To: [letters@OxfordTimes.co.uk](mailto:letters@OxfordTimes.co.uk)

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

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15th August 2021

Dear Editor,

Oxford City Council is consulting on the next stage of the Oxford City Plan (<https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20067/planning_policy/1460/oxford_local_plan_2040> ), the consultation closes on 25th August. Documentation for this suggests a step up on previous version of the City Plan, but there are still issues outstanding.

Adapting to the Climate Change which is the consequence of past emissions means significant policy changes in Oxford. Actual global cuts in greenhouse gas emissions have yet to occur, and may not happen. Bearing this in mind, considering transport and green spaces, we have written a detailed report for the City Council about Adaptation (see under REPORTS at [www.catg.org.uk](http://www.catg.org.uk) ) to suggest policy improvements which are needed, including:

Ensuring traffic reduction in the City because hypothetical housing targets suggest massive traffic increases will occur in the future; a commitment to a Low Traffic City, more road space for bus lanes and more segregated cycle lanes, a big extension of pedestrianised and pedestrian priority areas in central Oxford and extending towards the rail station, and year on year reductions in car parking spaces both private and public. We can only cut air pollution and greenhouse gases in the City if measures like this are implemented. This effort can be funded if the City accepts our advice in our earlier report about Electronic Road Pricing.

A hotter City needs to keep all of its greenfield sites development-free. Extremes of rainfall already being experienced means even greater need for permeable green spaces to protect against all forms of flooding and drainage problems. Green walls and roofs would also help. We have no doubt that a cooler and more attractive central area, with little traffic of any kind, would be economically more successful in the future – for everyone who visits.

Yours sincerely

Hazel and Steve Dawe

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