

## CUMNOR PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Cumnor Parish Council held in the Orange Room, Dean Court Community Centre on Monday 9 January 2017 at 7.30pm

**Present:** Councillors: Steve Viner, (acting Chairman) Vice-chairman, Jeffrey Gee, John Griffin, Alison Jenner, Lucy Mangua, Fiona Newton, Judy Roberts, Nick Surman, Paul Taylor, 3 parishioners and Tina Brock, Clerk.

**01/17 Apologies for Absence.** Councillors: Gerald Frost, Chairman (prior commitment), Tom Christophers (work commitment), Pam Fraser (unwell), Bryan Goudman (prior commitment), Trevor Halls (family commitment), Dudley Hoddinott (prior commitment) County Councillor Janet Godden (unwell) and County Councillor Melinda Tilley (prior commitment). These apologies were received.

**02/17 Variance of Order of Business.** Item 23 Planning and item 11 Verification of Reconciliation of the Council's bank statements were brought forward with the Councils permission.

**03/17 Declarations of Interest.** Personal interest for:

Minute 08/17 ii Fiona Newton knows the neighbour

**04/17 Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 5 December 2016.** Council RESOLVED to approve the minutes which were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**05/17 Clerk's Newsletter and Addendum to the Agenda** was received.

a) Payment of Accounts. Approved as per minute 06/17.

**06/17 Payments of Accounts.** Council RESOLVED to authorise the payments specified in the Clerk's Newsletter and Addendum and reproduced below:

|                                                       |                                             |                                                                                                                                                            | Net cost | VAT  | Sub total | Total    |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|------|-----------|----------|
|                                                       | <b><u>Payments received:</u></b>            |                                                                                                                                                            |          |      |           |          |
| 18 Local Auth Cemeteries Order 1977                   | S&R Childs Funeral Services                 | Interment of ashes                                                                                                                                         |          |      |           | 110.00   |
| 19 LGA Misc Prof 1976 s19                             | Branches Young People's Support Service CIC | Specific Grant s19 – returned as grant not spent within 6 months. Approved 7/3/2016                                                                        |          |      |           | 250.00   |
| 20 Local Auth Cemeteries Order 1977                   | Green Funeral Directors                     | Interment                                                                                                                                                  |          |      |           | 272.00   |
| 21 LGA 1972 s111                                      | Fogwell Road Pavilion                       | Quarterly insurance contribution                                                                                                                           |          |      |           | 200.00   |
|                                                       | <b><u>Payments now due:</u></b>             |                                                                                                                                                            |          |      |           |          |
| 94a, b,c,d,e LGA 1972 s112 Contract/Pensions Act 2014 | Staff related costs                         |                                                                                                                                                            |          |      |           | 3,911.41 |
| 95                                                    | G Frost                                     | Council mobile phone                                                                                                                                       | 41.66    | 8.33 |           | 49.99    |
| 96                                                    | Botley Bridges                              | Grant S137                                                                                                                                                 |          |      |           | 5,000.00 |
| DD Telecom Act 1984 s97                               | BT                                          | November phone bill                                                                                                                                        | 27.86    | 5.57 |           | 33.43    |
| 97 LG(Misc Prov) Act 1976 s19                         | MRH Services                                | Visual inspection. Fit new cradle swing seat & repair top cap on leg press @ Fogwell play park. Fit new cradle and bumper swing seats @ Pinnocks play park |          |      |           | 181.52   |

|                                                                                    |                              |                                                                       |          |        |  |           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|--------|--|-----------|
| 98 LGA 1972 s111                                                                   | Carter Jonas                 | Reinstatement cost for insurance purpose – Closes & Fogwell pavilions | 200.00   | 40.00  |  | 240.00    |
| 99 LGA 1972 s134                                                                   | Cumnor URC                   | Room hire Oct to Dec 2016- Planning & Neighbourhood Plan meetings     |          |        |  | 29.75     |
| 100 LGA 1972 s134                                                                  | Dean Court Community Assoc   | Room hire – CPC meetings Oct – Dec                                    |          |        |  | 58.31     |
| 101 LGA 1972 s 214                                                                 | Paul Jovanovic               | Garden of Remembrance maintenance Aug to Nov 2016                     |          |        |  | 160.00    |
| 102 Parish Councils Act 1957. Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953 | The Bin Cleaner              | Cleaning of 12 shelters                                               |          |        |  | 420.00    |
| 103 LGA 1972 s111                                                                  | The Net Result               | Oct-Dec 2016 payroll charges                                          |          |        |  | 55.50     |
| 104 Public Health Act 1875 s164                                                    | Total Pest Control (UK) Ltd  | Quarterly mole control – Fogwell Field                                | 94.50    | 18.90  |  | 113.40    |
| 105 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953 s4                        | Bibby Factors Manchester Ltd | S & F of bus shelter at Eynsham Road, (insurance claim)               | 2,600.00 | 520.00 |  | £3,120.00 |
| 106 LG (Financial Prov) Act 1963 s5                                                | T Brock                      | Clerk’s reimbursements                                                | 189.55   | 11.15  |  | 200.70    |
| 107 LG(Misc Prov) Act 1976 s19                                                     | Ady Podbury                  | Various grounds maintenance at play parks                             | 310.00   | 62.00  |  | 372.00    |
| DD Telecom Act 1984 s97                                                            | BT                           | Dec 2016 office phone bill                                            | 26.23    | 5.25   |  | 31.48     |
| 108 LGA 1972 s111                                                                  | Critchleys                   | Quarter end procedures                                                | 185.00   | 37.00  |  | 222.00    |

Notes.

1. After all payments are made the Santander Community Account will be in credit at £136,216.46 -1p error on payment 13 total £132,470.27.
2. The Council has the following debtor for 2016/17: HMRC (Reclaimable VAT) £4,326.44.
3. Electronic payment for invoice 94a was approved between meetings.
4. Charinco Common Investment Fund. Dividend cheques for £530.50, £26.33 and £26.84 received and sent to COIF deposit account.
5. As at 17 December 2017 the Corporate Notice Account held a credit balance of £71,833.21.

**07/17 Public Participation.** Council adjourned to allow members of the public to speak.

**Planning application P16/V3010/HH 29 Norreys Road.** Resident objected to the proposal on the ground of overlooking, overbearing and loss of light due to windows at the first floor and the closeness of the first floor to the boundary of 27 Norreys Road.

Council reconvened

**PLANNING**

**08/17 Submitted Planning Applications.** The Council would submit the following observations:

|    |              |                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| i  | P16/V3046/HH | 42 Norreys Road, Cumnor, Oxford OX2 9PT<br><i>Removal of existing single-storey extension. New single-storey rear and side extension.</i><br><b>No Objections.</b> |
| ii | P16/V3010/HH | 29 Norreys Road, Cumnor, Oxford OX2 9PT<br><i>Two-storey rear and side extension.</i><br><b>Objects</b><br>Council objects for the following reasons:              |

