

# Risinghurst & Sandhills Parish Council

Chair: Barbara Naylor (01865 453910)

Clerk: Sonya Hill (01865 779946)

7 Bampton Close  
Littlemore  
Oxford  
OX4 6NN

11<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Dear Mr Mauz

## **Ref: A40 London Road (Oxford) Proposed Prohibition of Vehicles**

We write in response to the consultation regarding the permanent closure of the current gap in the barrier on the A40 dual carriage way opposite the Neilson site.

This large site has been sold and is due to see significant development for much needed homes for Oxford. Indeed, we understand that the old office buildings are being refurbished now and will be made into apartments and could house over 300 new residents; potentially this could equate to 600 extra vehicles. However, given the proximity to regular bus services, a cycle route into Headington and to Cowley many new residents from this site may chose not to have cars, but many others will have no choice but to drive for work, school runs etc and will wish to turn right towards Wheatley, the M40 and London.

We understand that this will not be a car free development and given the increased number of vehicle movements we feel it is a sensible proposal to close the gap to not allow right hand turns across the A40 for many vehicles.

However, this will inevitably put a greater number of vehicles onto the A40 towards, through and around the very busy Green Road roundabout. An incident at this roundabout sees queues form back towards Cowley along the Eastern bypass, back through Headington (which often comes to a standstill making poor air quality), from the London direction and causes problems for residents trying to exit Barton estate and Risinghurst estate from Collinwood Road. With the greater volume of traffic, drivers will seek other routes, notably through residential roads. Risinghurst and Quarry residential roads are already congested at peak times. Given that the A40 gap opposite Collinwood Road junction has been closed we anticipate even higher numbers of 'rat runners' though the residential areas, many ignoring the 20mph speed limit.

In addition, there will be increased private vehicle movement from the Barton Park estate which will have no choice but to drive through the Green Road roundabout thus adding to the already high volume of journeys.

We understand that a feasibility study is being undertaken for a light controlled pedestrian crossing for the A40 near the Collinwood junction. We would like to suggest that given the increase in the number of vehicles from the Neilson site that a full traffic light junction with the function to allow vehicles to turn right towards London and the M40 be given serious consideration.

As the local Parish Council, we support the permanent closure of the gap in the barrier on safety grounds but would urge the County Council to consider the longer-term implications for our residents and those yet to move into the Parish.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

*Sonya Hill*

Parish Clerk

Risinghurst & Sandhills Parish Council

Copy to Cllr Yvonne Constance, Cabinet Member