

Cherwell Street Improvement Scheme, Banbury
Engagement with stakeholders on proposed final design changes

9 July 2025
Teams Meeting
14:00

NOTES AND ACTIONS

Attendance:

Oxfordshire County Council
Cllr Emily Kerr, Active Travel Champion
Colm McAllister, Senior Transport Planner, Place Planning
Mohamed Gulamhussein, Project Manager Delivery
Jacqui Cox, Place Planning Manager (North)
Stakeholders
Paul Bonsor, Banbury Active Travel Supporters
Apologies: Cllr Chris Brant, Bus Champion Trevor Bayliss, Stagecoach Robin Tucker, CoHSAT

Key discussion points
Mohamed ran through a presentation on the scheme that went out for the second consultation, the responses and Road Safety comments, and the proposed final design changes
Cllr Kerr – George Street looks much better for pedestrians than the existing situation. Raised concern that there is no formal pedestrian crossing over the bus lane by the junction. Could there be a zebra crossing. MG – any issue would be picked up by the post-construction Road Safety Assessment and would need to be addressed if raised.
Confusion for drivers on George Street was raised – they are currently unclear whether they can turn left or not. The scheme will remedy this.
Lack of cycle facilities: Cllr Kerr – could these be bus and cycle lanes? Have that approach in Oxford in places.

PB agreed that this is an incredibly complex area with an awful lot of traffic. If the flows can be reduced, then cyclists would be able to use it more.

PB- could there be a 'drop off' bus stop on Cherwell St

CM- May impact bus journey time, goes against encouraging access to the town centre and some bus routes will be rerouted to go past the train station following the completion of tramway. Also the flats at the location are under construction. Will pass on the Stagecoach for their steer.

Cllr Kerr – in summary: this is primarily a bus scheme; thanks to adding in the s106 there are pedestrian improvements; we have done something for cyclists in future proofing for toucans; understand that Lower Cherwell Street cannot be done as part of this scheme but that it will be picked up in future.

PB – in summary: great initiative; greatly improves for pedestrians especially from the station; potential for cyclists; interesting to see how it ties into other schemes; need data for before & after; will benefit those people that don't have a car. A sensible approach.

Cherwell Street Improvement Scheme, Banbury
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10 July 2025
Teams Meeting
14:30

NOTES AND ACTIONS

Attendance:

Oxfordshire County Council
Colm McAllister, Senior Transport Planner, Place Planning
Mohamed Gulamhussein, Project Manager Delivery
Jacqui Cox, Place Planning Manager (North)
Stakeholders
Trevor Bayliss, Stagecoach
Robin Tucker, CoHSAT
Danny Yee, CoHSAT

Key discussion points
Mohamed ran through a presentation on the scheme that went out for the second consultation, the responses and Road Safety comments, and the proposed final design changes.
TB- Issue with current George St junction layout; buses swing into right-hand running lane on Cherwell Street when egressing from George Street bus lane, forcing buses to wait for a space on both Cherwell Street lanes, before pulling out. Concerns that keeping the three EB running lanes on George St will mean this issues continues. MG- explained that the George Street junction egress is being widened from the current layout, despite retaining all running lanes on George St, the dimensions of the junction showed in the Preliminary design will be retained. HGV tracking has been provided to show the bus movement is possible.
TB- Requested a yellow box on Bridge Street East at the junction of Station approach in both lanes, to allow buses to pull in and out with priority, with the aim of some buses to be re-routed via Tramway, once the Tramway scheme is complete. CM- This has been passed on to the Tramway delivery team in order to progress quickly, as Bus trials to happen soon. CM- BATs enquired about a 'drop off' bus stop on Cherwell Street for easier access to the station.
TB- To be reviewed once Tramway and Cherwell St has been delivered, but may not be needed, as some buses are being rerouted via tramway and a bus stop on the carriageway may impact bus journey time.

RT- Concerns over moving the eastern Bridge St crossing to the east in response to the RSA will disbenefit pedestrians

CM- highlighted that the crossing remains on the pedestrian desire line between places of interest (town centre, Bridge St park, train station)

DY- 'Copenhagen' style continuous footways at the Lower Cherwell St junctions on Cherwell Street and across the Britannia Rd junction George St were requested

CM & MG agreed that this is too far outside the scope at the point in the scheme and there is low footfall now, but will look to implement if a phase 2 is carried out, or without other nearby schemes. (phase 2 is being investigated as OCC look to deliver enforcement cameras in the future).

Stagecoach happy with the Cherwell Street improvements and backs the scheme

CoHSAT happy with the pedestrian and bus benefits from the scheme, but understand that the delivery of the cycle infrastructure in isolation, will not bring benefit. But are pleased that future proofing' is being carried out so that the proposed cycle connection can be delivered in the future (as part of the Eastern AT Corridor).

Cherwell Street Improvement Scheme, Banbury
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11 July 2025
Teams Meeting
15:00

NOTES AND ACTIONS

Attendance:

Oxfordshire County Council
Cllr Chris Brant, Bus Champion
Colm McAllister, Senior Transport Planner, Place Planning
Stakeholders
Apologies: Mohamed Gulamhussein, Project Manager Delivery Jacqui Cox, Place Planning Manager (North)

Key discussion points
Colm ran through a presentation on the scheme that went out for the second consultation, the responses and Road Safety comments, and the proposed final design changes
Cllr Brant – Concerns about a lack of bus connection between the train station and the bus station/town centre CM – Mention Stagecoach have ambitions of rerouting the B3 (and potentially others) via tramway, with the routes still starting and terminating in the town centre .
Cllr Brant- enquired about how the proposed cycle link will be delivered and how it will be tied into to other links, such as the canal CM- explained timeline and CM to shared Eastern AT corridor concept designs, along with OCC/Stagecoach Bus contact information
Cllr Brant - Understood that is this only part of the journey to improving Banbury, that it is a good start, and hopes this can influence a culture of change that residence can start to get behind. Cllr Brant understand the strategic road link importance of Cherwell Street and a balance needs to be met, which the scheme does.