

**OXFORD PEDESTRIANS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER NO. 74**  
**MARCH/ APRIL 2007**

**Welcome to Issue number 74 of OxPA's Newsletter! Spring is on its way, with scented blossoms, warm breezes, and increased opportunities to enjoy walking.**

**1. City Council Area Committees.** Six Committees cover individual areas of the city and they meet monthly. They cover a wide range of issues and decide many planning applications. The public can attend and, by giving notice before the start of meeting, will get the opportunity to speak (briefly) on an Agenda item, or to raise a local issue in the 'Open Session' section. Sometimes improved arrangements for pedestrians can be secured by imposing conditions to planning approval, achieved through objections to the application or by councillor actions, following issues raised in Open Session or elsewhere on the Agenda.

**We encourage all OxPA members to attend their local Area Committee meetings and help raise issues about our streets.** Meetings are held at a variety of venues, to help ensure people can get to some if not all of the meetings for their area. You can find details of your local meetings by 'phoning Oxford 249811 and asking to speak to Rebecca Carley.

**2. Twenty's Plenty Action Day – 25<sup>th</sup> April**

OxPA is a sponsor of the City's 'Life Begins At 20' campaign for a 20mph speed limit throughout the city. **On 25<sup>th</sup> April, during United Nations Road Safety Week, we hope that a good many local residents will campaign for 20mph on their streets.** Would you like to join this campaign? You can do as little as displaying a '**20mph NOW**' poster in your window or garden; or you can organise your friends and neighbours to collect signatures for our 20-mph petition, and hand out leaflets to passers-by explaining the campaign. If you would like to take part, or know people who would, **do get in touch with Paul on 426805.** If you have Internet access, take a look at the Life Begins At 20 website and download the detailed document giving the arguments for more 20mph limits. See [www.lifebeginsat20.org.uk](http://www.lifebeginsat20.org.uk).

**3. Results of the Survey of Obstructed and Cluttered Footways**

Many thanks to all who responded to this survey. Thanks to two of our members who undertook the analysis, we can now announce the outcome. **By far the largest numbers of complaints were about cars and bikes parked on pavements.** We will be taking these issues forward in discussions with the County, not only for the streets that the survey identified, but for others too. Other matters of concern to members were **broken pavements, puddles, flooding, overgrown shrubs and slippery surfaces.** We will be asking the City or County, as appropriate, to give attention to these.

**4. Would you like other members to make contact with you?**

Two members have recently analysed the membership database, and produced a map showing where members live. It is perhaps not surprising that there are 'clusters' of members, many of whom may not know that there are other like-minded people nearby. With members' permission, we intend to let OxPA members know of the whereabouts of their nearby members. **IF YOU DO NOT WANT OTHER MEMBERS TO KNOW OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP, OR DO NOT WANT TO BE ADVISED OF THE MEMBERS WHO LIVE NEAR YOU, PLEASE LET CORINNE KNOW BY THE END OF MARCH (tel. 779663).**

**5. Oxford's Towpaths.** Sadly (and all too frequently) it has taken a tragedy to ensure funding is available for essential repairs to one of the most damaged parts of Oxford's riverside towpath. Essential maintenance of the towpath is an item that seems all too often pushed to the end of meeting agendas, and with several bodies responsible for different aspects of maintenance it seems easy for the buck to be passed between organisations. During the annual floods, sections of the riverside path get washed away from underneath, creating hazardous collapsing sections. While the City Council is responsible for day-to-day maintenance the County as Highway Authority shares a responsibility for longer term maintenance. **If you see a section of the river towpath that looks hazardous 'phone 792422 and ask to speak to Mr Hugh Potter.**

**6. OxPA 2007 Meetings programme – dates confirmed but subjects provisional**

Dates for your diary this year are as follows – Indoor meetings are at Town Hall at 7pm:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>
<b>Tue 27 March</b>	<b>The Westgate Centre – City Planning Manager (<i>confirmed</i>)</b>
<b>Tue 24 April</b>	<b>Coordination for 20's Plenty Action Day (Wed 25th April)</b>
<b>Wed 25<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>20's Plenty Action Day – activities to promote a 20mph city</b>
<b>Sun 27<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Spring walk (Bank Holiday weekend)</b>
<b>Tue 26<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Health Walks – speaker from Primary Care Trust</b>
<b>Tue 24<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Waiting for the signal? – waiting times at pedestrian crossings</b>
<b>Sun 19<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>Summer picnic – possibly Cutteslowe Park</b>
<b>Sat 22 September</b>	<b>Europe's 'In Town without My Car' – outdoor events</b>
<b>Tue 23<sup>rd</sup> October</b>	<b>Annual General Meeting</b>
<b>Tue 27 November</b>	<b>Rights of Way – County Rights of Way Officer</b>

**7. OUR NEXT MEETINGS – 7pm on fourth Tuesday of the month at the Town Hall:**

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March** The City's Planning Business Manager, Michael Crofton Briggs, has kindly agreed to attend our next meeting, to discuss requirements for people on foot in the new Westgate Centre when built. There are plenty of issues to discuss; public recreational space, the design of the new 'bus street' on the Castle Street/ Norfolk Street alignment, the 'cross streets' and east-west access across the city centre, to name a few. Mr Crofton Briggs hopes to bring a representative of the developers to the meeting. Do please show your appreciation for this excellent consultation opportunity, by coming to the meeting.

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April** We will be meeting to do last-minute planning for 20's Plenty Action Day on the following day, Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April.

**Contact Numbers (all are Oxford – prefix 01865)**

**Paul Cullen (Chairman).....426805**  
**Corinne Grimley-Evans (Secretary) .....779663**  
**Ray Jones (Membership Secretary and Treasurer) .....865070**  
**Michaela Philbin (Stalls).....201541**  
**Sushila Dhall (Newsletter Editor).....553415**  
**National Pedestrians Association (Living Streets).....0207 820 1010**