

BANBURY TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Banbury Traffic Advisory Committee held at The Town Hall, Banbury on Wednesday, 21 February 2024 at 2.00pm.

Present: Cllr Kieron Mallon Banbury Town Council (Chairman)
Cllr Rebecca Biegel Banbury Town Council
Cllr Fiaz Ahmed Banbury Town Council
Edd Massey Stagecoach
Peter Monk Banbury Civic Society

Officers:
Martyn Surfleet Banbury Town Council
Robert Duxbury Banbury Town Council
Jacqui Cox Oxfordshire County Council
Mike Wasley Oxfordshire County Council

23/23 Apologies:

Chris Hulme Thames Valley Police
Edward Henley-Burns Stagecoach
Robert Wingrove BADI
Andrew Bowe Cherwell District Council
Ian Connick Oxfordshire County Council

24/23 Declarations of Interest

None.

25/23 Minutes

IT WAS AGREED that the Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 29 November 2023 be received.

26/23 Oxfordshire County Council – Combined Report on Transport Policy/Strategy & Area Operations

Transport Policy/Strategy Update

Tramway Road accessibility improvements

The development of the detailed design has taken longer than expected due to further liaison with third party landowners and adjustments required as a result of the ground conditions. Completion of this element is now expected by the end of February 2024.

It is still the intention of the project team to complete further public engagement to support the scheme awareness campaign. This is likely to take place in the spring with the firm dates and the potential public exhibition location to be confirmed soon.

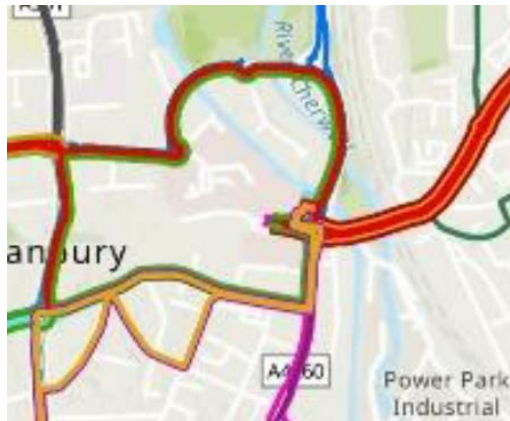
The start of construction of the scheme will now likely be Summer/Autumn 2024 as a result of the additional work required to secure the design and land requirements. Again, the exact dates will be confirmed in due course.

Cherwell Street bus improvement scheme

The bus service improvement scheme proposed for Cherwell Street is progressing well. The consultants, Mott MacDonald, have been undertaking an options appraisal to identify the best opportunities to improve bus journey times into Banbury town centre given the budget (£2.8m), land and time constraints (June/September 2025 delivery deadline) that we have.

The work to date has confirmed the objectives for the assessment of options, produced a data report, identified an initial long list of potential measures in line with DfT assessment criteria, and has started to assess in detail the main two options. Although the DfT funding is to improve journey times for buses running northbound on Cherwell Street and turning left into the town

centre, the map below shows how a high number of services approach the Bridge Street junction from the other directions and any measures need to balance their needs too.



Banbury bus network

As well as Cherwell Street itself, the consultants have needed to look at the connections into that area – from Bridge Street (east), from Swan Close Road, from George Street and from Concord Avenue. They are proposing improvements for pedestrian movements, safety measures and changes to the layout that will aid bus movements and minimise impact on general traffic. OCC officers and consultants will be briefing Banbury councillors from the Town, District and County on 29 February and then a consultation will take place during March. If members of the TAC wish to discuss the proposals with officers during the consultation period please let us know. Following the consultation, the preferred option will be developed up into a feasibility drawing before approval is sought to continue into the design and delivery phase. The aim is for measures to be delivered by the end of September 2025.

20mph limits in Banbury

A decision on 20mph speed limits in Banbury was deferred at Cabinet Member Decisions Transport Management on 25 January 2024. There were nine roads proposed for the lower speed limit that the Town Council have requested should stay at 30mph:

- Warwick Road from Orchard Way to Southam Road
- Southam Road from the cemetery to Castle Street
- Broughton Road from Woodgreen Road to Banbury Cross
- Oxford Road from Upper Windsor street and South Bar to Banbury Cross
- Horsefair and North Bar
- Hightown Road and Swan Close Road
- Windsor Street from Morrisons to the canal
- Bridge Street and Middleton Road to Daventry Road
- Castle Street and Cherwell Drive

These are being reviewed, including engagement with the local County Councillors and Town Council, and then proposals will back out for consultation during March with the aim to go back to CMD in May.

Active Travel Options Work

We have received the Technical Note and concept drawings for the study of active travel improvements along Overthorpe Road (including access to the villages to the east of the M40), although we are still waiting for final costings. Once these have been discussed with the engineers, officers will engage with local Members and stakeholders, including community groups, before proposing a way forward.

The same engineering team have undertaken an initial review of the options for active travel along the western corridor along Ruscot Avenue, Orchard Way, Queensway and connecting to the two secondary schools on Springfield Avenue. This will require further funding to complete and produce concept drawings.

As part of that corridor work we are about to commission an Options Appraisal study into the three roundabouts at the junction of Warwick Road with Ruscott Avenue and Orchard Way, with a particular emphasis on improving conditions for active travel modes.

Canal Towpath to Station Approach steps

A site meeting has been arranged between Officers and the agents of the landowners to attempt to negotiate an agreement on use of the land.

As previously reported, there is s106 funding available for the design and construction of the scheme, although total costs are yet to be established. We are hopeful it may be possible to combine the scheme with the works on Tramway.

