

Ken Pelton. Statement

I wish to speak on traffic filters and have two changes to request:

Firstly, Permit Numbers

- I represent the Village of Noke, a nearby village of 50 households with no public transport.
- There are no local amenities, and none within walking distance. Cyclists must use a main road.
- Many Noke residents must therefore travel to Oxford by car for employment, sports, health care, social lives and entertainment.
- This access will be severely impeded by closing Marston Ferry Road with consequent greatly increased congestion on the Ring Road and Banbury Roads. Journey distance and duration will significantly increase, increasing Noke's carbon footprint.
- If anything, Noke residents therefore need more traffic filter permits than Oxford City residents, who already enjoy good access to public transport.
- Not to give Noke residents at least equal numbers of permits is illogical and contrary to the equality objectives of the Central Oxfordshire Travel Plan. Such small increases in the numbers of permits would not frustrate the overall aims of the scheme.

Secondly, Electric vehicles

I invite the Council to exempt fully electric vehicles. This would constitute a minor change and allow the scheme to still operate as intended.

1. The bigger picture is this:
 - The rapid adoption of electric vehicles is at the core of both Central Government's and the County Council's transport strategies
 - The Council is working with the Government Office for Zero Emission Vehicles on several innovative projects to "help people go electric". The Council's own zero emission zone depends upon the adoption of fully electric vehicles and the Travel Plan considered by the Cabinet today promotes the use of zero emission vehicles.
2. One of the main disincentives to walking and cycling is the need to inhale traffic fumes, particularly from diesel engined cars, vans and buses. Thus, encouraging electric car adoption also encourages walking and cycling and protects health.
3. To extend traffic filter exemptions to fully electric passenger vehicles would strike a fair balance, be consistent with other schemes which work well, maintain access to amenities and be consistent with the proposed current traffic filter permits for passenger vehicles. Not to extend the permit scheme to fully electric passenger vehicles, is internally inconsistent, ignores the bigger picture and is a misapplication of statutory criteria.