To: letters pages, Oxford Times

From: Hazel and Steve Dawe, Cowley Area Transport Group – [www.catg.org.uk](http://www.catg.org.uk)

53 Bulan Road Oxford OX3 7HU – 07747 036192 – 21st December 2020

Dear Editor,

We have responded to many local consultations in recent months. Most of these are on transport or have transport implications. Topics include: the Cowley area Controlled Parking Zone and Low Traffic Neighbourhood proposals; the local charging scheme for the ‘Zero Emission Zone’; the e-scooter trial for the East Oxford area; the City Budget consultation.

Unfortunately, there are some really important questions these consultations (and others earlier in 2020) do not address effectively:

How do we get more people back on to public transport on Oxford’s roads? There are clearly far more cars in evidence in the City recently, and a surge in delivery vehicles. We cannot see sufficient effort of funds by City or County councils to actively promote use of buses or trains.

We note that excessive housing calculations made for recently adopted Local Plans, including the Oxford City Plan, are now more open to question than ever before as the Government has withdrawn it support for its contentious housing algorithm (1). This is accompanied by raising urban housing targets for selected local councils and London Boroughs in England. Whilst this is to be welcomed as greenfield sites have better uses, the overspill from Oxford which the Government has supported is not being addressed. Urban extensions and rural housing developments near Oxford will typically have 2 cars per household, plus movements of delivery, utility and other vehicles. Since every district Council in Oxfordshire, plus the County Council, recognises there is a Climate Emergency and expresses concern about air pollution, it is time this was reflected in housing plans, with Government support. In short, we need full use of the existing built environment, brownfield sites and the wasted space above car parks, to provide social housing.

When will we see leadership on these major issues?

Yours sincerely,

Hazel and Steve Dawe – COWLEY AREA TRANSPORT GROUP – [www.catg.org.uk](http://www.catg.org.uk)

Notes:

1. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/12/16/government-revising-plans-mutant-housing-algorithm/> & <https://www.lgcplus.com/services/housing/housing-algorithm-changes-will-reinforce-home-county-nimbyism-17-12-2020/>