

Thank you for this opportunity. I have lived in Littlemore for 32 years and am Chair of the Working Group developing a Neighbourhood Plan for Littlemore, though I am speaking in a personal capacity.

My comments relate especially to the clause in Motion 19 calling for an investigation of opening the Littlemore Road filter to motor traffic outside school travel hours and associated measures, though I also largely support the rest of the motion.

I have sympathy with the objectives of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods in reducing car traffic and pollution. However, I believe that the implementation of these, especially in Littlemore, has been both insensitive and unlikely to achieve these objectives.

Residents of Littlemore have for many years felt not listened to and 'done to.' But I have never known an issue raise such strong and divisive feelings as the LTNs. This is reflected in many consultations, most recently the Issues and Options survey for the Neighbourhood Plan, where much the most frequent response related to 'getting rid of LTNs'. Responses seemed to reflect which part of Littlemore respondents lived in and their age and background. As well as those living near Cowley Centre, residents in the most disadvantaged areas, especially blue badge holders, carers and businesses which need to carry tools, are very angry about what they see as unreasonable restrictions on their freedom, seeing the current set up as favouring those who are younger and able to walk or cycle. This is an issue of community cohesion and social justice, not simply traffic management.

The most important issue is how the Crowell Bollard stops cars and vans accessing Cowley Centre, which has always been the main place for shopping and other facilities. Linked to the lack of a frequent, reliable bus service, this results in longer journeys (and more pollution) and the accompanying frustration for those who need to use cars.

Pragmatic and workable solutions are needed. Opening up the Littlemore Road filter to vehicular traffic as much as possible, with the use of ANPR cameras, would go a long way towards reducing this sense of frustration and disaffection. I believe that the measures proposed to do so outside school travel hours should be actively and urgently investigated- and implemented as and when feasible. I emphasize especially the need to discourage traffic from travelling too fast on Littlemore Road. I urge you to support Motion 19, especially the elements highlighted.

Tony Eaude (Dr)