

Paul Troop, Secretary, Bicester Bike Users' Group (BBUG)
Address to CMD 13 November 2024

A successfully integrating cycling with walking on Sheep Street would have significant benefits:

- It would allow people to safely cycle to and through the town centre to key destinations such as Bicester North and Bicester Village stations, thereby making the north and the south of the town accessible by another form of transport;
- It would support mental wellbeing and physical fitness;
- It would bring more customers to the town centre and enable them to dwell longer, bringing economic benefits;
- It would reduce traffic and noise; and
- It would help the environment.

Against that, concern has been raised at the proposal. This should be taken seriously, but given appropriate weight:

- It is mainly from the older generation who believe there will be accidents;
- It is predominantly from people who don't cycle or who are hostile to people who cycle;
- It is from people with little or no experience of integrating walking and cycling; and
- That experience which people have is of occasional cycling on Sheep Street in breach of the prohibition.

However, the evidence from numerous sources where integration has taken place, is that:

- Such concern is invariably unjustified;
- Objections subside once people have reasonable experience of how it operates; and
- Accidents are very rare, and if they do take place, are seldom serious.

Finally, we should also recall that this is only a trial, to gather evidence for the various views. If we do not hold a trial, we might miss appreciating the significant benefits that this would bring Bicester.

Therefore I would invite you, on balance, to approve the proposed trial.