The Cowley Area Transport Group put in a submission to the consultation on the Electric Scooter trial destined for Headington. We are glad to see that the County Council agrees with us that 15mph is too fast and a 10 mph speed limit is needed for e-scooters. We also appreciate that our concerns about skills have been accepted and that users of e-scooters will need provisional or full driving licenses.

We would, however, dispute that this is a safe technology in the hands of those untrained in its specific use, especially on roads in Oxford’s rush hour/school run traffic. Rising levels of traffic as people are using public transport less under Covid lockdown appear to encourage poor driver behaviour. We would emphasise that current traffic conditions are potentially hazardous for unwary e-scooter users. We are not against e-scooters in principle but when traffic levels in the Headington area appear to us to be actually above pre-lockdown conditions, then their users – like pedestrians and cyclists, need to exercise considerable care so that accidents are avoided.

This is certainly not Active Travel so many would-be e-scooter users really should consider walking and cycling instead, throughout Headington and elsewhere in Oxford.

Hazel and Steve Dawe – COWLEY AREA TRANSPORT GROUP – 22nd January 2021