

OXFORDSHIRE LOCAL TRANSPORT AND CONNECTIVITY PLAN

Comments made by the Caversham and District Residents' Association (CADRA) to Oxfordshire County Council

With a membership of around 500 households and a wide reach across the community, CADRA has focussed on the quality of life in and around Caversham for over 50 years. It has an established and well-regarded role in commenting on planning issues to Reading Borough Council, South Oxfordshire District Council and beyond.

CADRA welcomes and endorses the consultation document's emphasis on traffic reduction, community safety and air quality. It is an imaginative and welcome response to those challenges.

However, we are deeply concerned that the application of these aims appears to cease at the Oxfordshire boundary. Caversham suffers profoundly from congestion, traffic danger and especially from poor air quality generated by traffic. Apart from that generated by Caversham itself, all this traffic crosses the border to and from Oxfordshire, heading for the two Thames bridges. There is no mention anywhere in the document either of this problem or of the most likely solution to it, which is the third Thames crossing. While recognising that this is controversial, we find it unacceptable that Oxfordshire residents should benefit from the Plan's fine environmental aspirations (for example, a Clean Air Zone in central Oxford), while Caversham falls well short of those aims through the impact of private, public and freight journeys generated by those same residents, and that these serious problems should be ignored in the Plan simply because of an administrative boundary. This is a huge and unacceptable inconsistency.

We therefore wish to respond to **Question 19 on the Regional Transport Network**. We note the references in the question to "climate change, improving air quality and supporting healthy place shaping" and are perplexed that while the text of this section recites various regional and cross-boundary projects and strategies it makes no mention at all of this pressing and controversial issue. We therefore request that the environmental problems created in Caversham by traffic with origins and destinations in South Oxfordshire, and credible solutions to them, should be explicitly included in the Plan's eventual consideration of the Regional Transport Network.

CADRA - 8 May 2020