



Best wishes to all our members and supporters, old and new

Planning and Movement in Banbury

There are not many discussions with friends or acquaintances that do not, eventually, get around to bemoaning the problem of 'getting about' Banbury. Movement is essential for the economic health and vitality of our community and for the well-being of our members.

For this reason the Society is represented at the quarterly Banbury Traffic Advisory Committee and keeps a close watch on development proposals and infrastructure 'improvements' intended by the Highway Authority (Oxfordshire CC).

The Society has also put forward ideas to improve the bus / rail interchange at the railway station in the light of the increasing use of rail commuting that is taking place.

We are given to understand that the Local Transport Plan 4 (LIP4) is to be reviewed. Many, if not all, the difficulties arising from traffic movement arise, in our opinion, from the limited east-west routes available across the barrier formed by the railway, the river and the canal. The only routes available are Middleton Road and Hennef Way. The former passes through

a well developed residential area and is therefore unsuitable for volumes of traffic above that generated by the resident population and the latter is the main access to the M40 and destinations to the east. It currently carries approximately twice its designed volume of traffic which causes one of the two 'Air Quality Action Zones' in Banbury.

Planning proposals such as the expansion of Tarmac's aggregate unloading depot in Water Works Lane (off Hennef Way) and the predicted additional 160 HGV movements each way per day this



will generate, mainly for HS2 needs, adds focus on the capacity of Hennef Way and the effects on the health and well-being of the nearby residents.

The role of Hennef Way is further brought to the fore by the fresh proposals for the Banbury 15 (M40) site currently before the District Council.

It is understood the OCC has

been granted funds by the Oxfordshire Growth Board to investigate the option of creating another north-facing access./egress to the M40 from Southam Road at the Hardwick Hill bridge. On the face of it this could be beneficial by diverting an element of traffic away from Junction 11 and Hennef Way, but the diverted traffic will inevitably still use the Tesco roundabout, so there will be no reduction in traffic volumes for Banbury town as this option will not relieve the North Bar / Horse Fair / South Bar corridor, which is both key to movement around the town centre and also the other Air

Quality Action Zone. To this end the Society continues to support and promote the scheme that has been around for a good number of years to provided a new route across the river valley to the south of town in order to allow traffic from the west and south to access the M40 and destinations to the east without having to pass through the centre of the town ie. the South-to-East Link Road.

This we are told is presently 'too difficult and too expensive', so conditions in Banbury will continue to worsen as the population grows !

There have been an increasing number of planning applications during the past year proposing the conversion of

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accommodation above shops in the commercial core of town into residential use. The Society welcomes these as a means of 're-populating' the town centre, but when necessary we comment that proper provision must be made for refuse and cycle storage in order to ensure that there is not an unsightly 'rash' of refuse bins and other items left in public view in the shopping streets of the town. At the same time the Society, and the Town Council, are concerned at the trend towards conversions into H.M.O.s (Houses in multiple occupation).

Similarly the Society has made representations to both Cherwell and Oxfordshire regarding the proliferation of advertising banners on pedestrian guard railing and of developers 'direction' signs on OCC street furniture such as lighting columns and traffic signs. Such items reduce visibility and distract both motorists and pedestrians - as well as making the town look like a 'jumble sale'.

The review of the Banbury Conservation Area was completed in 2018 and thanks to the efforts of a member of the Society the inclusion of the historic part of

Neithrop has been achieved. Also members of the Society assisted the Council's Conservation Team by undertaking 'leg-work' on a street-by-street basis to update records and gather essential information.

We understand that the necessary notifications to affected residents / owners are in hand and these are expected to be completed in the next few weeks and will also be publicised in The Link.

When appropriate the Society's has been represented at meetings of the Planning Committee and, when there has been an issue of significant importance, they have addressed the Committee on the relevant aspects.



*Oxford Road,
Southam Road
and Bloxham
Road.*

The Society is represented at the quarterly meetings of the Town Centre by Robert Richwood, who reports that the last two meetings in 2018 were poorly attended by the other stakeholders, or even cancelled, but the most recent (in January 2019) was well attended and productive.

This meeting received a very useful Introductory talk by Iain Nicholson, the Interim manager of the Business Improvement District, the permanent manager having resigned in October (after 6 months). Iain will be in charge till a new permanent manager can be recruited.

The matters of interest raised by the Society

were received in a very positive manner :-

a) Society members will have observed that Oxfordshire C C is re-Instating block paving where unsightly patches of black tarmac had been laid either by utilities or where tree roots had caused an uneven walking surface. A 'soft flexi compound' is being laid to accommodate growth, but if there are any tarmac areas remaining, this is due to lack of information as to the locations and The Town Council is to identify any overlooked tarmac areas and advise O.C.C.

b) Ian Nicholson said that signage for shops and other facilities around the "Old Town"; is near the top of his "to do" list. All agreed that this was a sound idea subject to any signage complying with conservation area requirements. No short term action likely but given the general support is very likely to materialize this year.

c) the Society has drawn attention to the lack of bus timetable information, particularly for non-residents. The discussion revealed some lack of clarity as to which bus routes/services were actually authorised to use the bus station!

