

FAO: County Council Cabinet; Mr Colm Ó Caomhánaigh

Subject: **For 22 June OCC Cabinet Meeting, Agenda Item 5: Cowley LTN proposed Amendments**

Councillors,

**I live in the Temple Cowley LTN and I am speaking about the proposed amendments to the Temple Cowley Crescent Road traffic filter.** My neighbours and I are delighted that the bollard blocking Crescent Road is to be removed, and we request that you also remove the bollards in Temple Road and Junction Road to allow free flow of local traffic. The current road blocks penalise residents and others, and we do not enjoy living in our roads as much as we did before the LTNs were introduced. All Temple Cowley bollards were missing for many weeks between November 2022 and March 2023 and this improved our quality of life significantly.

If ANPR camera enforcement is a prerequisite of bollard removal we can accept this in Crescent Road and would ask for the same in Temple Road and Junction Road, **with the proviso that all residents in the Temple Cowley LTN area – and all vehicles which provide services to these residents – are included in the exemptions.** We need to have the freedom to access our homes without lengthy delays on congested roads.

Last Thursday I had to take my pet to our vets in Headington. This 2-mile journey used to take ten minutes each way before the LTNs were introduced. Now my usual route is blocked by LTN bollards. On Thursday my trip to the vets took 30 minutes as I was stuck in traffic queues in Oxford Road and Hollow Way. My return took 45 minutes and I was stuck in near stationary traffic in Hollow Way for almost half-an hour. **These delays were on sections of road I would not need to be on were it not for the LTN blocks.** It was a hot day and my pet was suffering from being in the heat for such a long time. I was trying to get home as quickly as possible, and **if the Temple Cowley LTNs had allowed residents through our journey would have taken a quarter of the time.**

The ANPR exemptions proposed are good, but do not go far enough. **They must include residents** and those who need access to residents – including families, carers, health workers, blue badge holders, businesses, delivery vehicles. As these exemptions are being suggested for the proposed bus gate in Hollow Way then the technology is available for the LTN ANPRs.

The existing LTN measures displace and increase traffic and pollution, and penalise residents and those who work within the community. This is neither rational nor reasonable. The rising cost of fuel and cost of living is a natural deterrent to non-essential journeys, not measures which make journeys longer, more polluting, and more costly. **If you truly wish to reduce traffic and emissions you would allow vehicles to travel the shortest distance, at moderate speed, for each journey.** Replace all physical road blocks with ANPR's and add speed restrictions such as road humps to achieve your aims instead.

Judith Harley