



OXFORD PEDESTRIANS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER ISSUE NO 14¹⁵ MAY/JUNE 1997

Welcome to issue no. 14 of our Newsletter! We are undergoing what could be called structural changes, with Jenny withdrawing from her position as Co-ordinator, and becoming OxPA's Chairperson. Patrick, who is our Transport Advisor, is also going to respond to official communications from the Councils, and Corinne is going to be doing our secretarial work. Many thanks to those who do these types of work, mostly behind the scenes. Thanks are also due to Corinne and Margaret for arranging a wonderful Social, my apologies that these come a Newsletter late.

1) We have a stall at two fairs in the near future. The first is Sat June 7th, at Wesley Memorial Hall on New Inn Hall Street, the Vegetarian Society. The second is on Sat June 14th in the Town Hall, St Aldates, at the Green Fair. Help is needed on the stall. It involves giving an hour or two to sitting behind our stall, being ready to chat to interested passersby about what we do and who we are, and encouraging the public to take our leaflets and join us! It is easy and fun. Please contact Margaret (tel no at end of Newsletter) if you can help.

2) On Saturday June 21st the National Pedestrians Association AGM is being held in Oxford, in Wesley Memorial Hall. The business of the AGM begins at 11am, and is open only to national members. At 2pm the meeting is open to everybody, and there will be very interesting talks and discussions. We have two speakers coming, one of whom is a Safety Officer from York, the other representing disability access. Please come along, and please bring friends.

3) Margaret has been asked if she will affiliate in our name to the Headington Business Association. At our May meeting we agreed that this would be a good idea, so she is going ahead. It is good to know that, at least in Headington, local businesses are interested in the needs of pedestrians. Would that such an enlightened attitude could spread to Oxford centre! And speaking of which...

4) A motion to County Council to make the two engineers being transferred to roads in Environmental Services into a Pedestrian Officer and a Cycling Officer was voted down by members of Environmental Committee. They feel that their attitude towards pedestrians is already as open and caring as it needs to be, and that we are well represented by them already. Since then, however, many of the faces on the committee have changed, following the local elections, so future motions of this kind might be dealt with more helpfully. A second motion, to close streets of central Oxford to any buses not fitted with a particulate trap (a sort of diesel catalytic converter) was deferred for six months whilst the national Environmental Act is being drawn up. So an end to breathing such poisonous polluting fumes as we shop or work or pass through the centre, may actually be in sight. **Please, all members, do consider writing to both City and County Councillors, stressing the needs of pedestrians which are not being met.** You need not go to any lengths searching for addresses; letters can go to the Town Hall or County Hall. Do remember to say that you would like a reply to any letter you send, as having to think of a reply focuses the minds of Councillors on the issues at hand very well.



5) There are three public enquiries coming up in Oxford, on the Structure Plan, Oxford Transport Strategy, and Oxpens. We are involved in all of these, and are sending representatives to speak at these, as well as sending written submissions. Please contact Patrick or Jenny if you would like further information, or would like to be involved.

6) We are still involved with the Cycle Sub-Committee. Thanks to our input about the bus shelter on Queen Street, that shelter is to be replaced by a longer, thinner one, called a 'cantilever' bus shelter. More people will be able to stand under it, but it will not block the footway to the unacceptable extent that it does now. Corrine represents us on Cycle Sub-Committee, so please contact her (tel no at end of Newsletter) if there is anything you would like her to raise.

7) Oxford Civic Society are interested in doing work to promote the idea of 20 mph speed limits in residential areas. We are working with them on this issue.

8) We would like more members! If you have any friends or relations who may be at all interested in our work, please bring/invite them to our meetings. **Our next two meetings are on Monday June 16th and Monday July 21st, at 7.30pm, in the Town Hall. Everyone is welcome. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible there.**

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