

<b>Title</b>	County Councillor's Report
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	Berinsfield & Garsington Division
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## **Consultation(s) on Central Oxfordshire Transport Plan and trial traffic filters 2022**

The purpose of the **Central Oxfordshire Travel Plan** survey is to gather your views and feedback on the broader aims of the draft travel plan for Central Oxfordshire. This can be found at <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/central-oxfordshire-travel-plan>

This sets out the council's vision to develop a world-leading, innovative, inclusive and carbon neutral transport system with a focus on how people move quickly and safely around the area.

**The council is proposing a set of 22 actions** to help achieve a sustainable and reliable transport system across the Central Oxfordshire area, including **three major transport proposals for Oxford City:** traffic filters, a workplace parking levy and zero emission zone.

The three key projects will be subject to detailed and separate consultations, starting with this one on the **six proposed traffic filters:**

The county council is proposing six trial traffic filters, via an experimental traffic regulation order, from summer 2023 on key routes across Oxford to improve bus services and journey times, reduce walking and cycling accidents and improve air quality across the city.

The council is hosting two events to explain the proposals in more detail and answer questions. The events are open to all, but registration is necessary via <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk>

- Tuesday, 6 September, 5pm to 6.30pm: Wesley Memorial Hall, Oxford
- Thursday, 8 September, 6-7.30pm: Online event

Traffic filters are designed to reduce traffic levels across the city, making bus journeys quicker and more reliable and walking and cycling safer and more attractive. When they are operating, private cars will not be allowed through without a permit. All other vehicles including buses, coaches, taxis, vans, mopeds, motorbikes and HGVs will be allowed at all times. Residents within Oxford will be able to apply for a permit

allowing them to drive through the traffic filters on up to 100 days per year.

The traffic filters will be monitored by automatic number plate recognition cameras.

You can have your say on the proposed trial by filling in the consultation survey, which will be open from 5 September (12 noon) to 3 October 2022 (midnight). Please do take part if you can, because it's important for the council to know how these filters may affect residents across the county.

Trialling these filters is essential to enable OxonCC to receive the **£12.7 million of government funding for buses in Oxfordshire** as part of the Bus Service Improvement Plan, by improving bus reliability within Oxford (which has knock on effects for the whole county).

### **Come and join one of our Oxfordshire Conversations with OxonCC's leaders**

These public events will bring together residents and the councillors who lead the county council to talk about the big issues that matter to you and your communities. There are seven events taking place – two online and five in locations across Oxfordshire.

Do come along to ask our decision makers your burning questions and share your priorities to help us shape our budget during these tough times, as we all face significant financial pressures as a result of the present cost of living crisis. The events are open to all, but you need to [register](https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshire-conversations). <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshire-conversations>

- Monday 12 September, 11am - 12.30pm, online (Microsoft Teams)
- Monday 12 September, 7pm - 8.30pm, Abingdon, Guildhall
- Wednesday 14 September, 7pm - 8.30pm, Witney, High Street Methodist Church
- Thursday 15 September, 7pm - 8.30pm, Oxford, Old Fire Station
- Monday 19 September, 7pm - 8.30pm, Banbury, The Mill Arts Centre
- Wednesday 21 September, 7pm - 8.30pm, online (Microsoft Teams)
- Thursday 22 September, 7pm - 8.30pm, Didcot, Cornerstone Arts Centre

If you aren't ready with your question at the time of booking, you can:

- email it to [consultations@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:consultations@oxfordshire.gov.uk) ([External link](#))
- hand it to a member of the council's support team when you arrive at the event
- type it in the chat box, if you are attending online
- when invited, ask a question during the event itself.

No question but keen to listen? All welcome but please make sure you book your place.

## **Homes for Ukraine update: Three-month free bus passes**

OxonCC has been working closely with Oxford Bus Company, Stagecoach, Thames Travel and Arriva to offer three-month free bus passes to any Ukrainian on the Homes for Ukraine scheme. The passes will enable guests to travel extensively in their local area, as well as access Oxford city. There will be a number of passes available and suitability will depend on where the guests are living, working or what journeys they are more likely to need to take.

Guests can apply for one bus pass and the county council will pay for and administer the process. The government's support funding – £10,500 funding per Ukrainian – for the Homes for Ukraine scheme will be used to purchase the passes from the bus companies at a 20 per cent discount. The county council will therefore be providing Ukrainian refugees with a grant in the form of a subsidised bus pass.

We are aware that some areas of Oxfordshire will be served by smaller bus companies that are not included in these passes. We are continuing to work in partnership with these companies to explore expanding our transport offer. For those who live in areas not served by any bus companies, particularly those in rural villages, we are also working with Community First to build an offer of community transport. Information about the scheme will be published on our shared partnership [Homes for Ukraine webpages](#). We will communicate directly with guests and hosts as soon as the webpages are live and explain how the scheme works, what free passes are available, and what they need to do to obtain one.

## **Homes for Ukraine continued: Helping guests take their next step**

We are actively working on arrangements to support our Ukrainian guests and hosts who are approaching six months of their sponsorship arrangements. We want to ensure that hosts and guests receive all the help they need so that arrangements that are currently in place can continue, wherever possible.

Some guests may have agreed with their host to extend their sponsorship arrangement, others may have plans to independently move on, while others may require a new host. Our aim is to work with our guests to help support them with their living arrangements and assist them with taking their next step when they are ready – whether that is settling in Oxfordshire, moving elsewhere in the UK, or ultimately going back home to Ukraine.

We are writing to hosts who are approaching the four-month mark to thank them for all their support to date and ask if they would continue their hosting arrangement beyond their original six-month commitment. In the email, we are underlining the importance of continuing

relationships wherever possible as they provide stability and security for guests and avoid further disruption.

We are also contacting guests to encourage them to have open discussions with their hosts so they can plan next steps together – whether this is extending current sponsorship arrangements or moving into private rented accommodation.

We are also doing all we can to support the rematching process. The city and district councils are managing any rematching cases that are identified and are contacting people who have expressed an interest in becoming a host so we can find new sponsors. A new three-strong team is being established, hosted by the city council, to lead on the rematching of households where sponsorship arrangements cannot continue.

General queries on Homes for Ukraine:

- **Website:** [oxfordshire.gov.uk/ukraine](https://oxfordshire.gov.uk/ukraine)
- **Oxfordshire Ukraine helpline:** +44 1865 966444 / 01865 966444 (opening hours: 8.45am - 5pm, Monday to Friday. Closed weekends and bank holidays).
- **Email:** [ukraineresponse@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:ukraineresponse@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

For housing and community support in South Oxfordshire:

- [southoxon.gov.uk/ukraine](https://southoxon.gov.uk/ukraine)
- **South and Vale helpline:** +44 1235 422600 / 01235 422600 (press option one). Opening hours: 8.30am-5pm Monday to Thursday, 8.30am-4.30pm Fridays, Closed weekends and bank holidays.
- **Email:** [communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk)