

20<sup>th</sup> November 2020

To: All Members of the Abingdon-on-Thames Traffic Advisory Committee

Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council: Cllrs Andrew Coveney (Chair), Jim Halliday, Eric de la Harpe, Andy Foulsham, Patrick Lonergan.

Oxfordshire County Council: Cllrs Neil Fawcett, Alison Rooke (Vice-Chair), Emily Smith.

Vale of White Horse District Council: Cllrs Cheryl Briggs, Mike Pighills, Max Thompson.

Abingdon-on-Thames Chamber of Commerce: Mr Paul Townsend.

Thames Valley Police: Mr Chris Hulme.

Principal Officer, Traffic Schemes – Area Operations South, OCC: Mr Lee Turner

Dear Member,

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **Abingdon-on-Thames Traffic Advisory Committee** to be held on **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 7.00 pm**.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and in order to comply with Government regulations the Town Council will hold this meeting online and not in person, in accordance with The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 (“the 2020 Regulations”).

The meeting ID will be forwarded to Members separately on the day of the meeting. Any members of the public who wish to attend should e-mail [townclerk@abingdon.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@abingdon.gov.uk) and you will be sent the relevant link.

The meeting will be conducted in the same way, as far as possible, as a meeting in person. Members of the public may view the meeting online and may, with notice, make representations, ask questions, and give evidence in respect of any item of business at agenda item 6.

Where a member is unable to attend a meeting they may nominate a substitute member, provided that the nominating member informs the office of the Town Clerk prior to the commencement of the meeting at [townclerk@abingdon.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@abingdon.gov.uk)

Any queries on the agenda should also be directed to me.

Yours sincerely

*Nigel Warner*

N E Warner  
Town Clerk/ signed electronically

### **Abingdon Town Council - Our Vision**

To develop an inclusive community so that Abingdon is the place where everyone wants to live and where the wellbeing of residents is prioritised. In developing this community, the town will be one which is environmentally sustainable, vibrant, resilient and safe.

#### **Our key objectives**

- 1 To respond effectively and speedily to the climate emergency.
- 2 To develop a resilient, sustainable town which will provide a home for residents now and in the future.
- 3 To manage the Council's assets efficiently and effectively to meet for the needs of the community now and in the future.
- 4 To work with community partners to support those who are vulnerable and in need and to create opportunities to increase social inclusivity.

## **AGENDA**

### **1. Apologies**

To record any apologies for absence and attendance of substitute Members.

## 2. **Declarations of interest**

To receive any declarations of interest from Members in relation to any items to be considered at the meeting in accordance with the Local Code of Conduct or the Code of Conduct in relation to their authority, as applicable.

## 3. **Minutes and matters arising**

To receive and consider the draft [minutes of the meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020](#) (attached as separate document).

### **Matters arising**

To consider any matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

## 4. **Public participation**

At the discretion of the Chair, Members of the public or representatives of organisations may address the Advisory Committee. The address shall be in the form of a statement lasting not more than three minutes. The person giving the address shall not be permitted to participate in any subsequent debate by the Advisory Committee on the matter in question.

Notice of intention to make a statement must be submitted in writing to the Town Clerk no later than 5pm on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020. This should be sent by e-mail to [townclerk@abingdon.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@abingdon.gov.uk)

## 5. **Items submitted to the Town Clerk by members or residents / public ahead of the meeting**

### **Members**

Green Advisory and Scrutiny committee, Cllrs Andrew Coveney and Emily Smith

### **Requests for 20mph speed limits in Abingdon**

- Action from GAS – *“In line with ATC motion to reduce speed limits to 20 mph in the town centre, the GAS committee recommends to the TAS committee that they take a close examination of roads highlighted as potential roads to benefit from a reduction in speed limits to reduce emissions and increase access to cycling.”*
- Cllr Andrew Coveney – “Request to introduce 20 mile an hour speed limits around Abingdon.”
- Cllr Emily Smith – “20mph - how do we achieve this for the whole town (rather than individual roads one by one)”
- Email from a local resident received as follows:

