



OXFORD PEDESTRIANS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER ISSUE NO 13/14 MARCH/APRIL 1997

Welcome to Issue 13 of our Newsletter! We have had our social evening since our last newsletter, in St Michael at the Northgate Hall. It was a success, well attended, with delicious snacks and plenty of fruit juices and wine. The main pleasure was meeting one another in a social context, and getting to know people as people, without business getting in the way. The evening was relaxed and convivial. Perhaps we ought to do it on an annual basis. Many thanks are due to Jenny for thinking of and organising the Social. In addition, much work has also been done in the last two months. Read on...

1) Patrick showed his video at our well-attended February meeting. It is about the new four-lane road the County are planning to build next to Oxford railway station, and the old Grade II* Listed LMS building which is to be demolished to make way for the road. Mr Mark Jarman, County Engineer, has said that the new road was planned based on surveys of car movements in the area, with no studies having been done at all of pedestrian or cycle numbers and movements. If anyone would like to object to the plan, you can do so by ringing **Roger Williams, Chief Transport Planner on the County, tel no 815485**. If anyone would like to see the video, please contact Patrick, number at end of Newsletter. We are trying to get the LMS/pedestrian/road problem into the 'Oxford Times'.

2) Cycle Sub-Committee. The four points we agreed to put forward were received politely and sympathetically. They were: (a) the issue of cycle racks on pavements (and it is a pleasure to see so many new cycle racks in the City being put in the road, so we must be having some effect!), (b) bells on bicycles, and whether injuries to pedestrians on pavements get reported, (c) the problems of Cripsey Road/Botley Road junction, and (d) bus shelters, where they should go, how much pedestrian space they take up, and if they are adequate. The issue of 20mph speed limits is to go to the next meeting.

3) The first meeting of the new Pedestrian Forum took place on Feb 25th at 7.30pm. It was disappointing, described as 'a political way of keeping us happy for a while'. There was a sense that the City Councillors and Officers at the meeting did not really listen, thought they were doing all right by pedestrians on the whole, and were not really prepared to discuss issues of pedestrian rights. The chair, Rhonda Riachi, explained that they are 'too busy with other things' to hold the meeting more than once a year. The meeting was well-attended, but the public who came did not generally feel it was satisfactory. We really need a Pedestrian Officer to represent pedestrians all the year round. Which brings me to the next item...

4) A motion was referred to County Environment Committee, suggesting that the two employees being transferred within the Department of Environmental Services into the Engineering Department (mainly road building and widening) be called 'Pedestrian Officer' and 'Cycling Officer', and that they should represent the needs of both groups to Environment Committee. It was defeated unanimously by the three largest parties on the County, who said they felt 'insulted' that anybody could accuse them of not prioritising pedestrians and cyclists, and that they were not in the business of representing 'groups'. So we have to keep nagging both the City and the County Council about this!



5) For those members bothered by illegally parked cars, the number to ring is **the new SPA wardens' number, Oxford 247090**. They should respond by coming out and slapping a fine on the car. Especially useful where a car is parked across a pavement!

6) We plan to invite someone from Oxford Bus Company to come and talk to us at our meeting on Monday May 19th. We should try and be ready to ask whoever comes questions on driving speeds, bus stops on pavements, polluting engines, the Tour Buses, and whatever else you may think of. We pedestrians need to let public transport companies know what our needs and concerns are.

7) Jenny has bought some pedometers for the stall and for us to use. Please contact Jenny if you would like to borrow one (number at end of Newsletter). They are easy to use, and fun, you attach one by means of a clip to your leg, feed five of your normal steps into it, and then walk! The pedometer will measure the distance you cover. It is very surprising how far one walks just going round a few shops.

Please note that there will be *no meeting* of OxPA in April. The next meeting is on May 19th at 7.30pm, in the Town Hall. Everyone is welcome. Please come, and bring a friend or any interested people.

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