|     |                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-----|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|     |                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposal of 2 new windows in the east elevation which faces 27 Norreys Road would overlook the landing area of 27 causing loss of privacy and overlooking.</li> <li>• The velux roof lights in the single-storey kitchen of 27 Norreys Road would be overbearing and overshadowed by the proposal of a new two-storey extension on the boundary</li> </ul> <p>For the proposal to be acceptable, Council would request that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To prevent loss of privacy and overlooking for 27 Norreys Road that the 2 new windows in the east elevation be glazed with obscure glass and top hung.</li> </ul> <p>To prevent overbearing and overshadowing to the kitchen area of 27 Norreys Road that the 1<sup>st</sup> floor be reduced.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| iii | P16/V1493/FUL amended details | <p>2 Arnolds Way, Cumnor, Oxford OX2 9JB<br/> <i>Demolition of 2 Arnolds Way and erection of 8 flats (as amended by plans PL01C, PL02B and PL03A received 30/8/2016 additional vehicle tracking plan received 28/9/2016 and amended by plans received 1/12/16).</i></p> <p><b>This planning application was considered between meetings due to a time restriction. The following comments were submitted:</b></p> <p><b>Refused.</b></p> <p>The amended plans to reduce the top floor areas to flats 6 and 7 to mitigate some of the massing have minimal impact. The sight line to show how this has reduced impact from the ground is not in context with the surrounding site. The plans do not show the wings on this floors elevation which is misleading.</p> <p>The vision splay shown is not accurate and does not alleviate Councils previous concerns ‘<i>There is insufficient information or consideration of traffic movement both within and out of the site and the increased traffic would impact upon the junction of Arnolds Way/Cumnor Hill.</i></p> <p><i>No vision splay has been indicated on the drawings and parking spaces within the site are drawn incorrectly in size and therefore, if correct, would be insufficient. There is inadequate space for servicing, refuse and/or emergency vehicles to turn within the site.’</i></p> <p>Council objects to this amendment for all the above reasons and Councils previous objections to the original application still stand.</p> |
| iv  | P16/V2884/HH                  | <p>Seymour House, 211 Cumnor Hill, Cumnor, Oxford OX2 9PG<br/> <i>Single-storey rear extension.</i></p> <p><b>No Objections.</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

## FINANCE

**09/17 Verification of the Reconciliation of the Council’s Various Bank Accounts** was carried out by Nick Surman.

Nick Surman and 1 parishioner left the meeting at 7.55pm.

## REPORTS

**10/17 Report from County Councillor(s).** CC Tilley sent an email report see Annex 1.

CC Godden sent an email report:

The Local Government Settlement announced in December gives no new money to local government – every plus for somebody is a minus for somebody else. Some new money for adult social care (£2.3m for Oxfordshire) comes from the New Homes Bonus Scheme.

Fiona Newton requested information on the proposed site for a Park & Ride in Cumnor and whether negotiations had commenced with landowners. The Clerk would contact CC Godden. Council would want to be involved prior to the consultation stage.

**11/17 Report from District Councillor(s).** DC Roberts reported:

Three budget proposals had been put forward:

1. Children’s Centre Grants – for help within the first year.
2. Air quality measurement equipment – mobile monitoring device with software to give a live report to the public.

### 3. Leisure provision in Botley.

The Planning Department is requesting feedback from DCs on the new Constitution – Planning Scheme of Delegation, what works, what doesn't and what needs changing. Council discussed the problem of DC's calling in a planning application that Council would object to within the consultation period and would request that the call in period should be extended to 7 days past the end of the consultation date. Currently DC's have 21 days from registration which is not adequate as applications are not always given a case officer straight away.

**12/17 Report from Representative(s) on Outside Bodies.** None.

2 parishioners left at 8.20pm.

## FINANCE

**13/17 Quarterly Financial Summary** as at 15 December 2016 was noted.

**14/17 Estimates 2017/2018.**

- i. Council reviewed and RESOLVED to approve the estimates for 2017/18.
- ii. Council reviewed and RESOLVED to approve the 3 year plan.
- iii. Council RESOLVED to set the precept for 2017/18 at £90,000

**15/17 Grants.**

- i. PCC Cumnor, St Michael's Church Burial Ground (S214). Council RESOLVED to approve a grant of £857 towards the cutting of grass in the churchyard.
- ii. Cumnor Conservation Group (Public Health Act 1936 S260). Council RESOLVED to approve a grant of £500 for improvements to the natural environment of the Village Pond.

**16/17 Transfer of Funds.** Council RESOLVED to approve the transfer of £25,000 from the Recreation Dedicated Reserves to a separate Dedicated Reserve in advance of the installation of new play/outdoor fitness equipment at Fogwell Field and Farmoor Play Parks.