*“We have been very frustrated that nothing is being done in Abingdon to calm traffic in the town centre and around all our schools.*

*We notice that Didcot is planning to introduce traffic calming measures and a 20 mph limit on a number of their streets and around schools. It has also now been announced that Witney and Bicester are getting funding for improvements and 20 mph limits in their town centres.*

*Abingdon is the largest town in the Vale with a bigger population than Didcot, Witney or Bicester. It has very narrow streets and many schools. Large numbers of young people cycle and walk and they are being put at risk by drivers who are still driving too fast.*

*Conditions in the town centre for pedestrians (trying to “socially distance”) and cyclists are worse now than they were before the coronavirus pandemic as more people are using their cars and traffic seems to have speeded up since the first “lockdown” was lifted.*

*The Town Council submission to the County of 22nd May was very comprehensive and well thought out so we hope that the Committee is pressing the County Council for prompt action to implement at least some of these proposals.”*

#### Cllr Mike Pighills

- **Excessive road noise**

- i. There have been several complaints from residents about noise from cars and motor bikes on Oxford and Radley Road. The main complaint being the revving of 2-stroke motor bikes and load car exhausts.
- ii. There has also been a complaint from Galleyfields that students at a bike riding school on Radley Road Ind Estate cause excessive noise e.g. revving engines.

They would like to know if there any plans to take enforcement measures.

- iii. Also last year the government announced a pilot scheme <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-noise-camera-trial-to-crack-down-on-illegal-vehicles>, do we know if this has been a success and if there are plans to implement in this area.

- **Road resurfacing work in north Abingdon (Wheatcroft Drive/Oxford Road)**

A resident has questioned why the road resurfacing work is being carried out in Wheatcroft Close and not Oxford Road where he believes there are greater problems.

Email received as follows:

*“I wonder if you could answer this simple question as to why Oxford council is spending thousands of pounds to re surface this road in the next couple of days. Wheatcroft Close has 5 properties in it and the Oxford slip road has 7. All of the above properties are in the million pound and over mark. I am a retired civil engineer with a lot of experience in road maintenance and having just walked both roads I fail to see the necessity to re surface this area, maybe the price of the houses have something to do with it either way this is not a must do. If you step into the main Oxford Road you can see several areas that are more important than these barely used roads which are used for access only. I cannot understand why the council want to throw money away in these troubled times. <http://times> It would pay you to come and have a look now before the work commences and then you will understand what I am talking about.”*

Cllr Emily Smith

- **Junction markings**

Oxford Road / Northcourt Lane junction markings and safety

Cllr Alison Rooke

- **The problem of cars, delivery vans and lorries parking on pavements**

This is not only dangerous for pedestrians having to walk onto the carriageway (I've actually see people pushing prams and having to walk out into the road in Abingdon town centre), but is also damaging the pavements (costing money to repair or leaving them dangerous to walk on). I am no expert, but I cannot imagine that the very old buildings in Abingdon are faring very well having extremely heavy vehicles parking in very close proximity either.

My Councillor priority fund has paid for bell bollards to be put in place outside St Nicolas church where there is a particular problem, but action is needed throughout the town centre.

Cllr Jim Halliday/ Cllr Andrew Coveney

- **Speeding traffic**

Cllr Jim Halliday has raised his concerns over the speed of traffic on roads through Abingdon and the surrounding roads, with traffic

exceeding the speed limit in some areas, with the consequent risks to the safety of pedestrians and other road users.

Cllr Andrew Coveney has raised his concerns regarding speed of traffic especially along the Drayton Road and further going out of Abingdon towards Drayton itself.

In relation to speed, PCSO Susie Morley of the town centre neighbourhood team has forwarded [details](#) of a radar speed sign which was purchased by a local parish council and may be of interest, subject to finding funding.

### Paul Townsend

- **School children using road as footpath**

“I would also like to make the meeting aware of an incident that occurred today, below is a copy of the email that has been sent to PCSO Ali Blood.

