

Your concerns

In the community survey we carried out last Autumn the majority of you who responded told us that the main difficulties you face living in West Oxford are:

Traffic, Flooding or risk of flooding and Air Pollution.

You said that the volume of traffic and the congestion made it unattractive for all cyclists but especially children and older people, and the inadequate and badly-surfaced cycle lanes made it dangerous.

Every breath we take

Air pollution is mainly a result of car emissions. Its harmful impacts on health are known. The Royal College of Physicians recently published a report, 'Every breath we take' which concluded that: exposure to air pollution as an unborn baby or young child can have a long-lasting negative



effect on his/her health; and 40,000 deaths annually in the UK are likely to be attributable to air pollution. The report calls on us all to take action to address air pollution. You can read the report on our website: www.lcwo.org.uk

How clean is our air?

Oxford City Council monitored air pollution in Botley Road last year. Average figures for the year will be available soon. LCWO took its own measurements at four sites for two months last Autumn to get a snapshot of the level of air pollution. It was below the legal limit set by the EU, but at one site it was only *just below* the limit, suggesting the need for further investigation. We'll follow this up with the city and county councils. We also plan to support Friends of the Earth's air quality campaign and call for clean air. For more information please visit our website: www.lcwo.org.uk

What can we do to reduce air pollution?

Combating climate change and improving our health are closely linked. Action taken on reducing carbon emissions will help reduce air pollution and have a positive effect on health. As individuals we can all play our part. The following suggestions are adapted from 'Every breath we take'. We can:

- learn more about air quality and keep ourselves informed
- try taking the bus and train, or walking or cycling eg for short journeys
- buy or lease an electric car if appropriate
- make our home as energy efficient as possible
- keep our gas appliances and solid fuel burners in good repair
- ask our city and county councils to take action such as to improve cycle lanes and reduce the number of commuter journeys along Botley Road into the city
- ensure the government fulfils the pledges made at the Paris Climate Change talks

As individuals taking action together and insisting on action by local councils and national governments, we can achieve a significant reduction in air pollution and improve our health.



LCWO volunteers show that cycling is smarter, quicker, cheaper, greener, happier and healthier!

Home energy projects

- In our community survey nearly 60% of you who responded said that you would like advice and practical support to reduce your carbon footprint and 64% said you would find a **street-by-street or neighbourhood initiative** to insulate homes 'quite or very helpful.'
- We are continuing to seek funding to run our pilot project to offer **energy efficiency advice from experts and practical support to local residents** in their home, on a street-by-street basis.

Pop up green events across Oxford

- **Low Carbon Oxford Week, 11-19th June**, has activities for everyone, to inspire you to cut your carbon emissions, cut fuel bills, get fitter & improve air quality. Here are just 2:
- test drive an electric car, 19th June, Magdalen College School.
- Pick up ideas to cut food waste & a few freebies, sign up to the 'Pledge for Veg' & find out about LCWO's plans, 17th June, by Waitrose entrance.

For details about all events go to: <http://lcoweek.org/events/>

Flood prevention

- Find out the preferred route for the **Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme** at a drop-in event on 28th June at the Town Hall: www.facebook.com/oxfordscheme

Recent rainfall good for Osney hydro

The first full year of generation at Osney Lock Hydro (OLH) came to a close in May with a total of 143,365 kWh of green electricity generated, equivalent to the power used by more than 40 average households. Generation from hydro fluctuates significantly year on year in response to local river conditions and this was taken into account by the OLH team when they worked out their expected generation targets.



In the 8 weeks since 1st April 2016 OLH generated over 50,000kWh, more than a quarter of their annual target. As we move into summer, generation is expected to slow down as river flow drops, then pick up again in the Autumn as we approach the main generating period. For more about the project and the latest generation figures please visit: www.osneylockhydro.org.uk

The future is community energy

The Low Carbon Hub (the Hub) is a social enterprise working for a big change in the UK's energy system. They currently have 25 renewable energy projects in operation, all owned by the community. They have just launched a share offer to raise funds to build a hydro scheme at Sandford and install solar panels on the roofs of 18 schools and businesses across Oxfordshire. The Hub's surpluses are put into further community-owned renewable energy projects and activities to reduce carbon emissions, fuel poverty and energy demand in the county.

If you have £250 or more to invest please visit www.lowcarbonhub.org Offer closes 11th July. You can help shape our local energy system whilst earning a good financial return. Be part of the community energy future – it's one way to make a difference locally on a global issue.

