To: letters at Oxford Times

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

12th June 2022

Dear Editor,

Responding to letters about Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (*Oxford Times,* 9th June 2022), the current cost of living crisis is one illustration of why Oxford needs to be a Low Traffic City. Even the AA is recommending people cut short car journeys and walk or cycle to save money on fuel(1). Since 58% of journeys in the UK are under 5 miles(2), walking and cycling are good options for the able-bodied majority, just as buses accommodate the less mobile. No one in these letter pages is actually arguing in favour of High Traffic Neighbourhoods, air and noise pollution or adding to greenhouse gases. NONE of the anti-LTN local election candidates in the last local elections were elected, since the electorate overwhelmingly preferred to elect from pro-LTN parties.

Oxford has a major traffic crisis requiring traffic reduction. The City’s junctions were all at or over capacity as long ago as 2018, in rush hours(3). More house building at the fringes and just outside the City will make this worse. Traffic calming, controlled parking zones and Low Traffic Neighbourhoods are all needed to reduce traffic. Residential areas need protection from rat running, as they do from non-residential vehicle parking. Pedestrianisation in the City Centre is also very poor compared to Canterbury, Norwich and York and is part of dealing with our traffic problems.

The high volume of traffic in Oxford creates parking problems including a lot of pavement parking which damages and blocks, or narrows, pavements. Apart from backing existing and future LTNs, our councils should work to adopt a pavement parking ban to take back our walking routes from vehicles. A healthy, cleaner, quieter Oxford is possible, when a Low Traffic City has been achieved.

Yours sincerely

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

Notes:

1. See: <https://www.glasgowtimes.co.uk/news/national/20200698.drivers-told-avoid-short-car-journeys-petrol-reaches-183p-per-litre/> & <https://www.redditchadvertiser.co.uk/news/20201995.drivers-told-avoid-short-car-journeys-petrol-prices-rise/>
2. <https://theconversation.com/car-dependency-uk-government-cant-cut-driving-and-build-lots-of-roads-at-same-time-134965>
3. National Infrastructure Commission – *Running out of road.*