

I live just outside an LTN. I don't have a car. Thanks to other people's cars, my kids are breathing unsafe air, by WHO standards. But so is every child in Oxford.

The number of cars on our roads has gone up and up for decades. Nobody was consulted about this, but we are all living with the consequences.

LTNs are part of the solution. They reduce traffic overall, and so they reduce pollution overall. That is what they were designed to do. Making it a bit more inconvenient to drive, they encourage people to try walking and cycling instead. I have seen this on my daily school run. There are so many more families cycling and walking to Larkrise now.

The Florence Park LTN has transformed our bike-based school run from a terror to a joy. There is space on the road where bikes are expected. There are fewer cars, so bikes are visible. My kids don't have exhaust fumes spewing in their faces. And they can hear me - my voice is no longer drowned out by traffic.

Traffic levels on some boundary roads have increased. But rolling back the LTNs would incentivise car use for short journeys. It would reverse the gains of the last eighteen months. Traffic would overall increase again. Before long, pollution on the boundary roads would creep up, carrying on as it has for decades. In the long term, rolling back the LTNs would do little good even for the people on those roads.

I believe the right response is to press ahead with further traffic-reducing measures for the boundary roads and for everywhere else in Oxford. I welcome the Council's ambitious plans for such measures. If it follows through with them, people both inside and outside the LTNs will see huge improvements in air pollution, congestion, and public transport journey times.

Rich people are far, far more likely to own a car (or two, or more) than poor. Allowing cars to drive through our city unfettered does not look like a way to help our most vulnerable families. Businesses may need support to adapt, and I am sure you will provide it.

All over the UK, elected leaders must confront difficult questions around transport, pollution, public health and climate. I am hugely grateful and excited to live in a county which is leading the way. Brave, thoughtful, inclusive work now will set us up to thrive in decades to come. Yours will be the example that others will strive to follow.

Thank you so much for your service to us and our children.

Ella Sinclair