

Tina Reid

I have been a resident of Oxford for the past 26 Years. For the past 22 I have lived in Iffley. A few weeks ago, it took me 40 mins to take my grandchildren (who we care for) to the dentist. A journey which normally takes 5 minutes. My grandson and I have asthma, and both had needed to increase our blue inhaler usage since the introduction of LTNs.

I used to find Oxford to be inclusive and dynamic. However, since the introduction of LTNs, I have seen a very different Oxford. I have seen neighbour shouting at neighbour - in the street. Our community has become divided and is angry. People on both sides are taking the law into their own hands. It is no longer harmonious.

I have also noticed that there is a lack of traffic outside rush hour, and I wonder where has it gone?

Why was it necessary to hijack our roads? We are local people living in a very small city. Our roads are not rat runs, they are how we get from A – B. Businesses depend on us being able to get to reach them. Emergency services need to get through- quickly and safely. Carers need to access the streets to get to their clients, quickly and quietly. I have seen loads of examples where this is just not working. Such as:

1. Smith and Low, a company trading since 1947, have reported a decrease in footfall and therefore trade. This is a long-standing Oxford company that is at risk of going under. Shameful!

2 A friend of mine who runs a local building business has said he will not work on certain streets in East Oxford as he cannot get there in time. If all trades people did the same, where would we be?

3 My hairdressers' travels from Abingdon and now must allow extra travel time between clients, she has put her prices up and indeed is threatening to give up completely.

We are fortunate to live in a wonderful part of the country, we have parks, canals and river paths where cyclists can bike to their hearts content. Why do they need to have priority on the roads? I am not a biker, and never will be. However, I am fully supportive of people riding bikes if they can. I also appreciate their need to be safe. Sometimes though it is not appropriate, we are a very small city with lots of people visiting. The roundabout at St Clements is one of those places where cyclists should dismount and cross the road.

In other parts of the country such as London, they are having to disband LTNs which just don't work, and as in Oxford have divided their communities and are seen as discriminatory. Why spend taxpayers' money on them, there has been no meaningful consultation, and no one could have foreseen the unwanted effects they have caused.

I am also worried about the new bus gates that are due to come into effect shortly, effectively preventing us from going through town. This will be the nail in the coffin. We will be prisoners in our little communities. Who wants to get snared up on the ring road with all the through traffic during the summer. I wonder if it's time to leave!