Banbury town bus services tendering

Retendering for routes B3, B4, B5, B9 and 488 is almost finalised. New three-year contracts will replace the existing contracts from the end of March. The routes will continue on their current timetables with the addition of a new route from the town centre to Chalker Way.

Traffic & Road Safety Report

Lining Planned Works

Lining works are now complete for financial year 23/24. We are currently in the process of compiling the programme for 24/25. If there are any specific sites that you feel need to be on this programme, then your input would be appreciated.

Traffic and Road Safety Current Project/s

- Funding has been confirmed for the installation of three new vehicle-activated speed signs in Middleton Road, however as we only have confirmed funding for single-display units (i.e. not variable ones) these units will be ordered once the proposed 20mph speed limit has been consulted on and approved. Once confirmed 20mph VAS units can be instructed for Middleton Road
- The proposed 20mph scheme for Nethercote was approved at CMD in January, this will be programmed in for delivery in the new financial year.
- A proposal for Birds mouth fencing and double yellow lines in Bloxham Road Service Road. Funding has been identified to undertake the work in the new financial year.
- A handful of locations have been identified in Edmunds Road where waiting restrictions could be removed to provide more residents' parking. These proposals have been approved and removal of the lines instructed.
- A proposal is under consideration to introduce waiting restrictions in Dukes Meadow Drive to prevent damage to verges caused by inappropriate parking. Funding has yet to be identified for this.
- Works to tidy up / rework existing signage on the Hennef Way / Concord Avenue Roundabout. We are aware of a number of damaged signs at this junction which will be dealt with together as part of a scheme. A technical survey has been carried out and works will be instructed in the new financial year.
- Funding has been identified to remove half of the chicane at the top of Bretch Hill so that buses can get through safely. This work has been designed and will be instructed in the new financial year.

27/23 Matters Raised by Members

Cllr Rebecca Biegel – Banbury Town Council

Q - The recent heavy rain is highlighting the continual problems of blocked storm drains across Banbury. Roads are repeatedly flooding and as this type of weather is going to become more frequent can we please have an update on the Storm Drain clearance programme and the priorities.

In Banbury big problems roads include The Fairway, Queens Road, Kings Road, Bath Road, Thornbury Rise at junction with Balmoral Ave Middleton Road among others.

A – Additional funding was requested and approved to improve the frequency of drainage maintenance bringing it from once a year to twice yearly. Developers are required to adhere

to wheel washing regimes to reduce risk of damage / blockage of drains. Members are invited to report any breaches of this agreement to the District Council via the link below – <https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/info/115/planning-process/169/planning-enforcement>

- Q - The results of the survey on Dukes Meadow Drive to assess the extra crossing points that are needed.
- A – In the process, Safety audit complete. Awaiting funding to be agreed and applied. Likely in the next financial year.
- Q - Speed signs- lack of signs when entering Dukes Meadow Drive from Warwick Road which leads to excess speeds.
- A – Oxfordshire County Council agree to review the signage with mind to implement changes should they set fit.
- Q - Parking restrictions and or yellow lines on Overthorpe Road approaching Thorpe Lane industrial estate to deal with the problems of HGV parking! Even when not parked on the pavements the line of lorries parked leads to congestion issues and poor visibility for residents trying to get out of Westminster Way.
- A – Oxfordshire County Council parking team to review and report back to the next meeting of the Committee.
- Q - What is the current status of the analysis of Hightown Road and the roads off it in respect to parking restrictions to prevent roads from being crowded with (non-resident) vehicles using the station or visiting the hospital for long periods. I have been consulting with Cllr Eddie Reeves on this.
- A – Assessment complete, awaiting review from OCC Parking Team. Officers to bring update to next committee.
- Q - What is the current view on increasing enforcement against through traffic using pedestrianised areas of the town (Butchers Row, High Street, Parsons Street).
- A – Currently no plans for further enforcement of traffic through pedestrian zones, areas not covered in detail in Local Plan / LCWIP.
- Q - Warwick Road resurfacing.
- A – Included within the programme of works, yet to be completed.
- Q - Pedestrian crossing damage and traffic direction flow at Bridge Street/A4260 interchange.
- A – Works still pending, Officers to chase for repair and update members at the next meeting of the committee

Peter Monk – Banbury Civic Society

- Q - Parsons Str.- disregard of pedestrianisation. (This has been mentioned before, but the BCS Committee are anxious that some progress is made)
- A - Currently no plans for further enforcement of traffic through pedestrian zones, areas not covered in detail in Local Plan / LCWIP.
- Q - Bloxham Road A 361 - Repairs to Utility covers / chambers in the Highway
- A - Works completed.

Q - 20mph - Where to now?

A – See OCC Report for update

Q - Highway infrastructure improvements for Banbury

A – S106 funds allocated to improvements in the wake of new build developments has been greenlit for spending and improving infrastructure throughout Banbury.

It was AGREED by the Chairman that further enforcement of the traffic regulations within the pedestrianised zones of Banbury Town Centre be requested.

It was AGREED that a request be put to Oxfordshire County Council to look into the feasibility and costs of the implementation of ANPR Cameras (Automatic Number Plate Reading Cameras) within the pedestrianised areas of the Town Centre. And that an update on such be brought to the next meeting of the committee.

It was AGREED that in light of the recent Cherwell District Council additional budget to improve drainage and gully maintenance and clearance that members request a schedule of such works be shared with the committee for discussion at the next meeting.

IT WAS AGREED by the Chairman that officers from O.C.C will feed back to the committee on the results of the above raised matters at the next meeting on 22 May 2024 where necessary.

Date of next meeting

Wednesday 22 May 2024 at 2pm

The Meeting ended at 3.33pm.