

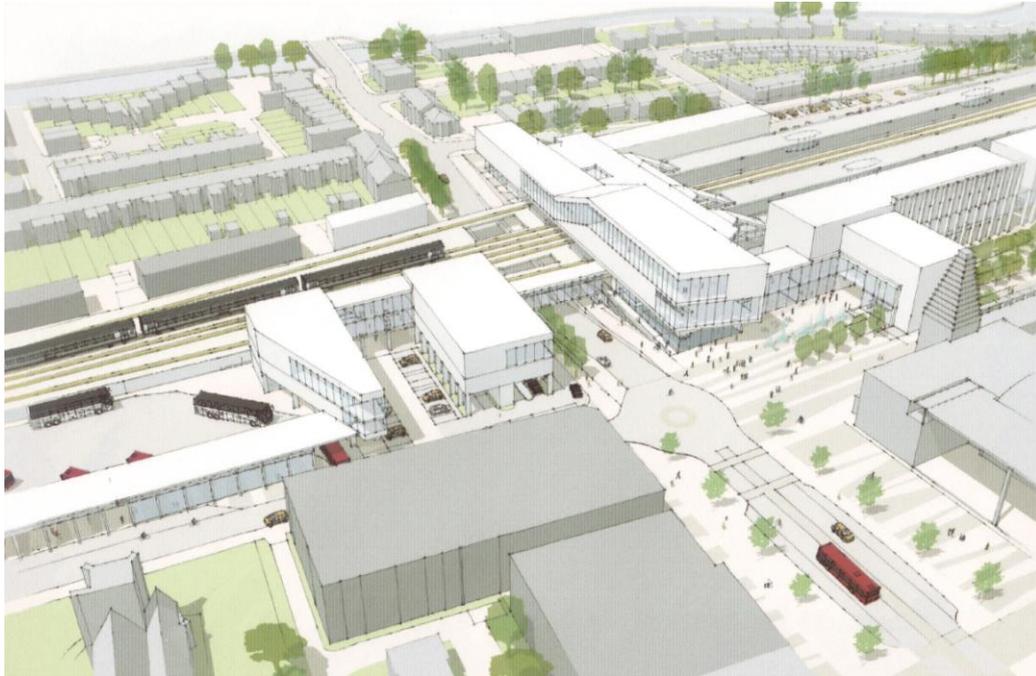


# Walk Talk

Newsletter of Oxford Pedestrians Association

October 2014

Welcome to Newsletter 113



## Oxford Railway Station Masterplan

This aerial view of Oxford's railway station area was displayed as part of the Oxford Regeneration showcase at a two-day exhibition at the end of September. Other featured developments included Frideswide Square, the Westgate Centre, Oxpens, the Northern Gateway, Barton, and Blackbird Leys. The station plans have not yet reached the consultation stage but OxPA intends to submit initial views on the station-site masterplan after our November meeting, when we will have a speaker from Oxford City Council Regeneration Team to tell us more about the scheme, before it becomes the subject of an architectural competition.

### Westgate Consultation

The proposals to develop the area of the existing Westgate shopping centre and some surrounding land will soon become available for public consultation, once the current deadlock over whether the developer or the highways authority would be responsible for repairing Norfolk Street should it collapse into the underground car park. Then our Councillors will decide whether or not to support the proposal. OxPA has attended all previous pre-planning application meetings, which were held in the Westgate shopping centre and mostly attended by shoppers who may or may not have originated in Oxford. We have expressed concerns about traffic generation, underground car-parking adjacent to the floodplain, the size of the proposed car park, the

appearance of the buildings along Oxpens Road, views from afar, and permeability of the site. Please take the time to respond to the consultation by letting the planning officers know what you think. Email [planning@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:planning@oxford.gov.uk).

