

Dear Cabinet,

I live in Littlemore and fully support the LTNs, both in Cowley and East Oxford, and use them daily with my family to commute to school, work, and do daily shopping.

It is like night and day when the bollards are in place, in particular the Crowell Road bollard. With proper physical infrastructure in place, it becomes safe for vulnerable road users to travel actively. When the bollard is missing, the flood of private motor traffic, and private hire vehicles, makes the road - in the words of my 8 year old son, "unusable without high chance of collisions".

The experience of the road being 'open' has not been good - traffic goes too quickly, and does not overtake safely. Private hire vehicles do not stand out as being better in this regard.

The benefits of the LTNs are especially significant for the younger vulnerable road users, and these are schemes that will serve to make Oxford a safe, healthy and sustainable place to live for the next generation, and the next.

As a regular driver, I find that the traffic flows are more predictable, and it takes me less time to travel around the city.

I strongly urge you to resist the encroachment of regular, high-speed traffic along the key active travel route connecting Littlemore with Temple Cowley. The Crowell Road filter is a vital part of the active travel artery that is the only safe route into the city for Littlemore, Blackbird Leys and Greater Leys. It would be particularly unfair to penalise these very deprived areas of the chance to safely travel, and force the unsustainable dependence on private motor cars on some of the least affluent areas of the city.

I also urge you to robustly reject suggestions that any private hire traffic be permitted through other filters.

Again, in the words of my son, "If you want to keep the LTN areas safe, then you've got to keep them."

The LTNs make Oxford a city that offers a viable means of existing without requiring a private motor car. This is a huge gift to the adults, children and future residents, young and old. I urge you to strengthen the implementation of the modal filters, embrace the opportunities presented by place-making, and expand the benefits of the active travel network to all residents - both in the city, and beyond.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick Vale