clearly has health implications, not only for pedestrians in these streets, but for everyone who lives, works and studies in the city centre. If you wish to express a view about the Low Emission Zone contact Councillor John Tanner at the Town Hall, St Aldate's, Oxford OX1 1BX.

East Oxford Pavement Parking confirmed

After a long fight against the iniquities of allowing drivers to appropriate footway space for the storage of their vehicles, OxPA and community groups in East Oxford saw the County Council approve its CPZ scheme which will legalise footway parking in many of the area's residential streets. This situation has come about partly through insufficient concern about car ownership levels, which has permitted East Oxford's streets to become quite literally overpopulated with motor vehicles. The motor car can be a great boon – but it must be properly managed. OxPA will continue to argue that pavement parking is not the answer to unlimited growth in car ownership and use within the City.

20mph limits implemented but no enforcement to date

Vehicle speeds have been falling in Oxford since implementation of the 20mph limits on

residential streets – but not by much. The County Council says that it expects to see further falls with the passage of time, and OxPA agrees. But many 20mph signs are out of sight as drivers focus on the road in front of them. A stronger message is needed, and we hope that it will be given in the months ahead. The time is approaching for our police to become involved and begin enforcement – which is what a significant majority in an Oxford Times poll voted for.

New Book of Walks to Enjoy by Train

The Cotswold Line Promotion Group has just published its new book of walks that can easily be reached by train, 'From the Thames to the Wye'. Starting at Oxford, this 72 page illustrated book gives detailed routes for 12 countryside station-to-station walks, all the way to Hereford. Walks vary in length between 5 and 20 miles. Copies can be obtained from: CLPG, 4 Sandford Rise, Charlbury OX7 3SZ, price £7.50 inc.p&p.

AGM Report

OxPA's Annual General Meeting took place on 27th October. Re-elected to the management committee were: Paul Cullen (Chair), Corinne Grimley Evans (Secretary) and Ray Jones (Treasurer). The posts of Membership Secretary and Newsletter Editor are yet to be filled. Felicity Wenden and Mike Hamand volunteered for non-executive positions. We still need to fill several slots, so please call Paul Cullen on 01865 426805 if you would like to help to make OxPA's voice more widely heard. The focus for next year's activities were agreed to be: to increase our membership and impact, including regular presence at Area Committees, continue full engagement with the LTP3 process, and more involvement with *Streets for People* in September 2010. *Visit our website for a full report.*

Wheelie bins are still being left to block narrow pavements in East Oxford – contact your Councillor to ask for more considerate rubbish collection.

Subscription renewals

All subs (except those paid by bank order/debits) will in future become due on January 1st each year – current members

paying by cash or cheque will not need to renew until Jan 2011.

Area Committee volunteers.

Area representatives are needed to attend their local Area Committee each month and report upon any Agenda items affecting pedestrians in their part of Oxford. Contact Paul or Corinne if you have time to help OxPA once a month in this way

New Inn Hall yellow lines.

The Highway Authority has finally received permission from DfT to make New Inn Hall Street a no-parking zone (except for valid disabled badge holders). Once the new signs have been made, the yellow lines will be removed and the street can be enjoyed as a proper shared space.

Town Hall Fairs:

One World Fair November 21

Christmas Green Fair December 12

Stall volunteers are needed to help at the OxPA stall. Contact Corinne with your preferred times if you have an hour or so to spare – it's an enjoyable and sociable way to get some Christmas shopping done while helping promote our message!

Next meetings:

Tuesday November 24th, 7pm at the Town Hall – come and help us plan next year's programme

No meeting in December

Tuesday January 26th 2010 at 7pm

Contacts

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