



Addresses to Transport Delegated Decisions Meeting November 2024 Bicester Sheep Street Cycling Proposal

From: Robin Tucker, Co-Chair of the Coalition for Healthy Streets and Active Travel, Chair of the Oxfordshire Cycling Network.

We support the Experimental testing of cycling on Sheep Street in Bicester.

We are aware about concerns about this, and we agree with national guidance that in general walking and cycling should not mix. However, Sheep Street is wide, with defined pedestrian and carriageway zones, and some motor traffic is already permitted, notably on market days when this includes large goods vehicles.

The one analysis we know that analysed the risk to other road users from different modes of transport¹, shows that cycles were substantially less danger to others per mile than cars, and cars less danger than HGVs. So if the goal is reducing danger on the roads, then shifting motorised traffic to cycling is the way to go.

Considering the danger for people cycling, the alternative route of Manorsfield Road, is not suitable for most. It does not meet guidance levels for safety, because of traffic levels and lack of suitable infrastructure.

In summary, this scheme will reduce traffic danger for everyone.

The decision should be mindful of the benefits of cycling, most significantly: physical and mental health through physical activity, improvement in social equity due to better access for low cost transport, reduction in traffic congestion and reduction in climate change, in addition to the safety benefits already mentioned. There is also evidence, particularly from TfL and Living Streets, that people who cycle will bring more business to the shops and cafes.

It is important that this decision is based of evidence rather than feelings. We have seen cycling work safely in several other towns and cities, as set out in our submission. We believe Bicester's experience will be the same. But perhaps it will differ. So we agree the ETRO test, with monitoring for a period of months is an appropriate way forward.

¹ <https://injuryprevention.bmj.com/content/27/1/71>