O C C were asked if they had responsibility for public transport Info throughout the County, but initially they said this was only for services supported by the County Council. Some further Investigation by the Town Council is needed.

d) Regarding the complaint by

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Are we alone here on Earth??

We are planning 2019! So let us tell you what we have in mind! We plan speakers and visits plus the usual dates for the Diary.

The first visit envisaged will be in May (weather permitting) to a half day at Jodrell Bank to look at the Big Dish and its younger brother which we all know are not to transmit Coronation Street. They are sometimes referred to as satellite dishes, but actually they are for receiving radio

waves from Space. If you look on their website, you will see Jodrell Bank also have extensive gardens and at a small extra charge we can have an expert explaining the technology and another for the gardening.

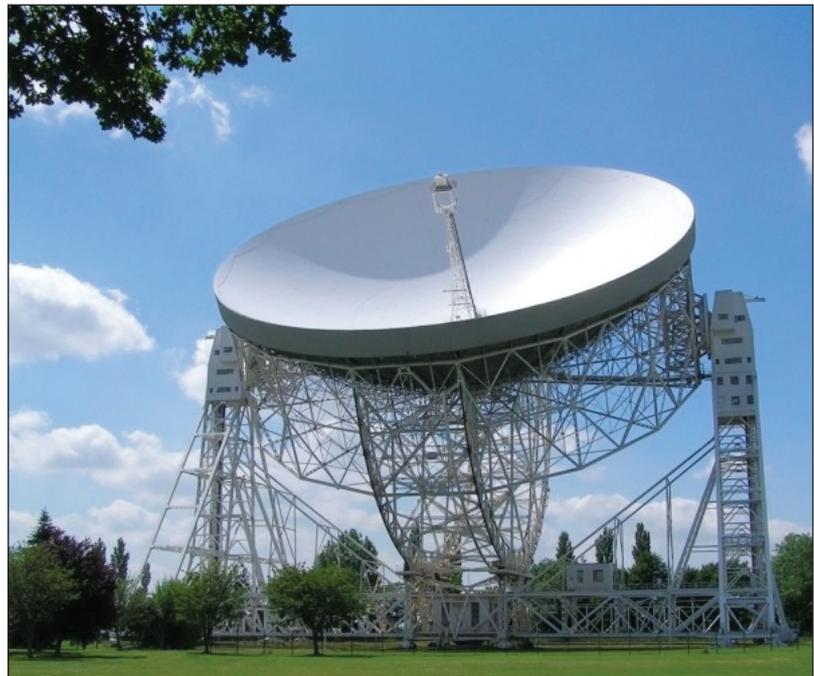
Very helpfully, they also say that if we want to make a full day out "why not visit Anderton?" What is this I asked? Well, it is short trip from Jodrell and is a Nineteenth Century Engineering Wonder – a boat lift connecting two waterways at different levels AND IT'S



the Society about unauthorised advertising on railings and lamp posts, there was a consensus that this was now out of hand, and only Town Council and "Save the Horton" posters/banners are authorised to be fixed to railings; although there are two locations that are excepted - the Bodicote flyover and the pedestrian bridge over New Windsor Street.

A positive point is that the Town Centre manager is to draft / roll out a strategy for dealing with this issue and at present the street sweepers were authorised to remove banners and posters - by cutting down where necessary. More action will be taken during February!

From the Civic Society point of view it seems we are pushing at an open door on all the above.





BIG! Both venues have very good feeding facilities.

By now you will have received an email asking for which date will suit you best.

Other dates for your diary will be our AGM in 19th June with speaker. A talk (possibly at a new venue!) about Recycling and hopefully about Plastics. We are also planning another outing in September/October possibly to Crich Tramway museum but we would welcome other suggestions.

NB The Society intends to have a stall at the People's Park 100th anniversary celebrations (14th. July) but NOT at the Banbury & District Show (9th. June).

Make sure you come and say 'hello' if you attend that event.

There is still a question mark over Canal Day 2019 in the light of the optimistic noises coming out of Cherwell D. C. regarding the construction of CQ2 - see Banbury Guardian 14th. February.

From Adrienne – Hon Treasurer



Anderton Boat Lift, between the River Weaver and the Trent and Mersey Canal

Administration

For some years now I have been using AOL for Group emailings. I am not 100% certain that all of you are getting these? They may have been going into your Spam box BUT I want to make sure I have your current email address accurately.

Would you be kind enough to email ME at adrienne.brown@btopenworld.com so that I can accurately put in your correct details.

You will also be pleased to know that we are working on re-creating our Website!

We do appreciate all your support and hope we will give you an excellent 2019.

Kind regards, Adrienne– Hon Treasurer

We hope this newsletter has been of interest to you and we would welcome feedback and /or assistance from the membership in the future. There are vacancies on the Executive Committee and if you wish to get more involved please contact the Chairman or a member of the Committee via Adrienne Rees Brown.

Peter Monk

For more information you can write to, phone or email Adrienne :
*Adrienne Rees Brown
The Corner Close, Epwell, Banbury,
Oxon. OX15 6LH (01295) 780334
adrienne.brown@btopenworld.com*