

Wheatley and Littleworth WI submission to WNP Evidence Pool Sept/Oct 2016
Response to questions put by vice-Chairman WNP Roy Gordon

1 Is the Merry bells fit for purpose? : The general feeling was that the Merry Bells is fit for purpose and that it provides a hub for the community. It is central in the village and has parking facilities but it was commented on that the parking facilities are not adequate and time limits should be enforced. It was thought that the building would benefit from refurbishment. One suggestion was that the main room could have a folding divider to widen the room's scope of use. The kitchen and bar areas could be improved and the toilets should have the code locks removed. The building should be used more for dances, tea dances, exercise classes etc to be more of a community asset.

2 High Street Shops: The general feeling was that the High Street could do with tidying up and that the shops would benefit from being painted. Seasonal hanging baskets would help cheer up the parade of shops and the area close to the shops that used to site the public toilets could be made into a garden area, perhaps with raised beds and with benches for people to meet, chat or elderly residents could have a rest before heading back home.

3 Parking in Wheatley: It was felt that there is not sufficient parking in Wheatley. Parking should be time limited and **enforced** to help stop the "Park and Riders to Oxford". There should be double yellow lines along the wall of the recreational park and playground by the lock up as this area is both dangerous for both pedestrians and road users. There should also be enforced time limited parking by the Church/behind The King and Queen Pub car park and on the High Street by the pharmacy. There are also parking issues by the school especially at drop off and pick up times. One suggestion was that a car park be created for the use of parents and that the entrance to the school should be widened.

4 Traffic Issues: Traffic volume is high in Wheatley during peak time hours. Crossing roads has to be done with caution. It was suggested that there should be a STOP sign at the bottom of Holloway Rd and The High Street. The pavement on Station Road along by the barber's shop is narrow and can be dangerous to pedestrians with children or dogs. Cars ignoring the double yellow lines to park and get fish and chips causes chaos at peak times! From those who took part in the questionnaire none were Park and Riders but did use local buses. One comment was that there should be a bus to Cowley.

5 What is missing from Wheatley?

- Cafe that opens both days at weekends for use especially by residents who work during the week
- A good restaurant or Bistro/pub for the use of residents and to bring people into Wheatley
- More use of the Merry Bells for Community events
- Public toilets
- A Charity Shop
- A Drapers Shop
- A hard ware shop

Oxford Brookes University Site Issues

1 Will Housing Development affect you?: The general feeling was that this development would affect all residents of Wheatley with concerns mainly regarding traffic and increase demand on services eg Schools, the Doctors, Dentist etc.

2 Would you like to Downsize? There was some interest in downsizing from present accommodation and likewise to a mixed/retirement development but plans would have to be seen first.

3 Facilities at the new Development?

- Shops
- Bar/Cafe/ Restaurant
- Hairdressers/Beauty salon
- Grocery shop
- Swimming pool

With particular thanks to Hilary Hallsworth

