

## Traffic filters – Cabinet meeting – 29/11/22

I support the scheme in principle and so do many of the people in my division – except for the effect that it would have on Botley Road. If it goes ahead as proposed, *all the traffic* for the Westgate car park, the other car park in Oxpens, the Worcester St car park, the weekend car park at the College of FE, the railway station and various other destinations will be forced to use Botley Road.

Our officers agree that this may well cause an unacceptable level of traffic in Botley Road, especially at weekends (see Annex 6). What is their solution? Not fewer permits, as one might have expected. No – *more* permits! They propose to give 25 permits a year (or “additional exemptions”) to everyone in Oxfordshire (see Annex 7)! They argue that people will then be able to access all these car parks, etc, by other routes. They don’t seem to realise that in fact it means that even more people from the west will be queuing up to use Botley Road!

To grant day passes to even more people would be perverse. It undermines the whole principle of *reducing traffic* in the City. It also flies in the face of our core policies – COTS and all the LTPs. **Above all, no-one should be encouraged to drive past a park and ride car park. That is patently absurd!**

Far from solving the problem of congestion and pollution in Botley Road it would make it worse. There are already too many permits proposed for people coming from the west. Two wrongs don’t make a right.

As I have argued many times, the 18 000 people in Botley, North Hinksey and Cumnor should definitely NOT be entitled to receive 100 permits a year. There is no logical reason why they should get any permits at all: they live outside the City and they would be driving past the recently extended Seacourt park and ride car park. What possible justification can there be to give them 100 permits a year? I have certainly heard none.

***If you insist on granting 25 permits to everyone outside the City, it makes sense to include Botley, North Hinksey and Cumnor in that category, rather than giving them 100 permits. If you decide not to make this logical change, please tell us exactly why.***

*Susanna Pressel*