



FOUNDED BY C. E. ALLEN, O.B.E., B.E.M., IN 1946

THE VINTAGE MOTOR CYCLE CLUB LTD

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James Gagg
Oxfordshire County Council
Infrastructure Strategy & Policy
County Hall
New Road
Oxford OX1 1NG

25th May 2020

Dear Mr Gagg

Local Transport & Connectivity Plan - Engagement Activity LTCP5

I am writing on behalf of the Vintage Motorcycle Club (VMCC). We are the UK's largest motorcycle club, with over 14,000 members, including large and active Sections covering Oxfordshire, the Cotswolds and the Chilterns¹.

We have recently been made aware of your consultation and wish to respond as an interested party. Many of our members are older and rely on traditional printed paper and face-to-face meetings for communications. Lockdown has delayed our response, and in the circumstances, we ask you to accept this late submission.

A report prepared in 2016 for the Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs report shows that the classic vehicle market is worth £5.5 billion spent per annum and employs 35,500 people. Motorcycles represent 29% of classic vehicles and there are around 150k owners of vintage and classic motorcycles out of the 1.2M motorcyclists in the UK.² An update in 2019 showed "that 60% of owners say owning a historic vehicle is one of the most important things in their life."³

¹ [VMCC Sections](#)

² [FBHVC SUMMARY REPORT](#)

³ [FBHVC SUMMARY REPORT](#)

A Non-Territorial Club affiliated to the A.C.U., M.A.G, A.M.C.A, member of the F.B.H.V.C.

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From reading the consultation documents, our current concerns are:

Constraints on the Banbury Run

One of the VMCC's many connections with Oxfordshire is the Banbury Run, which takes place every summer and is the largest gathering of veteran and vintage (pre-1931) motorcycles and three-wheelers in the world.⁴

This sell-out event engages 600 riders and thousands of spectators, attracts international visitors⁵ to Oxfordshire and contributes over £100k to the local economy.

The effect of change on individuals

The benefits of motorcycling for the health and well-being of individuals⁶⁷ are well documented⁸, and we understand the Council has a statutory obligation to take into account the needs of the elderly. In our view it would be manifestly unreasonable to attempt to compel an older segment of the population, some of whom may have limited mobility, to switch to public transport or cycling.

Lack of provision for older motorcyclists

Despite legislation that safeguards their interests, our members question the lack of provision such as dedicated parking suitable for use by older riders⁹. Our members feel that their needs have not been taken into account when OCC has been preparing proposals to impose restrictions. .

Removal of access for older motorcyclists

We are concerned by OCC imposing a total exclusion of motorcyclists from greenways (such as the Ginge Brook) in circumstances where a more considerate use of Traffic Regulation Orders could allow a degree of motorcycle access for established users, and secure a better and non-discriminatory outcome for the transport needs of the wider public.

⁴ [Banbury Run - Home](#)

⁵ [2013 Banbury Run Part 1](#)

⁶ [The rise of the silver bikers: 'I feel like a teenager again'](#)

⁷ [6 Surprising Benefits of Motorcycle Riding](#)

⁸ [5 Mental Benefits Of Riding A Motorcycle](#)

⁹ [IHE Guidelines for Motorcycling](#)

Inaccurate stereotypes of motorcyclists within OCC

The OCC consultation documents on motorcycling appear to be based on erroneous stereotypes of bikers from a bygone era¹⁰ to the point of being offensive to the 1.2M motorcycling community.¹¹ . In reality the evidence shows¹² that motorcyclists in Oxfordshire are more likely to be a mature, diverse and responsible¹³¹⁴ user group who add much value to society in Oxfordshire and whose needs are best catered for in the same way as any other groups of legitimate users of Oxfordshire's Highways.

Yours sincerely



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Bob Clark MA (Oxon), MSc, FMA, FSA Scot
VMCC Chair
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On behalf of the VMCC Board

¹⁰[Once you strip the stereotypes, riding a motorbike starts to make](#)

¹¹ <https://www.bennetts.co.uk/bikesocial/news-and-views/blog/can-middle-england-really-ban-motorcycles>

¹² <https://www.saga.co.uk/magazine/motoring/motorbikes/enjoying/bikers-over-50>

¹³ [Bennetts reveal Britain's 'average biker'](#)

¹⁴ [Ride on: bikers over 50](#)