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I'm a parent at Larkrise Primary School, where I also volunteer at the school street scheme and help the school maintain their travel plan. On the 4th of February 2020, Larkrise surveyed all their pupils and asked them how they usually come to school: 35% had come by car. On the 5th of April 2022, the same survey was done, and now 14% come by car. As you can see, this is a huge change with three in five students who used to come by car having switched to active travel methods in just two years. Around 425 children attend Larkrise, so that means 90 or so more children now walk or cycle than two years ago.

What has changed in the last two years? Two major things: the Cowley LTNs, and Larkrise school street. In my opinion the bulk of this improvement is due to the Cowley LTNs. I know of children who now cycle to Larkrise (usually with their parents) from as far away as Blackbird Leys and Littlemore. It's the Cowley LTNs that have made this possible - previously they were driven.

It's not just school journeys where children benefit from the LTNs. More children in the area are now able to visit their friends independently. They can go by themselves to Florence Park. They can get to after school activities under their own steam. They can even sometimes play in the street. This independence is good for children's health, good for their development, and frees up time for parents too.

As well as the improvements in health and independence for both these children and their parents, this also has huge implications for congestion. The average child being driven to school is the cause of four journeys: to school and back in the morning, and then repeat in the afternoon. I don't think it is an exaggeration to say that this change at Larkrise has removed several hundred daily car journeys from the Iffley Road/Donnington Bridge Road junction. What's more, this isn't only happening at Larkrise - there are similar stories at all the other schools in East Oxford. If anyone ever doubts that traffic evaporation is real, tell them about these school commute journeys. These car journeys have not been pushed to other roads, they have become walking and cycling trips. The car journeys have evaporated.

There is also a social justice aspect to this. The poorest in society don't usually own cars: their children already walk to school. The pollution and risk from these school car journeys is largely caused by the better off, but they're not the ones to suffer the consequences.

In summary, the Cowley LTNs are absolutely crucial to the shift to healthy, active travel at Larkrise and all the other schools in East Oxford. This shift away from the car for the school run in Oxford is also important for congestion in the city. Please support making the Cowley LTNs permanent at the decision meeting on the 19th of July to avoid undoing all this good work.