

Danny Yee statement on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023

Please approve the proposals before you: they will greatly improve safety and accessibility for walking and cycling along the A4158 and at the Kidlington roundabout. The plans before you are much better than the ones from eight months ago, and I would like to thank the officers involved for involving active travel groups in a fruitful coproduction process.

One thing not in the plans is the signal timings for the crossings at the roundabout. We would like to see as a goal the Dutch target, where "an average waiting time of less than 15 seconds is good and one of more than 20 seconds is poor". Two-stage crossings for pedestrians may be inevitable, but smart signalling could be used to allow single-stage pedestrian movements if traffic permits. And early pickup loops could be used on some approaches to activate signals as cycles approach.

The lower speed limits are most welcome, but we would like to see a commitment to monitoring compliance with them. To quote another highways manual: "A 50km/hr - 30mph - speed limit is not credible on a 4-lane arterial road outside the built-up area." While this may become a built-up area, that will take time and may happen with developments that face away from these roads and won't change their feel. So measures such as rumble strips, lane narrowing on the approaches, etc. may be needed.

Even with speed limit compliance, in the longer-term, as more housing is built and the number of people walking and cycling increases, there will inevitably be unhappy compromises to be made between active travel delays, motor traffic delays, and road danger. So we urge the council to plan for underpasses when and if development opens up the space and funding that would be needed for them. That could be with development of a sports stadium at Stratfield Brake, or with a housing development to the east of the roundabout. Grade separation is the only way to make a junction like this genuinely accessible by primary school children, older adults, and people with disabilities.