

**The Transport Working Group\* (TWG) of  
Summertown & St. Margaret's Neighbourhood Forum (SUSTM)'s  
Comments on the funding and implementation of multi-modal road layout improvements  
to the Woodstock Road  
in connection with the Central Oxfordshire Transport Plan (COTP)**

We appreciate all the thought and hard work that has gone into COTP. It represents a mammoth planning exercise of an exploratory nature in terms of how to tackle the overall problem of congestion and connectivity in and around Oxford city.

TWG represents residents in Summertown living in Summertown & St Margaret's Neighbourhood Forum area, which includes Summertown district shops, businesses and students living in schools, college accommodation and private lodgings within our boundaries, encompassing :

- university colleges: Wolfson College, St. Hugh's and several university housing and playing fields;
- secondary schools: Cherwell, St. Edwards, Oxford High School, St. Clare's and D'Overbroecks;  
and
- primary and preparatory schools: Sunnymead/Cuttleslowe, St. Aloysius, Sts. Philip and James, Summerfields and the Dragon, as well as various nursery schools that .

Demographically, while our housing is primarily for families, there are quite a high proportion of elderly, mainly living independently but with some living in retirement homes.

Summertown's Woodstock and Banbury Road carry all the incoming and outbound motor traffic from the north and northwest where approximately 15,000 homes are being built or planned. Needless to say we are very eager to see a good workable plan to reduce car traffic while facilitating residents' means of going to and from their work, schools and recreational destinations.

We applaud COTP's aims to facilitate 'active travel' for pedestrians and cyclists. Two of our members attended the Co-production process during the Summer and Autumn of 2021 to plan the Woodstock and Banbury road corridor improvements and were very impressed with the level of detailed planning that was achieved and heartened by the stated fact that the funds (£15 million) had to be allocated straightaway, so that the implementation of the programme, particularly for the Woodstock Road was

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\* The TWG is led by Neil MacLennan with 7 other members: Brenda Boardman, Deborah Bryceson, Shamus Donald, Henk van Es, Alison Hill, Katherine Miles and David Nimmo Smith.

to begin very soon. To hear this Spring that the programme was 'paused' without explanation of why and when it would be resumed was extremely disappointing.

'Active travel' improvements have already been implemented on the Cowley Road, Botley Road, Headley Way, and most recently Iffley Road. Why has the Woodstock and Banbury road corridor been left out? This is particularly strange given the amount of new housing planned for north and northwest of the ring road, which represents an exceptionally heavy concentration relative to the perimeter housing planned for other part of the city.

Furthermore, in terms of the demand for active travel, as mentioned above Summertown, has an exceptionally large segment of the city's student population - university, secondary and primary school students who would greatly benefit from having safe dedicated pedestrian and cycle lanes. In addition, such road improvement would act as an incentive for economically active adult residents to commit themselves to non-motorized travel modes for commuting to and from town.

We hope that funding will be sourced for the implementation of Woodstock Road improvements in the very near future.