

## Holistic Plan for Highways and Transport

At the full council meeting in December 2021, we agreed to draw up a holistic plan for improving walking and cycling opportunities in and around Charlbury, as well as addressing traffic speeds and safety for all road users, as a key part of our Highways and Transport Strategy.

Our intention is to use the established framework of a Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan for this, which is the Government-mandated framework for local authorities. It recommends processes for engagement, gathering information, network planning and prioritising improvements.

Although there is no statutory duty on a town council to have an LCWIP, nor for a higher authority to pay attention to it, this is an established format with which Oxfordshire County Council is familiar (having drawn up LCWIPs for several larger towns itself). A similar 'community LCWIP' process has been followed in Abingdon, which OCC is now using for transport planning in the town, and which Abingdon Town Council is adopting as part of its Neighbourhood Plan. (We have consulted with Abingdon on the process.)

The LCWIP process ensures that all voices have an opportunity to be heard; that proper design guidance is followed; and that we learn from best practice as demonstrated in other towns' LCWIPs. Specific work will need to be undertaken to establish the needs of vulnerable road users such as disabled people and users of school and early years provision. We would then make this LCWIP available to OCC for future planning, to WODC for planning-funded improvements and constraints (as an additional document to the Infrastructure Delivery Plan which forms part of the Neighbourhood Plan), and to the Town Council for our own planning.

The information-gathering stage will be designed to maximise input from a representative range of residents and identify where support exists for speed reduction measures, including extensions to the 20mph limit. In due course there may be a need for area-specific consultation on priority measures.

The geographic scope of the LCWIP is Charlbury Parish and routes to nearby settlements such as Finstock, Spelsbury, Chadlington and Fawler.

The LCWIP process would be steered by the Traffic Committee and would intend to report by autumn 2022. Key inputs would come from:

- Richard Fairhurst (previous Town Council Chair with specialist knowledge in this field)
- Adjacent town and parish councils on issues relevant to them
- The Journeys team as a broader sounding board in which all Councillors can take part
- Residents, via an information-gathering process to be undertaken this spring.

The timing of the report is intended to coincide with TC precept-setting process (we may be able to obtain funding for some projects from external organisations such as OCC or DfT; other projects may need to be funded via the precept).

The consultation processes would be facilitated by members of the wider Journeys team as well as co-opted Special Interest Groups, such as Walkers are Welcome, and other volunteers, such as the 50 individuals who helped with the traffic survey in 2021.

The Council is invited to resolve that:

- Traffic Committee proceeds with the information-gathering process using the LCWIP framework, in conjunction with the Journeys team and other volunteers.

- A report on the information-gathering process is presented in late Spring 2022 describing:
  - a) the barriers to walking and cycling identified during the information-gathering stage, and
  - b) a range of measures to remove to these barriers.Traffic Committee would devise this list of measures (b) in conjunction with the Journeys team.
- Traffic Committee will formally consult the town on these measures in late Spring/Summer, in conjunction with the Journeys team and other volunteers.
- Traffic Committee will assess the results of the consultation, draw up proposals for funding the measures and present a report to Council in Autumn 2022 outlining how we will fund the installation of measures in the short-, medium- and long-term.