## COUNCIL

**17/17 Register of Member's Interests. Annual Review.** Members were reminded that under the Council's Code of Conduct they were required to set out their interests under the appropriate headings and to make amendments when appropriate.

**18/17 Committee Vacancies.** Lucy Mangua agreed to be appointed onto the Recreation Committee.

## RECREATION AND PLAYING FIELDS

**19/17 Update on New Play/Outdoor Fitness Equipment at Fogwell Road and Farmoor Play Parks.** Deferred as waiting for quotes.

**20/17 Update on Other Current Matters.** None.

## HIGHWAYS

**21/17 Update on Current Matters.**

- i. Council noted that the damaged bus shelter on the Eynsham Road near to Third Acre Rise had been replaced.
- ii. Oxfordshire County Council consultation - Eynsham Park & Ride and A40 Bus Lane. Council agreed to support Bike Safe's response to the consultation (Annex 2).

## BURIAL

**22/17 Burial Ground Fees 2017 for interment** were noted.

**23/17 Update on Current Matters.** None.

## ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION

**24/17 Update on Current Matters.** None.

## PLANNING

## 25/17 Permitted Planning Applications. Noted.

|     |              |                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| i   | P16/V2606/HH | The Old Barn, Oakes Lane, Farmoor, Oxford OX2 9PB<br><i>New entrance hall and internal alterations.</i>                                                                                  |
| ii  | P16/V1894/HH | 42 Norreys Road, Cumnor, Oxford OX2 9PT<br><i>Demolition of existing ground floor single-storey extension and conservatory. New part single and two-storey side and rear extensions.</i> |
| iii | P16/V2630/LB | Burnt House Farm, 25 High Street, Cumnor, Oxford OX2 9QD<br><i>Replacement of timber windows with double glazed units. Addition of mechanical extract vent to roof slope.</i>            |
| iv  | P16/V2385/HH | 22 Meadow Close, Farmoor, Oxford OX2 9NZ<br><i>Single-storey extension at the front and side. Two-storey extension at the rear.</i>                                                      |

## 26/17 Withdrawn Planning Applications. Noted.

|   |               |                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| i | P16/V2425/LDP | 2 Oaklands, Oxford Road, Farmoor, Oxford OX2 9NW<br><i>Ground floor rear extension, porch extension to front of property and installation of rear dormer window.</i> |
|---|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**27/17 VWHDC Planning for Infrastructure Consultations.** Council agreed that Fiona Newton, Judy Roberts and Clerk would draft a response for Councils approval for the following consultations which close on 26 January 2017 at 5pm:

- i. Community Infrastructure Levy Draft Charing Schedule
- ii. Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document

**28/17 Update on Other Current Matters.** Judy Roberts reported that a change of use planning application for Botley District had been submitted to VWHDC. Council had not received a copy and the Clerk would request that Council is added to the consultation list. *(Clerk's Note: Stuart Walker, Planning Officer said that as the application was for a temporary change of use for units this did not include notifying neighbouring Parish Councils. Council/Councillors can submit a comment using the website if it/they wish to do so.)*

## NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

**29/17 Update on Current Matters.** Fiona Newton reported that there would be a meeting of the Steering Group on Monday 16 January at 7.30pm and gave a brief update on previous meetings held.

## CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

### Exclusion of Press and Public

**To move the following resolution, in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted it is in the public interest that the public and press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting and they are requested to withdraw.**

**30/17 Personal Matters.** The Clerk has passed the Certificate in Local Council Government and is now a qualified Clerk. One additional salary point would be added to her salary as per the contract of employment. Council congratulated the Clerk on her achievement.

## DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

**31/17** The next meeting of the **Parish Council** would take place at **7.30pm** on **Monday 6 February 2017** in **The Orange Room, Dean Court Community Centre, Pinnocks Way, Dean Court, Oxford**

Further meetings are due to be held in **2017** at **7.30pm** in **The Orange Room, Dean Court Community Centre** on **Mondays: 6 March and 3 April.**

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on **Tuesday 2 May 2017** at **7.30pm** in **The Orange Room, Dean Court Community Centre.**

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Signed..... Date.....2017

**Annex 1**

**REPORT TO KINGSTON BAGPUIZE, CUMNOR AND APPLETON PARISH COUNCILS  
JANUARY 2017  
FROM CLLR MELINDA TILLEY**

**GENERAL OCC REPORT**

**PLANS TO TRANSFORM ADOPTION SERVICES ACROSS THAMES VALLEY**

OCC is joining forces with neighbouring councils to create a Regional Adoption Agency (RAA) for the Thames Valley. The agency will improve outcomes for both children and adopters – including the ability to match children with families more quickly and improve support services for adopters. The Government has advised that a grant of £300k will be made available to help set up the new service. OCC will be the host authority within a partnership known as ‘Adopt Thames Valley’, alongside six other councils (Bracknell Forest, West Berkshire, Windsor and Maidenhead, Wokingham, Swindon and Reading) and two Voluntary Adoption Agencies (PACT and Barnardo’s). All partners have begun work to develop the new shared service across the geographical area covered by the councils.

**LAUNCH OF NEW ONLINE FLOODING ‘TOOLKIT’**

A new online 'toolkit' has been launched by OCC which provides information and advice for those wanting to take action to safeguard their homes or businesses against the effects of flooding. Visitors to the site can use its tools to determine whether their home or business is in an area at risk at flooding, and links to a series of ‘How To’ guides. The toolkit also explains the different types of flooding that can occur with bespoke guides on how to deal with them and, for those responsible for things such as drains and streams running across their land, guides on how to carry out preventative maintenance. Interactive illustrations give visual inspiration for ways people can protect their properties and highlights often forgotten areas such as garages, airbricks and cable holes. The toolkit can be found at [www.oxfordshirefloodtoolkit.com](http://www.oxfordshirefloodtoolkit.com)

**ADULT SOCIAL CARE PERFORMANCE ABOVE NATIONAL AVERAGE**

The delayed transfers of care (DTC) figures released in December show Oxfordshire improving significantly on the situation a year ago: total delayed transfers of care were 11% lower, and those due to social care delays were 19% lower. This compares with a rise in numbers nationally of 25% in total and 41% due to social care. Nationally over a third of all DTC cases were attributable to social care delays, but in Oxfordshire it was less than a fifth.

**HOME LIBRARY VOLUNTEER SUCCESS AND NEW LIBRARIES E - NEWSLETTER**

In September OCC launched a county-wide campaign for Home Library Service volunteers. This successful campaign has led to 150 volunteer applications so far, and the campaign was shortlisted for a public sector communications award. Home Library Service volunteers choose and deliver books to those who are unable to get to a library. More information about the scheme, including details of what volunteering involves and interviews with those who benefit from the service, can be found at: [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/homelibrary](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/homelibrary)

The Library Service has also recently launched a bi-monthly newsletter sent to 6000 library service users. It contains the latest libraries news, events, book recommendations, volunteering opportunities and more, including information about Zinio (free electronic magazines), eBooks, People’s Network (free public access to computers) and Wi-Fi in Libraries. Parish councils are requested to inform residents that they sign up at

## **GRANT FUNDING ANNOUNCED FOR ‘OPEN ACCESS’ CHILDREN’S SERVICES**

Community-led schemes will complement a comprehensive new service for 0-19-year-olds across Oxfordshire, which ensures children at risk of abuse and neglect are protected and that families who need extra help are identified at an early stage. Applications received during the first round of the £1m grant scheme were assessed by a cross-party working group of councillors which made recommendations to the council’s Cabinet. Six community groups planning to run ‘open access’ children’s services were successful and will receive funding worth £163,000 from the scheme. They are:

- Butterfly Meadows (Bloxham) - £29,384
- Carterton Town Council - £30,000
- Bridges (Oxford) - £30,000
- Grandpont Nursery (Oxford) - £35,600
- St Nicholas Primary School (Marston) - £8,000
- Sharing Life Trust (Thame) - £30,000

A further eight bids were supported in principle by the working group, but deferred to the second round of bids so that further work can be carried out on their business models. The panel refused just three bids – in these cases the eligibility criteria were not met.