*Today I was delivering parcels in Hendred way at about 15:00, just as the children from Rush Common School were leaving. This road is a nightmare to drive down at this time of day under “normal” circumstances, but with the social distancing measures in place, it is much worse. But as I slowly drove to the end of the road ( towards houses 59-67) I was shocked to see the children being instructed by the teacher to walk down the middle of the road, walking directly into oncoming traffic. I was then told by the teacher that I was not allowed to drive on Hendred way between 14:30-15:30 because the children were leaving school. I asked what RTO was in place to close the road & why was there no signage to say this, and his response was “we don’t need any because of Covid”.*

*My big concern here is that a child could get injured or even killed if they get hit by a vehicle. And why is a teacher instructing them to walk in the road in the first place?”*

### Residents/ public

- **Ock Street request for safety cameras:**

E-mail received as follows:

*“I have been directed to you by Councillor Yvonne Constance in response to my email to her regarding the installation of a Speed Camera on Ock Street following the death of a young man on Tuesday 7 July.*

*My family and I are residents of Ock Street, Abingdon.*

*You may be aware on 7 July a pedestrian suffered fatal injuries after being hit by a speeding motorist. It turns out this motorist was over the*

*prescribed limit and was driving dangerously. It is my understanding he is in police custody.*

*At 9.45pm on Tuesday 7 July my family and I were woken by an extremely loud bang outside. On looking out our bedroom window we could see a red BMW had hit a black vehicle further down the road.*

*Staff from Domino's Pizza came out and said there "was a body on the road" and contacted the emergency services. We could not see a body. A few minutes later we spot a man lain outside our front gate, I also contacted the emergency services. I went outside to see if I could assist by which time the ambulances arrived and a member of the public was with him.*

*The man's face was covered in blood and he was struggling to breathe. My young son caught a glimpse of the gentleman which left him shocked and extremely upset.*

*The following day I heard the male had passed away as a result of his injuries.*

*This is the 4<sup>th</sup> serious accident on Ock Street in the last 12 months. I think you would agree this is not acceptable.*

*I started a petition on Weds 8 July for a Safety Camera to be installed on Ock Street which has received, at the time of writing this 222 signatures so far. Clearly there is growing enthusiasm from the community that a camera be installed.*

*I understand you have a Traffic Advisory Meeting. Please could this be raised at your next meeting? I would appreciate an update as to your next meeting date and be advised of the outcome.*

*I am urging you to consider the installation of a Safety Camera for Ock Street.*

*Ock Street is restricted to 30mph. Countless motorists surpass this limit every day. I do not think we will have to wait long before another serious incident occurs where a member of the public loses their lives or suffers serious injuries.*

