

## Written statement for meeting with the Cabinet Member for Highway Management

22 June 2023

Jason Mosley, Rose Hill, Oxford

Dear Councillor Gant

I am writing to express my strong support for the LTNs in Church Cowley, Florence Park and Temple Cowley. I would also like to express my dismay and disappointment at the prospect that they could be watered down by the proposed modifications (which I oppose).

As a Rose Hill resident, I live in a neighborhood which is already closed to through traffic. I own a car, and do access other parts of the city by car when necessary. However, one of the benefits of living in a city is the ability to move around without a car, whether walking, cycling or using public transportation. The introduction of the three Cowley LTNs dramatically enhanced my family's access to Florence Park, Cowley Centre (the shops), Temple Cowley (where my children attend secondary school) and Blackbird Leys (especially the pool) – as well as further afield (East Oxford in particular). The LTNs offered increased mobility and independence for our children in school – to get to/from school, to see friends in the area, and access services after school or on weekends – because of the reduction in congestion and the safety the policy brought about across this area.

At least, that is, until the wave of vandalism following the introduction of the East Oxford LTNs pilot, which spread to the Cowley LTNs.

The LTNs, along with complementary measures like the planned bus gates, offer a real chance at lasting improvements to Oxford's transportation system, building up from pedestrians, cyclists and other vulnerable road users, by increasing safety, decreasing congestion and making public transportation more efficient.

The proposals to create holes in the LTN system by removing physical barriers at Crowell Road, Littlemore Road and Crescent Road, and then to both a) switch to 'ANPR only' enforcement but also b) to provide exemptions for a range of vehicles to pass through these barriers, is a major backward step. The County has faced a huge wave of persistent vandalism (the most recent replacement of the Crowell Road bollard was vandalized within an hour). Instead of encouraging further vandalism, the County should enforce the existing design.

ANPR without some physical barrier (such as a lockable bollard) will certainly be abused, based on current motorist behaviour. The exemption of non-emergency vehicles, especially taxis, at Crowell Rd and Littlehay Rd will create rat-runs (used legally by taxis and illegally by many other private motorists, based on recent experience) and lead to increased traffic inside the LTNs. This will affect many people – but especially the most vulnerable road users such as children going to/from school and other activities in the area. This is not abstract: my family – my children – would be made less safe as a result of these changes.

I strongly urge you to reject these changes, to leave the physical barriers in place, and to devote adequate attention and resources to enforcing the existing design.

Thank you for your time.