

CMD Transport (18 June 2026) City Cllr Katherine Miles - Proposed Crossings, Traffic Calming and Cycleways - Abingdon Road, Culham

I speak with multiple hats on. I am primarily here as a parent of children at Europa School. But I also as a Councillor have families in my ward who attend the school given its large catchment area. I am also a Lib Dem Councillor in Oxford and committed to the policies that the party seeks to implement through its county highways decisions, such as Vision Zero and the LCTP.

I strongly support the proposals for the crossing and side road entry treatment. First, the context for this crossing and side road entry treatment is that it's just immediately next to Europa school - a state school with children from 4-18 and also a nursery school on site. Its multi-nodal catchment area means children travel not only from nearby villages but also Oxford, Didcot and elsewhere. Many rely on the extensive school bus network but those nearest to the school often still drive due to the lack of safe active travel infrastructure connecting the school to nearby settlements. This creates congestion at peak school drop off pick up times and large numbers of vehicle movements at this crossing and junction. Currently the lack of safe crossing of the busy road means many children that could independently walk or cycle to the school, including those living less than a mile away, do not.

But some do and risk their lives in the process as they dash across the junction, without a lack of a dropped curb which is tricky to navigate with a pushchair and holding the hands of young children. The island is insufficient in size for cyclists, especially with trailers or cargo bikes which are needed to carry younger children to nursery and primary school. There have already been collisions and without action it's not a question if, it's when others will happen.

On the proposals for the Toucan crossing, I support the proposed measures but several minor adjustments need to be made.

Firstly, the proposed 3 m width of the shared path should be 3.5 m to ensure there is a buffer between the road and the shared path. This is because at its peak there will be people cycling in both directions and walking - and no one wants to be walking with young children so near to speeding vehicles in an area where we know current speed limits are not adhered to. Also this will ensure that those waiting to use the crossing will not block others using the path to travel to Abingdon or in the direction of the school and Culham campus.

Secondly, for the people cycling back via Tollgate road, there needs to be a wide dropped curb to enable those using the crossing, rejoining the carriageway can do so safely but also it is wide enough as many parents will have their child cycling next to them rather than behind them.

On the STRET measures, I support this proposal. Currently there is no dropped curb to enter Thame lane with a pushchair, and no pavement for pedestrians who need to walk down the lane to access the back gate to Europa school, which is the primary school entrance. Extending the pavement should also be considered.

Finally on the traffic speeds around this junction, based on the feedback you have received during this consultation. I call on you to consider speed reduction measures - a school zone - outside the school to 20mph during school drop off and pick up times.

As a Lib Dem - our policies support active travel and independent travel to schools by children, and we aim for vision zero. These measures are aligned to these policies. But they are just the start as more needs to be done and I hope this is the start of a journey towards improved infrastructure around this school site.

