**The Oxford/Cambridge Expressway Report May 1st, 2019**

Our Parish Council has joined the No Expressway Alliance (NEA) and below is an update on its activities:

* “On the NEA website there are three downloadable presentations from the conference in Bicester held on 30th March at <https://www.noexpresswayalliance.org/stopping-the-expressway-a-no-expressway-alliance-conference/> . These are to be circulated with these minutes.
* The next general meeting of NEA will take place on Wednesday 15th May from 7 to 9pm in the Wesley Memorial Church, New Inn Hall Street, Oxford.
* NEA are looking for a lead member from our overall area . Colin Thomas of SPADE has offered to carry out this out on a job share basis so if anyone else is interested in sharing this role please contact NEA direct.
* On July 7th there will be a walk around Otmoor to publicise the Expressway issue. They are suggesting that other walks could be organised, for example one around Botley / Sunningwell / Cothill. It is likely that North Hinksey Parish will be involved in organising something along those lines, but any other Councils wishing to participate / help organise such an event should contact NEA (or David Kay if wishing to be involved in a walk around the Botley area).
* There may possibly be a major rally at Brill, Buckinghamshire on July 27th. Details TBC.”

Diane Bohm attended a meeting of the Western Parishes group where an interesting discussion regarding various Councils stances on the expressway stood on a 1-5 scale. Of the 18 Parishes, 8 have agreed to a position of being against the Expressway as a whole whichever route is decided. A total of 5 of these parish Councils have already joined No Expressway Alliance or have agreed to join. Several other Councils are not planning to join NEA, but may have simply not decided yet. Some Councils would prefer an expressway which sorted out the issues of the A34, traffic through villages and dangerous lorry driving on rural roads.

It is important to note that NEA is campaigning body whilst organisations of Parish Councils are Consultative public bodies and have a right to be heard by Government. Thus the importance of local groups insisting on having a voice, especially over the next few months.

Some suggestions for all of us are:

* continue the pressure for bus routes as alternatives to using cars for commuting
* Councils to consider approaching alumni of Oxford/Cambridge Universities to be part of a protest against the expressway
* consider an activity in your area that could attract the press

The Overarching A34 group that met in our hall in the autumn will be re-convened in June to extend the work that is being done in the wider region.

Diane Bohm

Chair