To: letters, Oxford Times

From: Hazel and Steve Dawe, Cowley Area Transport Group

1st May 2022

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Dear Editor,

The Oxford Times of 28th April had several letters about Low Traffic Neighbourhoods(LTNs). However, let us all be very clear, opponents of LTNs are not indicating that they are in fact supporters of High Traffic Neighbourhoods. Junctions in Oxford in rush hours were operating at or over capacity by 2018. The City Council noted that ‘operational capacity’ was actually reached or exceeded on most of Oxford’s road network by 2013, and – apart from during lockdown – traffic continues to increase. Additional housing at the periphery of the City increases traffic. The County Council expects, by 2031, that there will be a 25% increase in journeys within the City and as much as 13,000 more car commuter trips per day(1). Increases in bus and rail fares do not help.

In the words of the World War II slogan: ‘Is your journey necessary?’

We need a Low Traffic City with a full roll out of Controlled Parking Zones which are a County policy, and traffic filters and bus gates to discourage rat runs and encourage people to walk, cycle and use the bus. If not, as the figures above demonstrate, we will continue to have many High Traffic Neighbourhoods with all the toxic air pollution, noise and contributions to greenhouse gas emissions getting even worse. We should welcome: council promotion of remote working; cargo bikes for more of our deliveries; parent-organised walking and cycling to school to cut rush hour-school run traffic; people cutting or abandoning cars for their household; far better cycling and walking networks and markings; selective cuts in car parking in some locations to discourage car use in the most congested areas.

Neither of us have ever learned to drive, and raised our children without a car. Yes, many others can do so, for the benefit of all of us.

Yours sincerely,

Hazel and Steve Dawe

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

Notes:

1. National Infrastructure Commission – Running Out of Road: investing in cycling in Cambridge, Milton Keynes and Oxford, July 2018.