



# CONNECTING OLD WOODSTOCK



Is your trip to school or town like this..... or like this?

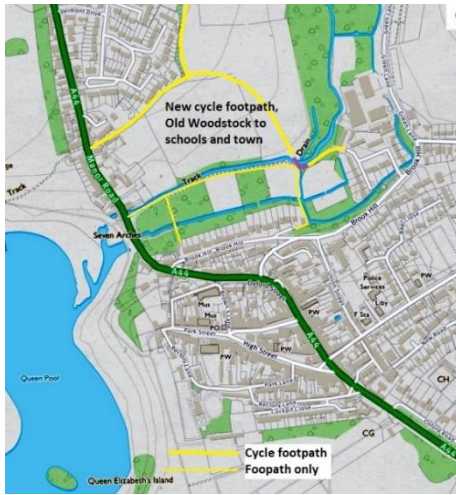


In 2019, Community First Oxfordshire, a community development charity, was jointly commissioned by Woodstock Town Council and Blenheim to ask local people how they wanted to see the town grow? How it might prosper as a community? What it would need to assure its well-being. What were the threats to its future and how might those threats be contained?

Second only to the need for a new surgery were concerns about walking and cycling on the A44, in particular from Old Woodstock to the schools and to the town centre.



Since then, Blenheim have offered to build an off-road cycle footway with a new bridge across the Glyme into the town watermeadows and Glyme Close for safe and easy access between the town and Old Woodstock.



The watermeadows are a precious area of countryside in the heart of Woodstock and a full scale tarmac path would not do. Blenheim's plans provide a well surfaced hard gravel path and a simple timber footbridge.

In 2014, the town council commissioned a safety audit of the watermeadows. The recommendations included

widening and improving the surfaces of the paths through the meadows to encourage greater public access. A new cycle footway across the Glyme will go some way to support this as well as providing a lovely countryside walk from the town through to the Community Woodland or to Blenheim's new Dorn Valley woods. It will also help the 300+ families living in Old Woodstock without any safe and convenient route to the schools, the surgery, the shops, the library or the swimming pool. The A44 in Old Woodstock carries 12,000 vehicles per day, some 600 of them HGVs. The pavements are less than four feet wide in places and the road itself is narrow. Parents walking their kids to school live in fear of a mishap. Older people, less sure footed feel intimidated and anxious on the Manor Road pavements.

Woodstock Town Council can help us by agreeing to Blenheim's proposals for a safe, environmentally sensitive cycle footway across the Glyme to the watermeadows.

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