

OXFORD PEDESTRIANS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER NO. 75
MAY/JUNE 2007

Welcome to Issue number 75 of OxPA's Newsletter!

1. 20's Plenty Action Day on Wednesday 25th April saw four local neighbourhoods campaigning for 20mph streets. People were out in numbers in Mill Street, Iffley Village, Quarry and Divinity Road Area. In addition people in Beech Croft Road were collecting signatures for our Life Begins At 20 petition for a 20mph city. There was excellent press and TV coverage on the day, and the County's new representative for Transport Implementation, Councillor Ian Hudspeth was reported in the Oxford Mail as saying *"We have heard loud and clear that people want 20mph zones. People have every right to feel safe in their local areas. It's a question of whether requests meet criteria and how each request compares with others in terms of priority."*

If you feel your street could benefit from 20mph and would like to start a campaign, contact Paul on 426805, or see the website - www.LifeBeginsAt20.org.uk

2. Summertown success - Following the County's public consultations on proposals to improve the environment on the Banbury Road in the vicinity of Summertown shops, OxPA submitted a suggestion that a 20mph limit be set for that part of the area. This has now been incorporated in the proposals. What has not been included is 20mph on the residential side streets that feed to and from Banbury Road. OxPA is pressing for these to be included in the 20mph area too.

3. Walk to School week 2007 will be 21 to 25 May. The theme is "Strider saves the Planet" - How you can reduce air pollution by Walking to School. Do please encourage your local school(s) to take part.

4. This year's Streets for People day will be on Saturday 22 September. Otherwise known as Car Free Day, the emphasis is changing towards the benefits of streets which are for everyone. That of course complements the objectives of Life Begins At 20 (see above).

5. International Walk to School Month – October 2007 - International Walk to School Month gives children, parents, school teachers and community leaders an opportunity to be part of a global event as they celebrate the many benefits of walking. This year, millions of walkers from around the world will walk to school together for various reasons – all hoping to create communities that are safe places to walk. Why not encourage your local school to take part? The County has a Walk to School Officer as well as a Director for Children Young People and Families. Write to them c/o the County at County Hall, New Road, Oxford OX1 1ND.

6. Walk to Work Day on Thursday 26th April . OxPA had not heard of this, but it was widely celebrated In London, where Mayor Ken Livingstone has committed to making the city the world’s most pedestrian friendly city by 2015. That’s a tall order, but Transport for London (TfL) is dedicated to delivering it. As part of this, TfL sponsored London Walk to Work Day.

7. The more you walk the more you smile is a slogan in London’s current walking publicity. Among other promotions there are London taxi cabs currently advertising the advantages of walking. Let’s hope we can persuade those in power in our city to recognise and promote the most sustainable, affordable and socially inclusive of all travel habits.



HELPERS WANTED

OxPA needs your help. Specifically, we'd like a couple of members to offer to organise our meetings, and to produce publicity about OxPA meetings and events. Neither job is highly demanding, but a little help with each or either of them would release our Secretary for other things. Do you fit the bill? If you would like to consider volunteering, do please contact Paul or Corinne (contact numbers below).

Next meetings

Tuesday 22 May 7pm at the Town Hall.

Help us review where to take our 20mph campaign next, and contribute to planning our own book of Oxford walks.

Sunday 10th June – OxPA’s Spring Walk in “unknown Headington”.

NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE – originally scheduled for Sunday 27th May: our apologies for the date change which was unavoidable.

We meet in St Clement’s Churchyard at 11am and walk up, on footpaths and quiet lanes, into Old Headington. Marston and Headington/Barton buses (numbers 13 and 8) pass the Marston Road/Headington Hill junction. Depending on the weather: picnic or pub lunch in Old Headington. Return on foot or by bus. Further details from Corinne (779663), or on our website.

Tuesday 26th June 7pm at the Town Hall – subject to be advised.

Contact Numbers (all are Oxford – prefix 01865)

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