To: letters at Oxford Times

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

4th December 2022

Dear Editor,

I am delighted to see that both Oxfordshire County Council and Oxford City Council will be backing the introduction of traffic filters on six major roads after the Botley Road closure has ended. Given rising traffic levels and junctions which are severely congested in rush hours/school runs, these councils have no choice but to take steps to reduce traffic.

I am concerned that some businesses actually believe traffic reduction may be bad for their business. Clearly, it is much more likely higher energy and food bills may continue to cut household spending until assertive action is taken by Government. However, businesses do benefit from online delivery, pedestrian and cyclist customers in Oxford all the time, and neither traffic filters nor LTNs actually make anywhere inaccessible. Suggesting this is tantamount to saying every cul de sac in Oxford makes its homes and businesses inaccessible, which is absurd.

However, if businesses, particularly in the City Centre, want more customers then they should unite in campaigning for large-scale pedestrianisation and better cycle tracks accessible for both ordinary and cargo bikes. Years of research, over decades, indicates pedestrianised areas have higher footfall than traffic-congested shopping streets (1).

C193 words

Yours sincerely

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

Notes:

1. See particularly: <https://small99.co.uk/energy/are-ltns-and-pedestrianisation-good-for-businesses/> & <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/our-blog/opinion/2020/may/what-are-the-economic-impacts-of-making-more-space-for-walking-and-cycling/> & <https://tfl.gov.uk/corporate/publications-and-reports/economic-benefits-of-walking-and-cycling> & <https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/media/3890/pedestrian-pound-2018.pdf>
2. Material on pedestrianisation more generally: <https://www.crowdguard.co.uk/2021/02/24/pedestrianisation-footfall-cities/> & <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/303891478_Benefits_of_pedestrianization_and_warrants_to_pedestrianize_an_area> & <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/273425506_Economic_Impact_of_Pedestrianisation_in_Historic_Urban_Centre_the_Valdemoro_Case_-_Study_Spain> & <https://www.southampton.gov.uk/news/article/southampton-city-council-to-implement-pedestrianisation-scheme-at-bedford-place/>