



The Friends of Abingdon
Civic Society

Re applications for planning consent:

11/02008/FUL, 11/02009/FUL, 11/02010/FUL, 11/02011/ADV, 11/02012/ADV

The Friends of Abingdon Civic Society is gravely concerned about the road safety implications of the proposed Tesco Express convenience store to be opened on the site of The Ox public house in Oxford Road, Abingdon.

According to the plans submitted to the Vale of White Horse, parking for up to 23 vehicles at the rear of the building is to be provided. The access from Oxford Road to this parking area is extremely narrow and there is no scope for it to be made wider. Since an application for only one 'Hello-Goodbye' sign has been made, this suggests that this road will be used for both entry and exit even though there is no room for vehicles to pass each other. Even if a one-way system is adopted with access to the car park from Oxford Road and exit into St John's Road, there will still be problems. The access into St John's Road is shared with access to private garages and the view of pedestrians is obstructed by a wall and hedge. St John's Road itself is narrow and is usually reduced almost to single track by parked cars. In addition, its junction with Oxford Road has poor sightlines with visibility to the left impaired by overhanging trees.

The exit/entry on to Oxford Road is immediately adjacent to a pedestrian crossing and a well-used bus stop. The crossing, which was installed after two fatal accidents, is used by large numbers of schoolchildren on their way to and from school. The juxtaposition of children on foot, children on bicycles, and cars struggling to get into and out of the Tesco Express car park will increase the risk of traffic accidents. Buses along Oxford Road are very frequent (approximately every 10 minutes) and most of them stop at The Ox. Although there is a layby, buses cannot always get into it and stop across the access to the parking area. This is likely to cause traffic hold-ups in Oxford Road, particularly at busy times, in addition to causing yet another hazard to pedestrians and cyclists.

Because of the parking difficulties there is likely to be an increase in on-street parking, particularly in St John's Road (if there is room), Box Hill Road, and even in Oxford Road itself, creating further road safety hazards.

We feel strongly that these traffic problems need to be addressed before the store is given permission to advertise its presence and we hope the council will consider this when deciding on these planning applications.

Mrs R Nichols

September 2011