

Salman Naqvi

Living on Morrell Avenue off St Clements has been an eye opener in judging how the LNS's have impacted the lives of residents.

The County Council and other elected officials have turned the laws of physics upside down with their notion that these LTN's are somehow going to reduce emissions. It seems to me as I look outside my front window that bumper to bumper traffic, far longer journey times and the general stress of individuals in their cars have been superseded by virtue signalling officials and their notions of green fanaticism. Money spent on data and research need not be wasted on this vanity project as the majority of residents in East Oxford have already spoken out in opposition to this policy. Their voices are being curtailed by enforcement leaflets, non-existent consultations and restricted one minute speeches in public at Cabinet Meetings.

A leaflet does not constitute a consultation. When you try to force through a policy you have to give the appearance of engagement with the people. You have to give the appearance of a democratic process. This so called consultation is an empty gesture to give yourselves cover against any objections from our community. Your parties invade other countries in the name of spreading democracy yet even at a local level Councils cannot exercise anything close to a meaningful engagement with their communities. Only when votes are to be earned is there a knock on the door. Only when its of political and personal benefit are we worthy of talking to. Our community is no longer subservient to your centralised, top down, dictatorial sclerotic institution.

As for the economic impacts upon businesses and individuals. We have lived through the restrictions of covid and now living through the cost of living crisis. Inflation which is a hidden tax to us all is far higher than the 9.1% bogus figure given to us by the Bank of England. Fuel costs are souring, and these officials decide to impose an additional hidden fuel duty tax via these LTN'S in the 2<sup>nd</sup> most unaffordable city in the UK.

The LTN's and the enforced removal of parking on streets like Morrell Avenue is a cost that local residents will have to pay to subsidise this student utopia being implemented by the Councils on behalf of the Universities.

Obviously there is a place for green policies and people should be encouraged to use AFFORDABLE public transport, walking and the use of bikes. The elderly including my parents are however unable to metamorphosise into young adults to satisfy this LTN paradox.

This policy must be balanced against public concerns that LTN's make pollution worse. They make people's lives worse. They make their journeys worse. To intellectualise a debate that these restrictions on our lives has and will impact this area adversely is in itself an insult to our common sense.

These policies has been undoubtedly the worst public relations disaster between elected officials and the people they pretend to represent.