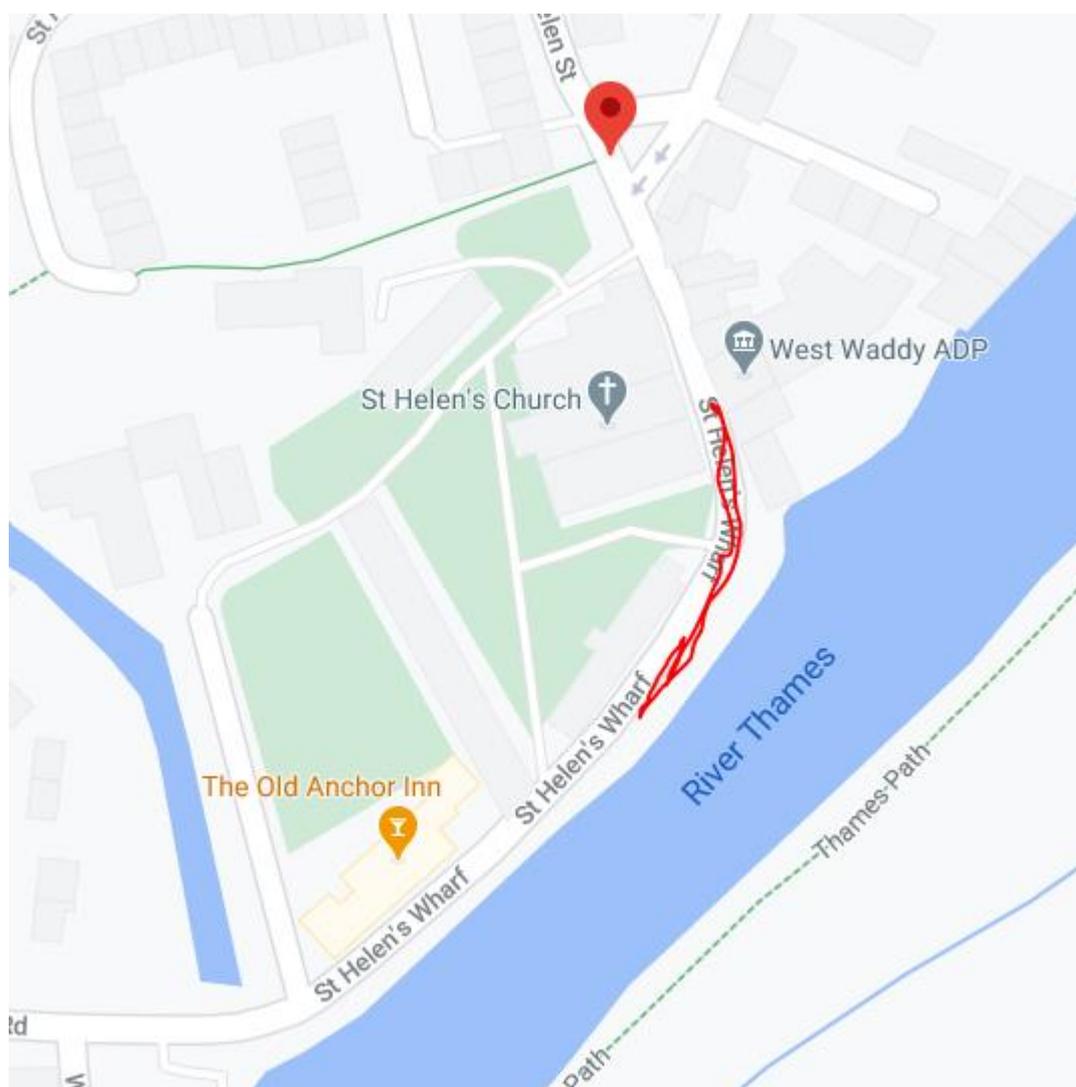
*Can I ask you to carefully consider the installation of a speed camera on Ock Street?"*

Please see below link to the current petition. <http://chnng.it/7XqtvYTW>

- **St Helen's Wharf signage**

E-mail received as follows:

*“Would it be possible to look at the road markings and signage for bicycles on St Helen's Wharf please? As a cyclist I frequently encounter cars coming round the corner I've indicated on the map at speed. The cars I think are unaware that cyclists could be coming towards them as one way for cars. There is no dedicated cycle lane at that point and no signage that I am aware of to indicate bikes could be coming towards them. I cycle along there to Didcot to take the train regularly and often take the children to the marina and cycle route 5 round that corner. I am always very concerned with the children as the cars are often too fast.”*



- **Abingdon Michaelmas Fair and Abingdon Marathon Signage**

E-mail received as follows:

*“At present the Abingdon Marathon is at the initial planning stage for the 2021 Abingdon Marathon scheduled for 17th October 2021. Given the current position regarding COVID-19 restrictions and the possible likelihood of further lockdowns and changes in requirements that may impact the Marathon going forward, it would be helpful to be made aware of any further requirements/restrictions that may now be in place*

at this stage.

