

# NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM HELD AT SOUTH OXFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE

TUESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019

## 1. NEWS ABOUT LOCAL BRIDGES

Railway bridge to South Hinksey - whilst Network rail have agreed that any new bridge should be full accessible there are now no funds for the work and no prospect of anything happening soon.

The Pipe Bridge (end of Marlborough Rd over the Thames) is being surveyed to assess state and condition. There is a question mark over responsibility for repairs between City and County councils. The surface and lighting need improving. Puddles are dangerous in icy weather and need filling in. Antisocial behaviour needs addressing.

Former Gas Works Bridge (Nature Park) – this bridge carried coal to the old gas works and is of historic importance. It has been neglected of late but is now also being surveyed.

Marlborough Rd footbridge to Hinksey Park – this has been replaced. The Parks team are looking to improve landscaping and replant with indigenous flora.

There was discussion about the possibility of a bridge to link the Abingdon Rd area to the boat houses across the river. The council would support this but it would raise issues of rights of way and access to the Iffley Rd. The feeding of our ducks and swans was raised; yes, they should be fed but there was disagreement as to whether bread was suitable food.

## 2. FUSION – HINKSEY POOL

Last year was very successful with over 100,000 people using the pool. There were successful events such as the Swim for Leon and a Family Triathlon and also a less well received private booking which caused disturbance but won't be repeated. Numbers have an obvious impact on the local community and Fusion do what they can to minimise this particularly problems with vehicle parking by keeping the park gates locked and no access signage at the top of Lake St. Whilst dedicated park and ride buses don't stop at Lake Street the X3 does and the service is frequent. This year the season runs from 1st April to 30<sup>th</sup> September with prices frozen at last year's rates.

## 3. CITY CENTRE ZERO EMISSION ZONE

In January the City Council unanimously declared that climate change was a 'Climate Emergency' and the ZEZ is one way of trying to tackle this on a local basis. George St is the most polluted street in Oxford with very high levels of nitrous dioxide which is harmful to health. The ZEZ will be phased in between 2020 and 2030 will begin with a few streets in the city centre before expanding out giving bus operators and taxi firms time to adapt to meet tough emission standards. Ultimately all vehicles in the ZEZ will have to be electric. More information and further links can be found here

[https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20216/air\\_quality\\_management/1305/oxford\\_zero\\_emission\\_zone\\_zez](https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20216/air_quality_management/1305/oxford_zero_emission_zone_zez)

The impact of traffic to the new Westgate was discussed. The car park pricing encouraged traffic to the city centre as it was cheaper than the park and ride for a short visit. This needs addressing. Park and ride fares have been frozen this year.

#### 4. SOUTH OXFORD HEALTH CENTRE

Following the resignation of Dr Wooding the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group had invited other GP practices in Oxford to bid to run SOHC as a branch surgery and hoped to have a positive solution in place within months. The Patient Participation Group would be represented on the selection panel. It is very important that the centre doesn't close because of the problems this would create in accessing health care.

Dr Wooding and the practice manager, Liga Rugena, were thanked for all their hard work on behalf of the community.

The nationwide issue of the shortage of GPs and other health care professionals was discussed; this can be a particular problem in areas where housing costs are high. It was also pointed out that if SOHC were to close this would affect other services in the community such as the local pharmacy.

#### 5. OTHER MATTERS

Post Office – there are no plans for the shop and post office to reopen. A community initiative was suggested. Was there any support for this? The owners of the Londis shop which used to have a post office counter were not interested in taking on a PO again.

Bike thefts – apparently only 4% of stolen bikes are recovered but even so always report theft.

Tesco traffic lights – county council are against making any changes which will interrupt traffic.