

Speech to County on Bus Gates – Councillor Emily Kerr

Oxford needs to work for everyone, not just those people able to afford private cars. We have to get the buses moving. Owning a car costs on average £3-4k per year in Britain, or £5-6k if you're leasing. This is getting ever less affordable for many. 50% of households in my Central Oxford ward don't own cars. Private cars are not the best or fairest solution to mobility in a city like Oxford – people rely on public transport, and the poorest rely on it most.

I implore you to take the opportunities offered by the Botley Rd delay, and use it to do two things: advance the ZEZ expansion and spend time putting better data measuring and traffic monitoring in place. Better data it will go a long way to helping make sure the bus gates are as effective as they can possibly be once they launch. And I would urge you to make this data publicly available in real time.

In conclusion, I urge you to adopt this resolution, which is essential to get the buses moving and make our city fairer for people who can't afford to drive.