TO: letters pages Oxford Times

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

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Dear Editor,

We have recently completed the 3rd edition of the Cowley Area Transport Strategy, which can be found in the Reports section of this website: [www.catg.org.uk](http://www.catg.org.uk) Thanks to all those who have directly or indirectly provided ideas shaping the Strategy, which we will be passing on to local councils as a form of Supplementary Planning Document containing many specific transport measures people would like to see where they live. Considerable changes have occurred since the last edition, not just because of Covid 19, but because of more interest in Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and other means of reducing ‘rat-running’ through residential areas such as Bus Gates and traffic filters. Lockdown has encouraged more walking and cycling, and more Government action.

Surface transport in the UK is the largest sector for carbon dioxide emissions. Unfortunately, the Government’s efforts to dissuade people from using public transport have been all too successful. Bus and train services are little used and road traffic is close to being above pre-pandemic levels. These changes can be observed in Oxford and particularly in rush-hours at locations like the Green Road roundabout, Templars Square, at the Old Road-Slade-Windmill Road junction. People are even telling pollsters that they intend to continue avoiding public transport post-lockdown(1).

Oxford cannot cope with the traffic increases that are already appearing. For those who most need bus services, the decline in them due to limited use will lead to a new form of social deprivation in the City. In our view, both the City and the County need to ensure further action through their forthcoming Budgets. Apart from supporting Active Travel, there must be a step change in the promotion of bus services to support people in getting the services they need.

Yours sincerely,

Hazel and Steve Dawe, COWLEY AREA TRANSPORT GROUP

Notes:

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2020/dec/30/uk-public-transport-downturn-to-continue-after-pandemic-ends?CMP=share_btn_fb&fbclid=IwAR3irau0EyV5R-MG5TYM7UnbIpIudmD6Z7iVHk0u576Rx_GMr2YwYkPwqtU>