

Peter West - Oxfordshire County Council Cabinet Meeting 'Speech'
29th November

You have been provided with photos of the increased congestion that is now occurring in St Clements, that was clearly not predicted, or simply ignored. The council has not bothered to undertake a business impact study, or even directly discussed the potential impact with businesses and is now intending to install a bus gate in its midst!

The St Clements Business group met Cllr Gant recently to discuss the issues and it was pointed out that businesses were losing 30% of their income; that one of the businesses was really struggling and thinking of closing. No alternative solutions were put forward and the only comments made were

- He was only there to listen
- He knew and had spent many hours on St Clements
- He was not prepared to comment on individual businesses,
- Refusing to consider compensation for losses due to Council plans
- A van was parked with two wheels on the pavement, blocking the cycle lane

The business is now closing on the 17th November, with no compensation; this is one of many to close in the area due to the LTNs.

Unfortunately, Cllr Gants' knowledge of the area did not seem to recognise that most of the businesses relied on the parking spaces in St Clements and those in Morrell Avenue; **the council has removed these to accommodate cycle lanes!**

In addition, there are no loading bays in St Clements and that all of the retail shops, bar one, rely on loading / unloading from St Clements itself, **therefore, these shops should close if they were to comply fully with the traffic reduction measures recently imposed by the Council.**

The congestion is worse on St Clements than Hollow Way; air quality data for Hollow Way shows that the NO₂ levels are exceeding the legal maximum level, therefore the greater congestion on St Clements must lead to air quality levels exceeding those of Hollow Way!

St Clements's businesses and residents will be subject to the horrendous congestion and pollution now occurring for at least another 13 months, following which, the 18-month filter 'experiment' will complete the destruction of the businesses. This situation is entirely unacceptable and the plans should be scrapped!

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