

**Re: Agenda Item 17; Cumnor: Cumnor Hill (By Arnolds Way) – Proposed Puffin Crossing**

Dear Councillor Gant,

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to speak in support of this proposal.

The parish of Cumnor is made up of several communities with distinct and unique identities ranging from the more rural feel of Farmoor to the closely-knit community of Dean Court and the small village of Cumnor at the heart of the parish. Roughly 2,700 dwellings make up the largest rural community within the Vale of White Horse and the environment that binds the parish together is of enormous value to those who live here, work here, and visit here. This is attested by the residents, of which I am one of nearly 7,000 and by the engaged and motivated Parish Council that I currently chair.

For around a decade, residents have raised safety concerns over the traffic along Cumnor Hill, from the boundary with North Hinksey parish to the centre of Cumnor village, which serves as an extension of one of the main arteries out of Oxford. There have been cases in recent years where school children from Matthew Arnold school have been involved in traffic incidents along this road, at least two of which have resulted in hospitalisation. Recent traffic calming measures have helped improve the safety of Cumnor Hill for all; however, the parish has a footpath opposite Arnolds Way that runs to and from our Dean Court ward, which school children use before and after making their way to and from Matthew Arnold school. Other pedestrians, including pensioners and young parents with children, also cross Cumnor Hill at this point after using the bus services that alight along Arnolds Way and Cumnor Hill.

Residents and the parish council recognise that continuing with the status quo is not appropriate. We have increased traffic volumes across our parish whether it be cars, lorries, buses or bicycles. Oxford Road serves as a thoroughfare to two local schools in Cumnor parish. The number of school children that walk and cycle up and down the road has grown over the years and by formally implementing a route of safe passage across Cumnor Hill (at a point where the majority of pedestrians would need it) the aim is to prevent incidents, or worse, occurring again.

There is a large swell of support from within the community to mitigate the inherent danger presented to pedestrians by the traffic travelling along this road at present. Cumnor Parish councillors and our district and county councillors unanimously support this proposal in support of our residents, and we are confident that the installation of a puffin crossing as proposed alongside the previous measures implemented for Cumnor Hill has the support of those who live within and neighbour the Parish, as well as those who travel through it.

Cumnor Parish Council welcomes the report by the Corporate Director, Environment and Place recommending approval of the proposed puffin crossing as advertised. Cumnor Parish Council further notes that the proposals would help facilitate walking and improve road safety in the Vicinity.

Yours sincerely

Tom Christophers  
Cumnor Parish Council, Chairman