

Notes of the Working Meeting held on the 13th September 2021 at the Mortimer Hall from 7:00pm.

Present:

Parish Council:

Duncan Hatfield (DH) – Chairman	Pat Hall (PH) – Vice-Chairman
Mary James (MJ)	Charlotte Vinnicombe (CV)
Louise Milford (LM)	Peter Cox (PC)
Peter Williams (PW)	Mick Cadd (MC)
Tim Cann (Clerk)	

Oxford City Council:

Cllr Mick Haines (MH), Cllr Mary Clarkson (M) Cllr Alex Hollingsworth (AH)

Oxfordshire County Council: Cllr Mark Lygo (ML)

Peter Williams chaired the meeting by welcoming everyone.

He said that the meeting had been called because there was a lack of a coherent traffic plan for the three large development projects within the parish.

Hill View Farm had been approved. Currently out for consultation was Almond Farm (Land West of Mill Lane). Marston Paddock development in Butts Lane would be submitted sometime in the future.

PW confirmed that Old Marston Parish Council was not opposed to new housing being built in the parish. However, it had great concern of the potential impact on the traffic, parking and the safety of residents.

Key points:

- The 'S' bend in Mill Lane does not accommodate two cars passing each other, let alone lorries. Views are restricted and cars parked make it essentially a 'one-way road' with inherent dangers to cyclists and pedestrians
- The Mill Lane 'Cycle Street' effectively stops at the 'S' bend.
- If Back Lane was upgraded for cyclists, it would mean they would be turning into traffic just before the 'S' Bend. It would also be destructive to an historic and biodiverse 'Green Lane'
- Oxford Road and Elsfeld Road are already congested and serve as a 'rat run' for cars at peak times when children, mothers with buggies and other pedestrians are accessing the nearby schools and nurseries. Though 'Access Only', this is ignored by drivers, as it is in Elms Drive.

Signed by the Chairman.

- Entry to the Marston Paddock is by a particularly narrow entrance on Butts Lane, unsuitable for construction traffic
- No bus service for Mill Lane residents is proposed because of the narrowness of the road yet is needed.
- Why is the County Council against opening junction with the ring road for any traffic?
- Little enthusiasm for a CPZ so deferred and a drop-in session will be organised later in year.

There then followed a discussion as to possible solutions:

1. Could access from the Ring Road be reconsidered? Reasons why the County oppose this should be sought. If reducing the speed on the Ring Road was needed, surely this was desirable?
2. Attempts should be made to restrict traffic along Elsfield and Oxford Road to 'Access Only' with better anticipatory signing and number plate recognition operating at peak times.
3. A speed camera would reduce speed-related accidents, several of which had been reported recently
4. The bus service should be extended the full length of Mill Lane to accommodate those unable to use cars and bicycles or had limited mobility
5. Back Lane as a cycle route should be abandoned and instead an alternative route from the Vicky Arms along the Cherwell to Marston Ferry Road considered. A crossing on Marston Ferry Road would be desirable
6. The need for chicanes should be reviewed and residential parking for the village considered further.
7. A site inspection of the S-bend, Oxford Road near its opening onto Cherwell Drive and Elms Drive, at a peak time, was needed. A committee of attendees would be willing to host this.
8. Section 106 money could be used by the parish to finance some of the above proposals. There might even be further money available to enable improvements.

PW concluded by thanking City and County Council representatives in attending.

MEETING CLOSED: 8:05pm

Signed by the Chairman.