

QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Questions are listed in the order in which they were received.

1. COUNCILLOR JAMES FRY	COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT
<p>The traffic light controls on the Marston Ferry Road/Banbury Road junction are extremely dangerous for pedestrians. Rather than wait three years or more for a full realignment of the entire junction to take place, please authorise urgent work to install pedestrian traffic light control buttons on the posts on the two corners of Marston Ferry Road. I don't want to hear more horror stories of people being hit or having very close shaves trying to get across the busy flows of traffic.</p>	<p>With current traffic flows, adding signal-controlled pedestrian crossings on these arms of the junction would necessitate both the complete redesign of the signal sequencing of the junction (which is likely to create excessive congestion - delaying key buses services), as well as physical works to the signals. The current signal equipment is not suitable for modification and as such the junction controller and other equipment would need to be replaced at a significant cost.</p> <p>The recorded accident history at this junction is comparatively good compared to many other locations both in the city and across the wider county – but it is recognised that recorded accidents do not necessarily reflect the perceptions of safety people using the junction may feel.</p> <p>It is considered that the current challenges and safety concerns may reduce when the traffic filter trial is in place, and this scheme may also enable the rephasing and redesign of the junction to have less of an impact - although funding to deliver this would still need to be prioritised.</p> <p>In other words, if Cllr Fry wants a better pedestrian crossing at the Banbury Road/MFR crossing, he must support policies to reduce traffic flows, which is exactly why the County Council is bringing forward the proposed congestion charge and filters scheme. He needs to be clear with residents whether he and his party support policies which will deliver the benefits he claims to want. The current policy of the Labour Party is to put cars first. It actively prohibits improving the junction in the way he describes, as he and I have discussed in person.</p> <p>He also seems to have a worryingly naive understanding of what an individual Cabinet Member can and can't 'authorise'.</p>

	<p>He might also wish to explain how he can justify being a member of the City Council Labour group, which supports the traffic filters, and the County Council Labour group, which opposes them.</p>
<p>2. COUNCILLOR JAMES FRY</p> <p>A topic close to the heart of the Cabinet Member for Transport. Will you provide exemptions from congestion charges for musicians bringing instruments into the city for rehearsals and performances? Several orchestras are worried about the impact of charges and penalties when the traffic filters are implemented.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR ANDREW GANT, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</p> <p>Many venues will continue to be accessible without passing a congestion charging point.</p> <p>A permit for personal cars used as goods vehicles on behalf of a business is proposed. Musicians may be eligible for this if they are attending venues in the Oxford Permit Area, which covers the whole city.</p> <p>To be eligible, musicians would need to demonstrate (like any other applicant) that they meet the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You must be a paid or unpaid employee of a business, organisation or individual • You must regularly work in the Oxford Permit Area or Central Permit Area and need to transport (using a car) goods, tools or equipment that are necessary for operational work purposes and cannot reasonably be transported by foot, cycle, or public transport • You or someone living at your address must be the registered keeper of the car for which you are applying <p>The evidence you will need to supply in support of your application is as follows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For employees, a declaration of eligibility from your employer in your name • For sole traders, proof of your trading status and a declaration of your eligibility • Evidence of work within the Oxford Permit Area or Central Permit Area within the last six months (such as invoices or payslips)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A copy of your vehicle insurance showing that it is insured for business use• The V5C (logbook) for the car you're applying for, showing that you (or someone living at the same address as you) are the registered keeper.• If you're not the registered keeper, proof of your address (so we can confirm you live at the same address as the registered keeper).
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