### The Cornmarket Gap

Recent discussions in the press and elsewhere have raised the idea of re-introducing buses into Cornmarket, Oxford's only fully pedestrianised street. The aim would be to make journeys by bus from south and east to the north more continuous, and to relieve pressure on other bus routes. We would like to know your views on this important issue, so please get back to us with your comments on the following suggestions:

- i) All of the streets along which Oxford's buses run are now overcrowded and likely to get worse after Westgate development.
- ii) We would not support a return of the current large buses to Cornmarket but would support an experimental use of small electric shuttle bus if a circular route could be devised to allow a one-way travel route along Cornmarket (northwards).
- iii) The best long-term solution would be a light rail or tram running north-south across the city centre.
- iv) Any proposals for Cornmarket need to be linked with an overall plan to embrace public transport within an enhanced experience for pedestrians along all of Oxford's congested and polluted main roads.

### **Pavement Parking - progress at last?**

A Private Member's Bill, sponsored by Martin Horwood MP, to ban irresponsible pavement parking throughout England and Wales, will receive its second reading in January 2015. The Bill will "**make provision for the safety, convenience and free movement on pavements of disabled people, older people, people accompanying young children, and other pavement users; to clarify, strengthen and simplify the law relating to parking on pavements in England and Wales; and for connected purposes**". Please ask your MP to support this Bill when it comes to Parliament on January 9th.

### **Ros Weatherall**

We thank Ros Weatherall, a member of OxPA for many years, who left Oxford to live in Cambridge in early September. In addition to working for OxPA, Ros was very involved in Oxford Civic Society, where she was Chair of OxClean, and in CycloX. She had a strong interest in sustainable transport and in making Oxford a place where one does not need a car. Ros's lovely house in Jericho was used as a venue for many meetings, especially over the past couple of years for the On Foot in Oxford group who were creating the website of Walks in Oxford, to which Ros contributed greatly. We all wish Ros a happy time in Cambridge, where she will be near family, and thank her warmly for all she did for OxPA. Ros left behind some walk leaflets, maps etc that she wished to be handed out to OxPA members, so please have a look at this collection at our next meeting.

### **AGM Tuesday Oct 28 7pm**

Please get in touch with Sushila or Corinne if you would like to nominate someone for any of the Committee positions. All current officers (Chair, Secretary etc.) are willing to stand again - but are also happy to stand down if someone else wishes to take on a job. We especially need someone to take on the role of Treasurer. Following the AGM, **Amy Aeron-Thomas, Executive Director of RoadPeace** will be our guest speaker at 7.30pm.

### **Facebook - OxPA now has a page!**

We now have a page on Facebook. If you are a Facebook user, please find us under Oxford Pedestrians Association - OXPA, like and share!

### **Pedestrian map of Oxford**

OxPA is committed to creating a pedestrian map so that walkers can find short cuts, footpaths and alleys which do not show up on other street maps of Oxford. If members can make note of such routes in their own patch and mark up a bus or cycle map, the information can be used to create a proper printed map for our stall.

### **Road works around Frideswide Square**

While work is being done around Frideswide Square on streets such as Becket Street, Osney Lane, and Oxpens Road, there has been disruption to pedestrian routes. OxPA members had a mini walkabout in the area, took some photographs, and made representations to the County Highways Department. It is always worth keeping an eye on arrangements for walkers as we are easily and commonly marginalised, especially when space has to be narrowed or otherwise compromised.

### **Stalls**

Our next stall will be at the Green Fair on Saturday December 6th. This is an excellent opportunity to meet people, publicise our organisation and buy interesting Christmas presents. **Note the date and please get in touch with Felicity (01865 251212) nearer the time if you would like to spend an hour or two at the stall and enjoy the Fair.**

### **Next Meetings:**

**Tuesday October 28th AGM** 7pm Town Hall, to be followed at 7.30pm by our guest speaker from RoadPeace, Amy Aeron-Thomas '**Justice, vulnerable road-users and RoadPeace**'

**Thursday November 27<sup>th</sup>:** The Station Masterplan: Guest Speaker **Fiona Piercey** lead officer for both City and County Councils on the station project. **Please note change in day of meeting.** All OxPA meetings run from 7-9pm.

### **Contacts:**

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