*Following the deliberations of the 17th June council meeting we are awaiting a response from Oxfordshire County Council and Oxfordshire Highways as to what the legal minimum notice period requirement is for setting out event signage. The initial assumption on the part of Oxfordshire County Council is that the minimum period may be 7 days. That is yet to be confirmed.”*

From previous meeting:

*“During the lead up to the Abingdon Michaelmas Fair in 2019 it became obvious to Town Council staff that there was confusion between the signage for the fair and the signage for the marathon. This confusion led to lorries over 7.5 tonnes entering the area which the Traffic Management Plan, drawn up by County Council officers, prohibits them to do. The problem was caused by Marathon signage being placed near the Fair signage and giving a future date which meant that some vehicles ignored the Fair signs thinking it was a few weeks ahead. Could County and Vale Officers consider this on any future Marathon applications and ensure their signage does not go out until the Michaelmas and Runaway Fairs have departed the town.”*

Meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020 recommendation:

Lee Turner will in the meantime forward this to Oxfordshire’s Network Team, asking them to be aware of the issues in relation to signing multiple events

## **6. Cycling in Abingdon**

The Committee is requested to consider issues related to cycling in Abingdon.

- **Cycle racks**

An update on cycle racks from Cllr Andy Foulsham

*“I met with Mark this morning.... He expects some action on the High St cycle rack replacement next week - he is talking to the manufacturer in Ireland.*

*Apparently, there is £20k for racks across SODC and the Vale. This works out at c.5 racks in Abingdon.*

*Stratton Way - should get a nice big rack between 2 bus stops  
Bath Street - a rack will be put on the spur of the road by the Black Swan, against the wall opposite the pharmacy at the corner of the Precinct.  
Queen Street - we looked at further into Queen St just by the additional taxi rank before the service area, but there was uncertainty about land ownership. However, the pavement opposite the multi-storey car park, outside the chiropractor has space for a new rack (and is less "tucked away" and so less vulnerable to crime).*

*Old Station Yard - if he can sort out an area with council-owned land he will fit one in here.*

*Open Air Pool in Abbey Meadow - there are a set of bike racks in the car park and a couple of large sets outside the entrance to the pool, so he didn't think more were justified.*

*Depending on whether he can fit one in Old Station Yard there will be 1 or 2 racks left, which he will see if he can fit at Oxford Road bus stops - I did remind him that a bus shelter was due to be put up for the stop outside the BP garage, as it would be a shame to mix that up.*

*Apparently, all the work will be scheduled into a single week (he has a week pencilled in for the Vale, and a week for SODC).*

*He has also offered to come up with a summary map of all the cycle racks that are available around the Town, so that we can promote it through the website, the Town Crier and through the cycling groups, which I think would be a great step forward.”*

## **7. Previous meeting Action list**

To receive an update of the [actions from the meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020](#).

- **T6-T22/3 Parking in the town**

Response received from Paul Townsend (Abingdon Chamber of Commerce)

*“The Chamber are still looking changing the times of the loading bays in the Town Centre, but following the meeting about a year ago, we have gone back to our members about the other areas of the town. The only one that has started informally consulting the business around is in Nuffield Way. However, he was placed on Furlough earlier this year, has since returned to work & then placed on Furlough again, so little progress has been made. We would hope to get this moving in the new year & will report back to the next meeting.”*

## **8. An update on Civil Parking Enforcement**

To receive an update on CPE (requested by Cllr Emily Smith)

## **9. An update on the community LCWIP (Local Cycling and Walking infrastructure plan)**

To receive the brief given to County Cllrs. (requested by Cllr Emily Smith)

## **10. Report from the Principal Officer, Traffic Scheme South Team, Oxfordshire County Council**

Mr Lee Turner to report at the meeting.

## **11. Draft calendar of meetings for 2020 / 21**

The final meeting of the Committee for the Council year 2020/21 is due to take place on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 at 7pm.

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*The law allows members of the public and press to record meetings of the Council and its committees. Should you wish to record at any meeting which is open to the public it is requested that you inform the Town Clerk of your intention to film or record before the day of the meeting, by emailing [townclerk@abingdon.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@abingdon.gov.uk) or telephoning 01235 522642.*