

CABINET – 22 NOVEMBER 2016

ITEM 4 – QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Question received from the following Members:

1. From Councillor Howson to Councillor Nimmo Smith

“To ask what steps can be taken to stop cars and other vehicles parking on the cycle track along the south side of the Marston Ferry Road in such a manner that makes the use of the cycle path dangerous for those using it for cycling?”

Answer

Officers have investigated this problem and a traffic regulation order would be required to prohibit this use of the cycle track, which would likely also need to be supported by the installation of bollards. Unfortunately however there is currently no budget available for this work, but we will keep this matter under review should the funding situation change.

2. From Councillor Godden to Councillor Nimmo Smith

“An accident waiting to happen has happened. Earlier this week a cyclist was badly injured when she was knocked off her bike in collision with a car on the B4044 at Farmoor in my division. As you know, this council, as highways authority, agreed with TVPA that the B4044 was too dangerous for cycling when a request was made for a fund-raising cycling event earlier this year. Yet the road is a busy commuter route within good cycling distance of the City centre. A strong campaign for a cycle path along the existing verge has been going for five years. Will you now agree to include construction of a segregated path alongside the B4044 as a priority project in future road planning?”

Answer

“At this stage, the scheme needs further development to consider feasibility and funding potential. The council does not have a fully-funded future programme for such schemes and is required to submit bids which currently meet the central government agenda.

Our officers are, however, working with Bike Safe to develop the proposal so that it can better meet funding criteria that supports future growth and address the recognised local community concerns about current conditions for cyclists.”

3. From Councillor Bartholomew to Councillor Nimmo Smith/Councillor Hudspeth

“The Leader has given assurances that at this stage investigation into a Congestion Charge for Oxford will be given equal weight to a Workplace Parking Levy, yet the report is titled 'Workplace Parking Levy' and a Congestion Charge is only referenced fleetingly at paragraph 5. To avoid confusion, could the Leader and/or Cabinet Member please confirm that an updated Press Release and statement to Councillors clarifying the position will be released after the Cabinet meeting on 22nd November.”

Answer

“Paragraph 5 is more than clear that congestion charging will be investigated and considered as part of the process. We need to understand the cost of implementation of such a scheme.

I am sure that Cabinet will issue a full press statement after a decision has been taken.”