

John Skinner

Labour's proposed amendment to the LTNs

I am planning to stand as an Independent Oxford alliance candidate in St Marys and I live in Marston St.

On the LTNs If you want to get the right treatment you need the right diagnosis. The labour diagnosis of LTNs is that the problems is congestion at the plain and private school traffic; their solution is to open Rectory Road and Marston St, talk nicely to the Magdalen College school and install traffic lights at the plain; miraculously this will make traffic evaporate, and enable public transport to work.

Years ago, there was an accident injuring a child at the end of my street. traffic calming was installed to stop cars crossing Cowley Rd from Rectory Rd to Marston St and preventing right turns. Rectory Rd traffic is routed to Cowley and Marston St traffic is directed to the Plain, the opposite of where people want to travel. Marston St and Rectory Rd are narrow with parking on both sides and not suitable for the purpose Labour propose.

The key measure to reduce congestion at the plain would be to open many of the side streets with major safety and traffic calming measures after talking to local residents.

Labour ignore the other problems of the LTNs including the constant jams on the ring road, the chaos arising from the Cowley LTN. Labour still support the lunatic busgates, the ANPRs on Divinity Rd, James St and Magdalen rd and banning blue badge holders access thru ANPR barriers.

The impact of the LTNs is not just failing buses, greater pollution and massive gridlock. The health impact is massive. The LTNs are strangling our health system; Emergency Services cannot get to patients; public transport to hospitals no longer functions at peak times; staff are leaving schools and hospitals for other towns where they can get to work easily. The daily chaos is delaying treatment and increasing the stress on sick patients worried about getting to hospital on time. No one here seems to care.

If Labour wanted to stop this they could pass a motion at the city council. They haven't. This motion is a cynical piece of political theatre designed to produce quotes for Red Rose election leaflets implying opposition to LTNs. The reality is Labour are scared because independents will be standing and they are frightened of losing.