



Welcome to issue no 17 of our Newsletter! I have been asked to stress how welcome any contributions to this Newsletter are. If any of you would like to inform members of anything, or flag up any issue relating to pedestrian provision or lack of it, please contact me, or send your contribution for inclusion in our next issue. This will be produced at the end of January, so contact me/send anything before then please. By way of inspiring you all to get writing, this Newsletter begins with a report from our Transport Advisor.

## 1) Report from Pedestrians and Cycles Sub-Committee by Patrick Lingwood

The meeting took place on 19th November and was attended by Corinne Grimley-Evans (as official OxPA representative) and myself. We are beginning to have an impact on City Council procedures. Here is a list of the most important issues that we discussed:

- a) Proposals for a new cycle route along St Ebbes Street were passed, but it was decided that a shared surface would allow pedestrians and cyclists the most freedom to move with the least possibility of conflict
- b) Iffley Road traffic calming proposals were welcomed. The proposals include some pavement widening, new pavements and pavement build outs.
- c) A report from "Pavements are for People" resulted in a recommendation for the officers to draw up a Code of Practice on the design and positioning of street furniture to be brought to a future meeting. It was also agreed that officers should look at the legal position of London, where it is an offence for a motor vehicle to park on a pavement, and the legal rights of pedestrians over side road traffic should be clarified (See debate on junction of George Street and Magdalen Street East).
- d) OxPA submission that criticised the complete lack of provision for pedestrians during the roadworks along Hythe Bridge Street led to a recommendation that there should be discussions between OxPA and the County over the many roadworks needed to implement the Oxford Transport Strategy changes.
- e) OxPA request that cycle parking on the pavement outside Tesco's should be moved to the roadway was accepted subject to design considerations.

**The meeting was adjourned to December, when the following items will be discussed:**

- f) OxPA submission presenting a design for a pedestrian crossing at Worcester College.
  - g) London Road cycle path - should it be moved on-road and off pavement?
  - h) Should the footpath from Ferry Road to Croft Road be converted to a shared cycle/pedestrian path?
- If you have any feelings on these items please contact me or Corinne and we will try to make sure that your voice is heard at the meeting.**

**2) The question of who has priority at the top of George Street** was raised again in the local papers recently, and a County officer was reported as saying that traffic has priority. This is in fact incorrect. **Any traffic (and this includes pedestrians) going along the main road has priority over side roads.** Cornmarket and Magdalen St East are the main road in this case, so traffic turning into or out of the side roads ought to wait while people cross. Walking along Botley Rd, Abingdon Rd, Iffley Rd, Cowley Rd, London Rd, etc. the pedestrian has priority over cars turning into and out of all side roads. There is a document called 'Pedestrians and the Law' which your Newsletter editor was meant to have distributed at the last OxPA meeting, but due to a fight with the photocopier several copies are only half done. It is now being repaired, and the document will be available on future OxPA stalls (next one at <sup>the</sup> the Town Hall Sat Dec 13th, please come and help), and at the next meeting later <sup>at</sup>



**3) County Structure Plan.** Thanks were minuted from October's meeting to Patrick, for working so hard and taking part in a difficult and often dispiriting process. After hearing all sides of issues about further development throughout the County, the government-appointed inspector ignored much of the evidence and came down heavily in favour of yet more large-scale car-based expensive developments in Oxfordshire. **Meetings at which the County response to this was debated have been closed to the public, but it will be discussed at Environmental Committee on Wed Dec 10th, if anyone is interested in going along. You can have a say if you give 24 hours notice by ringing Ann Lowe on Oxford 815384.** The next stage is comments from the public on the County's response to the inspector. All very expensive and time-consuming, but if we can get the value and needs of pedestrians recognised in the finished product, it will have been worth it.

**4) Traffic Working Group.** Corinne attends all meetings. Cycle lanes on pavements in Headington came up again. Should the pavements be narrowed so that the new cycle lanes are on the road? No, says OxPA, on grounds that narrowing pavements literally marginalises pedestrians more than at present, and also can bring the traffic, with its noise and polluting fumes even nearer to us. Other issues debated were crossings in the town centre, and 20mph speed limits. Long may such ideas be kept alive! If they are debated enough they might one day become reality.

**5) At Highway Sub-Committee on Feb 19th 1998, the issue of pedestrian crossings along Oxford's unofficial inner ring-road will be debated.** At present there are no crossings at various points which are officially admitted to be dangerous. If you would like to attend this meeting and have your say, please contact your Newsletter Editor, any time before Feb 18th.

**6) Poking about behind the political scenes,** your Newsletter Editor had a look at the figures recorded by the new particulate monitor on Cornmarket. **The flow charts show we are inhaling potentially lethal levels of pollution if we breathe in the town centre.** However, the figures are currently being withheld. On the grounds of acute danger to public health they ought to be made available to whoever wants them (after all, our taxes pay for the monitoring), and work is underway to try to force the City to publish the figures.

**7) OxPA sent a response, written by Tony Cox and Patrick Lingwood, to the government consultative document 'Integrated Transport'.** Overall it was felt that the government still has little idea of the value of walking to the economy and health, and our response suggested ways in which they might take on board new ways of addressing issues such as pollution, pedestrian convenience, and travelling. The National Pedestrians' Association also sent a response, copies of which can be procured by contacting Ben Plowden.

**8) On Sept 30th there was a meeting in Blackbird Leys on street furniture,** attended by both City and County Officers. The meeting was divided into three groups, looking at obstructions, cycling, and street furniture. A report on the meeting was promised, but has not yet materialised. Please get onto your City and County Councillors asking them why not and when can we expect it.

**Our next two meetings are on Mon Dec 15th, and Mon Jan 19th. Please come, everyone is welcome, and feel free to bring a friend. The more the merrier.**

**From your Newsletter Editor, let me wish you all Seasons Greetings, and may the New Year bring increased walking opportunities to us all!**

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