

SPEECH BY PHILIPPA JACKSON FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY CABINET MEETING - 29TH
NOVEMBER 2022

As a Mum and the co-owner of an SME who has lived in Oxford for 14 years, I have listened to the following concerns of people and their experiences.

Discussions on school WhatsApp groups speak of utter frustration.

Longer journey times mean no time for children's after school activities.

Sometimes children have too much kit to carry so a car journey is the only option.

If their child is suddenly sick at school and urgently needs to be collected - they just want to get them home not cycle or wait for a bus.

These restrictions do not allow for the unpredictable in our daily lives!

Other examples include cleaning ladies sitting so long in traffic jams that they end up paying more for childcare, whilst the cost of living is rising.

The family who used to visit their grandad a few times a week cannot get there so often, leaving him feeling even more isolated and alone.

Safeguarding is also an issue that must be considered! Isolating children and families from wider networks and extended families, could push families over the limit of what they can cope with.

A friend who runs a mobile massage business has been told by a senior transport planner at OCC that she does not qualify for a van permit as she lives just outside the ring road. It's impossible to carry her massage table and kit on a bus or bike. To get to her clients in and around Oxford will mean going via the ring road for almost every appointment. This will not make her business viable!

Even if you do have a van, an East Oxford landlord tells me that the journey time for his maintenance staff to two properties on the same road has gone from 2 minutes to 20 minutes because they now have to drive down to the Plain roundabout.

People who live just outside of the ring road are now going to Swindon to get their shopping instead of local shops on the Cowley Road. They say it's easier!

None of this makes any sense. Longer car journeys mean more carbon emissions not less. There may be LTNs but we now have HTN's - high traffic neighbourhoods!

I like to think we are still living in a democracy where the government uses our money to keep us free, to provide opportunity to hard working people to have happy and successful lives. Yet these restrictions do none of these things, and will only cause even more financial and emotional hardship. These restrictions are undemocratic and have not been voted for by the people.