

Dear Mr Ronald

I live on the A415 in Marcham and so am one of the residents most affected by the traffic it carries.

I leave for work at around 7:30 to 8:00 in the morning and the most noticeable benefit for me has been the short breaks in the steady stream of traffic rushing round the last bend opposite the Priory and accelerating past the nose of my car in the direction of Abingdon as I try and pull out of my driveway.

I was sad to see that following the flooding on Saturday the trial seems to have been abandoned and the traffic lights removed. Gone is that crucial short break in the traffic that allowed me for a few precious days to get on my way without a long wait in the mornings.

I also welcomed the more peaceful evening rush hours with the traffic crawling past my gate on the way to the bends from Abingdon rather than roaring up to the first bend often ignoring the 30mph limit (as has been the case every evening until recently).

I would love to see the traffic light experiment made permanent and I was pleased to see already an increase in pedestrians from properties at this end of Howard Cornish Road braving the temporary safe footway round the bends (presumably) on route to the pub and post-office.

I no longer had to cycle all the way round Howard Cornish Road to reach the post-office or church or risk reckless drivers involving me and oncoming cars in a collision while I pedal as hard as I can through the bends (although traffic still risks colliding with oncoming cars or driving me off the road in attempts to cut past me opposite the Baptist church). It is much easier for me to dismount and use the temporary footpath than detour all round Howard Cornish Road.

When we have my Father-in-Law to stay with us (who is in his late 80s and unable to walk long distances) it would be very pleasant to be able to safely take him round to the centre of the village on his own two feet along the bends. Up until now he has been stranded in the house, being unable to negotiate the path past the Priory or the footpath round the Anson Field.

I think one improvement I would like to see is a yellow hatched box at the crossroads by the pub to encourage drivers queuing from Frilford to leave space for drivers coming in the opposite direction to turn right into North Street. I also hope that the pair of traffic monitor cables stretched across both carriageways opposite my frontage on the A415 would NOT be a permanent feature.

These have seriously increased the noise nuisance when any car travelling faster than 20 mph drives over them. I would have liked to see a temporary 15mph speed restriction to reduce the noise from these.

I sincerely hope that the traffic light trial will be re-instated and look forward to a time when we have permanent lights round the bends and I can greet old friends and make new ones as they use of the new route to the village centre past my front gate.

BOB ANDERSON

Dear Editor

I am one of the many commuters who travel through Marcham each day to get to work in Abingdon. I noticed the signs about the traffic flow experiment due to start on 10th July. I phoned the Oxford Highways Department for information to be told that this would consist of traffic lights to create a one way traffic flow and a footpath at the narrowest part of Packhorse Lane. I was told that this was requested by Marcham parish council.

I was in a queue of traffic in Marcham caused by recent temporary traffic lights, installed for building work, when I noticed another poster 'Where should people walk' that enabled me to find your website.

Reading comments on the website gave a rather different impression to that conveyed by the Oxfordshire highways officer. It was obvious that most people in Marcham would prefer a bypass, which has been requested for 27 years and repeatedly turned down by the Department of Transport.

I am sure that you would find most commuters who are forced to inflict themselves on Marcham morning and night would agree with the residents and would far prefer to use a bypass. Marcham could revert to a small village undisturbed by through traffic. A much safer, more desirable place to live.

From recent experience when the temporary traffic lights were in place, traffic queues backed up through Marcham. If this happens during the experiment, air quality in Marcham will deteriorate (I am a vehicle emissions engineer and I have made measurements with similar traffic flow modification schemes in other areas that have resulted in quadrupling of local emissions levels).

Recently I was following a lorry through Marcham when it had to stop and reverse to allow a 40 foot long articulated lorry coming in the opposite direction to pass at the narrowest point between the two houses on Packhorse lane. If one of those lorries had been held in a queue by traffic lights, unable to move, the village would have been gridlocked in minutes.

I am afraid that if the traffic lights and footpath were to become a permanent installation it would be a lose/lose situation. The commuters would be delayed and

queues would back up through Marcham causing regular gridlock and inconvenience to residents. The only winners would be the Department of Transport who could say 'we have listened to the residents and acted upon their request' and would not have to build the bypass that most local people want.

The bypass is projected to cost £14 million which is an insignificant amount compared to the £430,000 million pounds of tax collected from British motorists last year. Put crudely the Treasury takes 17 minutes to acquire enough money in taxation from motorists to build a bypass for Marcham.

I am disappointed in the performance of Ed Vaizey (my MP too) who should be pestering both Oxfordshire Highway Department and the Department of Transport until the money is made available for a bypass.

I suspect one reason that the residents of Marcham are ignored is their relatively small numbers. I suggest that residents and the parish council use the forthcoming traffic experiment to conduct a petition of commuters. Put up some notices explaining that you would really like a bypass. Commuters will be stationary at the traffic lights. I expect most commuters would be happy to sign a petition for a bypass and you may generate a very large petition quickly.

After the traffic chaos that has been caused in the centre of Abingdon by the meddling of Oxfordshire Highways, I am not looking forward to this experiment in Marcham.

I hope that you will consider collecting a petition for a bypass whilst you have the opportunity.

A. READING

Dear Editor

Next year Marcham Women's Institute will be celebrating 60 years since it was formed in March 1948. The Institute closed briefly at the end of World War Two in June 1945 and we have a few documents and records of activities in the village as early as 1924 when we believe the original WI was formed.

We are hoping that some of the MADNews readers may have photos, programmes, paperwork, memories or anything connected to Marcham WI from before 1945, or even more recent material to help put together a small display of the History of Marcham WI.

If you have anything hidden in the attic – dig it out now please.

SONIA EDWARDS

President Marcham WI Tel. 391442



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