

NUNEHAM COURTENAY
OXFORDSHIRE

JULY 2021

Dear Oxfordshire County Council,

This letter and the accompanying petition are a request on behalf of all the residents of Nuneham Courtenay - human, domestic and wild animals and peafowl - for measures to mitigate against ever increasing traffic through this unique Georgian village, much of which appears to be exceeding the 30mph speed limit.

In recent times two peafowl and a much-loved terrier have lost their lives on the road, killed by vehicles which failed to stop.

The County's current infrastructure plans, which include a possible Park & Ride at Golden Balls roundabout and the Didcot/Culham/Clifton Hampden relief road, which appears to be becoming remarkably similar to the plans for an Oxford-Cambridge Expressway, can only make our situation worse. We feel beleaguered and threatened.

As a first step, please will you place a solar powered VAS (vehicle activated sign) at each end of the village as a warning to alert drivers to the possibility of finding peafowl in the road. Unlike the warning signs for deer, ducks and toads, we know that this sign does not currently exist, however, given the loss of life caused by humans we feel justified in asking you to create these. Peafowl are classified as a non-native species, even though ours will have hatched here, so are not entitled to any protection from any of the wildlife charities. Unless a human will pay for a vet, they suffer and die alone. Non-native humans are not treated in this way, so why should our beautiful and iconic birds not enjoy the protection afforded to most other inhabitants of our islands?

This is a matter of concern to many and our petition contains names from outside Nuneham. We plan to campaign for a change in the law, so peafowl will enjoy the same protection as other wild birds. In the meantime, please afford them yours and start with the signs.

Thank you.

The residents of Nuneham Courtenay