## **HEALTH INEQUALITIES COMMISSION REPORT**

Oxfordshire's Commission on Health Inequalities has published its recommendations to narrow the health and wellbeing gaps which divide communities in the county. The Commission was set up earlier this year by the Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board. Its members came from health, local authority and voluntary sectors. Public sessions were held at venues across the county and evidence was taken from a wide range of statutory, voluntary and private sector organisations. The Commission heard that Oxfordshire, overall, is an affluent county with relatively low levels of deprivation, but there are significant variations. Among the 60 recommendations made by the Commission are:

- An integrated transport strategy to reduce social isolation
- Greater investment in prevention of ill health
- Employers to promote the health of working people
- Greater integration of health and social care and more support for unpaid carers
- Public sector organisations should review their buildings and land which might be used for key worker and affordable housing
- Promotion of physical activity and exercise among vulnerable groups
- More provision for mental health services

The next steps for the Commission will be to promote the findings of the report and for discussion of what can be achieved through local action.

## **OXFORD PARKWAY/CITY CENTRE OPENING**

The link between Oxford Parkway and the city centre was opened at the beginning of December with a journey time of just 8 minutes. The Secretary of State for Transport, Chris Grayling, attended the opening. OCC Leader Ian Hudspeth took the opportunity of talking to him not just about railways, but also the road problems in Oxfordshire, particularly with regard to the A34, A40 and A420. Ian went on to remind the SoS that if we are to have the projected extra houses and jobs, then OCC needs the funding for the infrastructure to deliver sustainable development.





## Public Consultation on the A40 and the Eynsham Park and Ride

### Background

1. This response is made on behalf of Bike Safe, a charity dedicated to the advancement of active and sustainable travel in Oxfordshire. We have a supporter base of over 2,000 names and a petition in favour of the construction of an off road multi-use path between Eynsham and Botley was signed by over 4,000 people in 2014. These numbers matter – many people do not have the time, knowledge and confidence to write individual responses to planning proposals, but the fact that so many people are in favour of better cycling provision between Eynsham and Oxford – and have persisted with supporting the campaign for better cycling infrastructure - should be kept in mind.
2. In this response, we shall focus on the way in which the proposals for a bus lane, and the possibility of an additional bus lane at some future date, have on cycling provision and the infrastructure that is essential for the promotion of active travel.
3. We shall assume that it is not necessary or appropriate in this planning response to make the arguments about why OCC should expand its invest more in active travel infrastructure. There are a range of OCC policies on transport, public health and the environment to justify the case for additional investment in active travel infrastructure. The key point is that OCC must be prepared to invest resources into making these policy aspirations a reality. To fail to do so is clearly a breach of existing policy guidance.

### National Planning Framework

4. We draw your attention to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, which provides relevant guidance on priorities. It clearly states that the transport system needs to be developed “to make the fullest possible use of public transport, walking and cycling” (NPPF Para 17), and should be “*balanced in favour of sustainable transport modes*” (my italics), giving people a real choice about how they travel” (NPPF Par 29). New developments should be supported by a Transport Assessment that identifies measures to improve alternatives to car travel such as walking, cycling, and public transport (NPPF Par 32).

There is specific guidance on promoting sustainable travel and in para 35, the NPPF makes it clear that “Plans should protect and exploit opportunities for the use of sustainable transport modes for the movement of goods or people. Therefore, developments should be located and designed where practical to

- *give priority to pedestrian and cycle movements, and have access to high quality public transport facilities;”*

5. It is our contention that the current proposals – which can be summarised as providing an extra bus lane at the expense of existing cycling infrastructure – is in significant breach of the NPPF on two counts: firstly, in failing to protect and exploit opportunities for sustainable travel and, more significantly, by failing to give priority to pedestrian and cycle movements.
6. It is on these grounds that **we object to the proposal currently under consideration**. In the paragraphs below we put forward suggestions as to how the proposals can be improved to be

consistent with the planning framework and to be reflective of the wishes and priorities of the people of Eynsham and West Oxfordshire.

