



Walk Talk

Newsletter of Oxford Pedestrians Association
September 2022

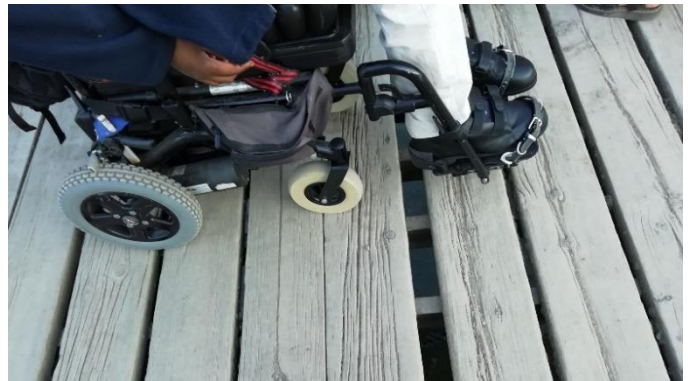
Welcome to Newsletter 143

Port Meadow to Binsey not accessible



In August OxPA members, knowing Binsey Lane is narrow with fast cars and therefore not safe for wheelchair users or wheeled Zimmer frame users to go along (as they cannot leap onto grass verges), tried out the routes to The Perch (and all amenities in the vicinity) via Port Meadow. We found that:

- The paths from Aristotle Lane Bridge and Walton Well Road are rutted and bumpy, so not possible for people with wheeled walkers
- Aristotle Lane Bridge has viewing holes the height of a tall man's eyes so for all the rest of us the view is a narrow tunnel with the sky and metal walls
- A person in a wheelchair cannot get onto Rumbling Bridge without significant adult help as there is an uneven step onto the ramp which would cause a chair to fall over
- It was also hard getting off Rumbling Bridge as the path is very uneven on the other side, and again there is an uneven step where the path has been eroded.
- Rumbling Bridge has huge gaps between planks which are trip hazards and in which wheelchair wheels can get caught (see photo).
- Thames Path to the Rainbow Bridge is narrow, with brambles and rubbish uncleared at the side, and people had to walk right to the edge of the river to get along it.
- We could not go further than this as Rainbow Bridge is far too steep for wheelchair or wheeled walker users. The treads would also be too bumpy for any kind of wheels, and the wooden planks of the bridge look to be falling apart slowly
- On our way back across Port Meadow we noticed that huge dirty clouds of diesel from trains going north from the rails station hung in the air between us and what is left of the view of Dreaming Spires (now mostly a view of Oxford University's Roger Dudman way blocks)



So sadly our finding is that there is no route at all for wheelchair users and wheeled walker users to get to The Perch, Medley Manor Farm and pop-up cafe, and Bossom's boatyard under their own steam. Inaccessible Oxford strikes in a big way here.

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Benches in memory of Keith Holly

Six of our 17 bench locations have at last been finalised, and we need places for the other 11. Ideas are starting to trickle in, but we need photographs and suggested locations for benches in Headington, Barton, Rosehill, Blackbird Leys, and other areas of Oxford that are not the city centre. Benches should be on urban walking routes, and should not compromise adequate pavement width. Please send photos and very accurate descriptions of exact places (marked with a line if you can) to sushiladhall@gmail.com.

Oxfordshire Consultations

Oxfordshire County Council has two important consultations out at present. Both close on 3rd October 2022.

The Central Oxfordshire Travel Plan (COTP) is part of the countywide Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP). The COTP area includes Oxford city, Kidlington and Eynsham. It includes the ambition to deliver Vision Zero (to have zero, or as close as possible, road fatalities or life-changing injuries) by 2050. Cyclox, our sister organisation, has pushed for this to be adopted. The plan sets out a 'travel hierarchy that prioritises sustainable travel with walking at the top', with 22 'actions' to achieve these ends. These include development of plans for a Workplace Parking Levy and expansion of the Zero Emission Zone. 'Action 10 - Deliver junction improvements to support active travel users where there is: a) a poor safety record for those who are walking or cycling b) significant severance for those walking and cycling'; and 'Action 18 - Develop and support implementation of a local toolkit of transport interventions that support the 20-minute neighbourhood approach and work to the principles of the healthy streets approach' are of special interest to OxPA. More generally, the plan aims for 'Beautifully designed streets and public spaces, with clean air'; it says 'locations like St Giles and Broad Street have significant potential to become active civic spaces and places for people to spend time; currently, [these] areas disproportionately provide large sections of streetscape to motorised vehicles, compared to the significantly greater number of active travel users in these areas who ... have very limited formal space' (something OxPA has been saying for a decade or two).



From the COTP document: Oxfordshire County Council

Please respond welcoming this as a big step in the right direction at

https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/central-oxfordshire-travel-plan/survey_tools/survey

Also out is the consultation on six new proposed 'bus gates' – properly known as traffic filters. The overall aim is to find 'a sustainable solution to make our buses faster and more reliable and make walking and cycling safer and easier'. Three will be in the city centre on St Cross Road, Thames Street and Hythe Bridge Street. The others will be on St Clements, Marston Ferry Road and Hollow Way. They will operate 7 days a week from 7am to 7pm, apart from those on Marston Ferry Road and Hollow Way which will not operate on Sundays. Local residents will be able to obtain permits to drive through on 100 occasions per year and there are exemptions for buses, taxis, goods vehicles and Blue Badge holders. Like all policies to reduce car journeys and support non-polluting forms of transport, this is very controversial. Please have your say at <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/traffic-filters-2022>.

OxPA needs a secretary

OxPA has lacked a secretary for 6 months now, and this means we get less done in the way of; responding to consultations affecting city walkers, having meetings of the committee, and covering everything we set ourselves to cover. We need a secretary to keep minutes of meetings, send consultations around members, and check our mail regularly. Whilst others of us cover these functions it means we can do less overall. OxPA urgently needs a secretary for 3-5 hours per month, paid at £12 per hour, and invoiced monthly. Please contact us on oxford.pedestrians.association@gmail.com

Meetings are on the fourth Tuesday of each month (excluding August and December), at 7 pm):

September 27th: Exploring Church Cowley on foot
October 25th: t.b.c.

Contacts:

Chair: Sushila Dhall, 01865 790783

Secretary: Position vacant

Treasurer and Membership: Don O'Neal

Newsletter Editor: Position vacant

Stalls goods: Deborah Glass-Woodin

Social media coordinator: Owen McKnight

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Facebook: Oxford Pedestrians Association - OxPA

Twitter: @OxfordPedestrians

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Living Streets: 0207 377 4900