

BANBURY TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Banbury Traffic Advisory Committee held at The Town Hall, Banbury on Wednesday, 22 May 2024 at 2.00pm.

Present: Cllr Kieron Mallon Oxfordshire County Council (Chairman)
Cllr Rebecca Biegel Banbury Town Council
Cllr Helen Mears Banbury Town Council
Peter Monk Banbury Civic Society
Chris Hulme Thames Valley Police
Robert Wingrove BADI

Officers: Jacqui Cox Oxfordshire County Council
Ian Connick Oxfordshire County Council
Andrew Bowe Cherwell District Council
Mark Hassall Banbury Town Council

01/24 Apologies: Edward Henley-Burns Stagecoach
Ed Massey Stagecoach

02/24 Declarations of Interest
None.

03/24 Minutes
IT WAS AGREED that the Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 21st February 2024 be received.

04/24 Oxfordshire County Council – Combined Report on Transport Policy/Strategy & Area Operations

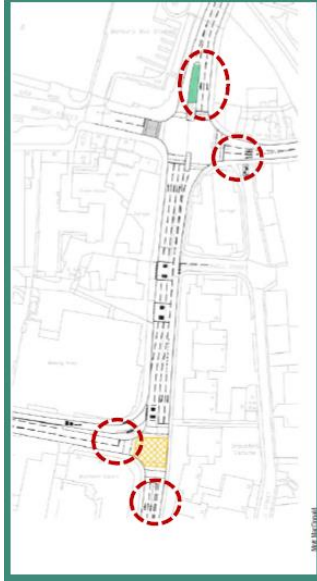
Transport Policy/Strategy Update

Tramway Road accessibility improvements

1. The OCC delivery team are negotiating legal agreement with Network Rail and Chiltern Railway to enable the Tramway scheme to go ahead. The highway design has been completed and the design of the accommodation works needed during the construction phase is progressing well. Procuring the construction contracts is progressing well.
2. There have been engagement meetings with various stakeholders recently and there will be a public exhibition prior to and during the construction.

Cherwell Street bus improvement scheme

1. The Cherwell Street bus service improvement scheme went out to consultation in March 2024. Feedback received was generally positive particularly regarding the improvements and benefits for people crossing the Bridge Street junction, but there were some concerns about potential impacts of the proposed traffic lane changes. The consultants are responding to these concerns as they refine the proposals and complete the feasibility design. The emerging design will go to CMD in July and the approved scheme will go forward for preliminary design and delivery by Autumn 2025.
2. Further modelling and detailed design work will take place over the coming months before a wider consultation is held over the summer.
3. The elements of the scheme as proposed that would impact car lanes:



- a. Concord Avenue/Bridge Street junction – proposed loss of right turn lane
- b. Bridge Street east/Cherwell Street junction – short section of right turn lane
- c. George Street/Cherwell Street – reduced to one lane heading into the junction
- d. Swan Close Road/Cherwell Street – formalise the two-lane approach from the south.

4. All of the above are being checked in detail as the feasibility work is being undertaken. The Concord Avenue refinements will provide enhancements for pedestrians crossing at this location; the Bridge Street east layout is below standards and cannot be ignored; the George Street changes will enable the bus lane to be at a standard width, and the Swan Close Road change will provide a more coherent design for users.

5. Timescales:

July 2024 – consultation report and feasibility design will be submitted to CMD for approval

June – November 2024 – preliminary design

August/September 2024 – engagement and public consultation

Late 2024 – seek approval to construct

March – September 2025 – construction period

The chairman was concerned to ensure that proper consultation was undertaken on the proposals. It was **AGREED** that the town clerk and the chairman write to OCC.

LCWIP schemes

- a. **Eastern active travel corridor** – Milestone have completed a feasibility design for the walking, wheeling and cycling improvements from Overthorpe to Bridge Street Park. The route has been divided into nine sections and costed separately which could help with the funding strategy. Officers have discussed this with the local county councillor and are checking a couple of aspects before engaging with district and town councillors and other local stakeholders / communities.
- b. **Western active travel corridor** – Milestone had an initial look at the route from Ruscote Avenue down to the secondary schools on Springfield Avenue. This was identified as a priority through the LCWIP because it would connect up a number of key destinations. Officers are seeking internal approval to commission a comprehensive study looking at the whole route, which would incorporate several key elements including the roundabouts at Warwick Road and the junctions on Bloxham Road.
- c. **Canal Towpath to Station Approach steps** – officers from the county, district and town councils met on site with OCC engineers and the landowner’s agent. The steps will not be installed by the Tramway contractors because they have to be DDA compliant and the solution for the ‘muddy bank’ would not meet these standards. However, officers have spoken with our Public Rights of Way team and they are able to support us to use their contractors to install some steps.

Negotiations will continue with the landowner and a third-party contract put in place with Canal & River Trust. There is held s106 to deliver this.

Bretch Hill chicane

This improvement is funded and designed, but we are awaiting scheduling from our contractors, Milestone.

Banbury town bus services tendering

Retendering for routes B3, B4, B5, B9 and 488 is now complete. There are some minor timetable changes, the addition of Nickling Road into route B9 and a new route for Chalker Way (B10) started from 12th May.

A new multi-operator bus ticket for Oxfordshire is set to be introduced from late June. Most bus companies in Oxfordshire will be participating, including Stagecoach, with tickets valid on most cross-border routes as well (e.g. to/from Brackley).

05/24 Matters Raised by Members

Cllr Helen Mears – Banbury Town Council

1. At the major junction in the Town Concorde Avenue/ Upper Windsor Street the central crossing was damaged some time ago and has been surrounded by orange barriers joined together with cable ties. I believe it has been reported several times. Can you explain why it hasn't been rectified. – OCC officers noted the position.
2. At the same junction the Bridge Street traffic lights have been hit and are leaning at an angle with cracks showing in the traffic island surface. A danger to the public likely to crash to the ground given one more push. – OCC officers noted the position.
3. Potholes - I realise this is an ongoing problem but there are two at either end of the Middleton Road in Banbury. Both likely to unseat a cyclist and I've witnessed drivers swerve to avoid both. I believe both have been sprayed white, but given the seriousness of the position of these two potholes, can officers explain why they do not have the priority red spray. Please note Cllr Mark Cherry was so shaken while driving his van over the one at the far end of Middleton Road, he pulled over and reported it there and then. - County council officers agreed to share the concerns raised about the reliability of responses to fix my street reporting with senior staff and portfolio holder.

Cllr Kieron Mallon – Oxfordshire County Council

1. The Civic Society is very interested on the subject of Bridge St and the Bus lane, as am I. Can we have a report on this and timescales please.
2. A request for car parking restrictions on Grove St. came into the Town Council – OCC officers confirmed that it had been agreed that the parking restrictions would be reviewed and assessed as to how appropriately they were being enforced.
3. A request from Cllr Reeves for extra safety at the Woodgreen Roundabout. – OCC Officers to contact Cllr Reeves to discuss the current safety issue.
4. An update on the long anticipated traffic issues at the Queensway/Bloxham Rd junction, and availability of S106 funding from developments at Parsons Piece, Redrow dev, and the new Wykham Park development already started. - OCC Officers noted the position. There is held s106 to deliver this, however negotiations continue with the land owner.
5. Drainage Issues on Horton View North side. – OCC drainage and gully maintenance schedule of works had already been requested.

06/24 Date of next meeting - Wednesday 28 August 2024 at 2pm

The Meeting ended at 3:40pm