

**Statement regarding the Cowley Low Traffic Neighbourhood proposed changes
for the County Council meeting on June 22nd 2023**

I support the installation of an Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) camera on Littlemore Road near Compass Close but urge the Cabinet Member for Highway Management to make further changes, as described below, beyond those recommended by officers.

I have enjoyed living in Littlemore as a quiet and attractive community since December 1991. However, since the introduction of the LTNs, Littlemore has become a much less harmonious place to live. The way in which the changes were implemented was in my view very poorly handled, with insufficient consideration of unintended consequences. Most of Littlemore has been cut off from Cowley Centre, including many areas which are physically very close and local businesses have suffered. There has been considerable frustration and resentment at being unable to reach by car places which were previously easily accessible, resulting in lengthy diversions and some traffic bottlenecks. Older and disabled residents have been particularly adversely affected, often because family members and/or carers use cars to visit and support them. Considerable doubt has been expressed about whether the LTNs (in Littlemore particularly) have reduced the amount of motor traffic and level of pollution overall. This issue needs to be carefully and systematically monitored.

I broadly agree with the overall aims of LTNs, reducing the use of private cars where possible and I am fortunate to be able to walk and cycle, though I do have a car. I believe that the LTNs have improved safety in many side streets - and that safety should be one major consideration in whatever decision is made. However, many conversations with residents, especially those who are elderly, disabled or require a vehicle for business purposes, have convinced me that there is an urgent need on social and possibly environmental grounds to alter the current arrangements, especially on Littlemore Road.

The proposal to introduce ANPR and make exemptions for emergency services, public transport, taxis and similar vehicles, as recommended, will improve the situation. However, I urge the Cabinet Member, in addition, to:

- decide that the ANPR camera should not be active at all times, but turned off in the evenings and overnight;
- extend the exemption to local residents with blue badges and if possible to other vehicle users who regularly support elderly and/or disabled residents (e.g. carers);
- invest in measures to slow motor vehicles and enable safe cycling in Littlemore Road, with the former especially being an urgent priority;
- arrange detailed consideration of ways in which the junction at Newman Road and Iffley Road and public transport serving Littlemore can be improved.

I hope that, whatever the decision, this will be reviewed in 18 months to 2 years' time, taking into account evidence of the impact of the changes.

Tony Eaude
Resident of Littlemore