



**Councillor  
Andrew  
Prosser**



**Brigitte  
Hickman**



**Andrew  
Lyon**

# WITNEY'S CHILDREN NEED CLEAN AIR

## Health suffers as Witney awaits air quality action

West Oxfordshire District Council declared Bridge Street and surrounding junctions an "Air Quality Management Area" in 2005 - **but no action has been taken.**

The area has one of the highest levels of air pollution in the country. **Air pollution is a contributing factor in 1 in 20 deaths in Oxfordshire** – mostly in people with heart or lung disease. In children, pollution can **prevent the lungs from developing properly and worsens asthma.** In pregnancy, it is linked to problems such as pre-term birth.

**Green Councillor Andrew Prosser** said, "Whether you're in a car or walking through the area, you're breathing toxic air, especially during rush hour. **Adding 1400 new homes in North Witney will only increase the problem.** It's a serious health issue and needs radical changes."

In February, Andrew spoke at a public meeting on air quality, organised by the Green Party at the Witney Corn Exchange. Since then **he has been pressing the District Council to come up with an air quality action plan** to address the problems of traffic pollution in the town.



**Cllr Andrew Prosser: North Witney Housing Development will worsen traffic pollution on West End**



**Cllr Andrew Prosser (3<sup>rd</sup> from right) with other members of the Town Council displaying the flag of the Refugee Nations to mark World Refugee Day**

## WITNEY NORTH ELECTS FIRST GREEN

### Andrew Prosser elected to Witney Town Council

In May 2019, **Councillor Andrew Prosser was elected** for Witney North with 658 votes (the highest vote share of any candidate).

**The first Green on the Town Council since 2009**, Andrew now sits on the Planning and Development Committee, where he is already making changes. His proposal to **improve bus stops by adding cycle racks and recycling bins** was welcomed and developer funding has been found for two of the new bus stops so far.

On 6 June, **Andrew represented Witney North residents at the wreath laying** at the war memorial on Church Green to mark the 75th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings.

Andrew also attended the Witney Community Primary School summer fête, where he spoke to the Head Teacher and the Chair of the Friends of WCPS about **how the Council could better support the school.**

# COUNCILS DECLARE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

District and Town Councils commit to climate action



West Oxfordshire District Council and Witney Town Council have **declared a climate emergency** after receiving a petition from local residents – including many Green Party members – on 26 June.

The Town Council committed to help the area **become carbon neutral by 2028**.

Councillor Andrew Prosser said, “We must now **urgently develop an action plan to slash climate emissions - by improving housing, installing solar panels and encouraging a mass shift to cleaner, greener transport.**”

## TOSS IT? NO WAY!

Help Helen to bring Repair Cafés to Witney!

Got something that needs some TLC, is a bit broken and you haven't had the time or skills to fix it yourself? Don't throw it away, **bring it to a Repair Café!**

Helen Gavin helps organise Repair Cafés in Oxford and would like to start running them in Witney. **If you'd like to help and have fixing skills** (sewing, mechanical, electrical, bikes, IT...), **please get in touch!**

[Helenhgavin@gmail.com](mailto:Helenhgavin@gmail.com) 07811922502



## COMMUNITY BUSES

More than just transport

In July 2016, Oxfordshire County Council scrapped all bus subsidies. More than 50 services stopped the next day, and bus companies have continued to cut more and more routes since.

Green Party campaigner **Andrew Lyon** is among a small group of dedicated people who have **stepped in, setting up West Oxfordshire Community Transport (WOCT)**, where Andrew is Head of Operations. WOCT is a not-for-profit, community-owned bus operator; it runs the **213 and 214 routes, which serve north Witney** at half hourly intervals in the morning and hourly up to 17:20 in the afternoon.

**“Many of the routes are a vital lifeline for those with no other way to get around,”** Andrew explains. “The bus for so many is more than just transport, it's a kind of social club atmosphere. Many people would be lost without it.”

## CAN WE HELP?

If you have a comment or query about our area, we would love to know. Here are the ways you can get in touch:



**Councillor Andrew Prosser**  
[andrew.prosser@witney-tc.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.prosser@witney-tc.gov.uk)  
01993 703522



**Brigitte Hickman**  
[brigitte.hickman@greenoxford.com](mailto:brigitte.hickman@greenoxford.com)



**Andrew Lyon**  
[andrew.lyon@greenoxford.com](mailto:andrew.lyon@greenoxford.com)

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**TOWN COUNCIL BY-ELECTION:** Following the Labour Councillor's resignation, a **Town Council by-election will be held in Witney North on Thursday 29 August**. If you will be away on holiday, you can **register to vote by post or by proxy** (where you nominate someone to vote for you): visit [www.westoxon.gov.uk](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk) or contact Electoral Services on 01993 861410 or [elections@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:elections@westoxon.gov.uk) a.s.a.p.

**ELECTRIC BIKES PUT THROUGH THEIR PACES:** Windrush Bike Project held an electric bike try-out event on 27 June. Green Party campaigner **Brigitte Hickman**, who organised the event, said, “It was a lot of fun! **E-bikes are brilliant – they make cycling an everyday option for many more people.**”

# ANDREW, BRIGITTE & ANDREW: WORKING HARD FOR WITNEY NORTH