**Our proposals to improve sustainable travel infrastructure.**

7. Bike Safe is prepared to accept the loss of one of the existing cycling paths along the A40 – but in recognition of the fact that the loss of cycling infrastructure is contrary to the spirit and the letter of LTP 4 and the NPPF, we believe it is reasonable and consistent with planning guidance that this loss of amenity be compensated for in the following ways:
  - a. that the path to be retained should be on the south side of the A40, not the north side. This is because of
    - i. ease of access for people from Eynsham, who are the most likely users;
    - ii. enhanced safety since a path on the north side will mean crossing the A40 to reach the path and then to cross back over the A40 to access either the Woodstock or Banbury Roads. For most potential users, if a north side path were built, access and exit will most likely be at one of the roundabouts – but in the absence of high quality design of the roundabouts, cyclists are more at risk of accident as the fatality at Wolvercote in May 2016 illustrates.
    - iii. enhanced safety because of the reduced risk of dazzle and glare in the evenings since most people will be cycling in the same direction as the traffic is moving. This is especially relevant on the section of the proposed north side path between Duke’s Cut and the Wolvercote roundabout since there will be no bus lane and car lights will be shining directly into the faces of westbound cyclists.
  - b. that there are no pressing reasons to construct the path on the north side of the A40. The most important determinant of location of the path should be the views of users and this is omitted from the ‘scoring’ table. By omitting user preference – which had already been clearly expressed in pre-consultation meetings with stakeholders - the consultation is biased and open to challenge. The appraisal table indicates that the cost of building a path on the south side of the A40 is a major factor in the preference for a north-side path – but at the public consultation, I asked for the details of the relative costings and was expressly told that they were not significantly different, but that the civil engineers were concerned about objections that Natural England might raise. This inconsistency in explanation does not inspire confidence.
8. The current proposal depends on removing and reducing existing cycling provision to increase capacity for motor traffic. This is patently contrary to the intentions of planning policy and the stated aim of giving priority to encouraging cycling. **For this reason, we believe that the loss of provision along the A40 should be compensated for by building a new path on the north side of the B4044 on the Farmoor side of the toll bridge and on both sides of the B4044 on the Eynsham side of the bridge.**
9. The original design of the A40 changes included the construction/retention of two segregated cycle paths. This commitment to retain two cycle paths can be honoured by building a new path adjacent to the B4044. Bike Safe has already completed topographical surveys, and commissioned initial designs for the B4044 path. A detailed business case has been prepared which clearly demonstrates the cost effectiveness of the B4044 path.
10. Many people in Eynsham and West Oxfordshire do not cycle along the B4044 road because it is widely perceived to be too intimidating and unpleasant. Paradoxically, it offers people travelling from Eynsham the shortest and most direct route to major employment sites in the city centre and to the railway station. Construction of a new path adjacent to the B4044 would increase travel choice and offer a safer and more direct route to the city than a longer and more complex route along the A40 and its associated roundabouts and crossings.
11. Our proposal is consistent with the broad direction of OCC’s policy and will neatly complement the provision of a dedicated bus lane for those who want to travel by bus and increase choice for those who prefer to stay healthy and choose to cycle. In the same way that the County Council recognises the need to invest in additional public transport infrastructure through constructing a park and ride

facility and a dedicated bus lane, so too must the Council recognise that its aspirations to persuade more people to cycle or walk also requires investment. Sadly, the current proposal removes active travel infrastructure rather than expanding it .

12. Our proposal is designed to maximise choice and regular exercise for travellers. With a high quality path on the south side of the A40 and a similarly high quality path on the north side of the B4044, there will be excellent choice in both directions.

January 1, 2017