



Councillor
Andrew
Prosser

CAR-FREE DAY SHOWS WHAT'S POSSIBLE

Green Councillor Andrew Prosser is promoting more active travel in Witney

Following a proposal from Green Councillor Andrew Prosser, on 22 September Witney Town Council joined other towns and cities across the world participating in World Car-Free Day, with an awareness campaign to encourage and support people in giving up their cars for the day, and guided cycle rides into town.

Speaking alongside the Mayor, Andrew kicked off Car-Free Day at the regular Saturday Witney Park Run at West Witney Sports Ground. The 350 runners were encouraged to leave the car at home on the day or share lifts. Windrush Bike Project was on-site to provide bike check-ups.

This year was about raising awareness. Next year there are plans to **open up more streets** to children's games, sports and activities, and the Council is planning a map and much better signage of the best cycle and walking routes in and around town.

Cllr Andrew Prosser said, **"Increased use of public transport, and more active means of travel, will lower noise and air pollution in the town, support health and fitness activities, reduce congestion, strengthen community ties and, of course, support urgent action to reduce carbon emissions."**



Cllr Andrew Prosser on Car Free Day, finding out about the challenges faced by mobility scooter users in getting around town.



Cllr Andrew Prosser and Brigitte Hickman speaking with residents in Witney North

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS

By-election shows strong Green support

A big **thank you** to all of you who, in the middle of summer, took part in our campaign to get hardworking Green Party candidate, Brigitte Hickman, elected to Witney Town Council in the by-election on August 29th. Whether by voting for Brigitte, putting up a poster, helping out on one of our action days, or taking the time to tell us about what matters to you, you have played an important part in our efforts to strengthen the Green voice on your town council, and to speak up for residents of Witney North.

It was a very close result. Brigitte was only 14 votes behind the winning candidate. **Brigitte is committed to following up on the issues which you raised during the campaign and will continue to support our existing Green Councillor, Andrew Prosser.**

SCRAPYARD SCREEN FOR FARMERS CLOSE

Greens push for new hedge planting after scrapyard fire

Sixteen months on from June 2018, **Green Councillor Andrew Prosser is concerned that residents are still seeing the unsightly remains of the scrapyard fire in Farmers Close.** The Council has cleared up the effects of clouds of black smoke and asbestos in the surrounding area but the ugly view remains. He said "We are keen to screen this area off with new hedge planting and this will be on the agenda for the next council meeting."



LIGHTING THE WAY

Andrew supports call for solar lighting on Woodford Mill path

In 2015 Green Party campaigner Brigitte Hickman organised a **petition requesting solar lighting for the path across Woodford Mill Meadow** which attracted over 600 signatures. A mother who signed the petition said "**I will not let my children use the path to come home from school once the clocks go back as it gets too dark.**"

This path is **the only traffic-free route into town** from Witney North, avoiding pollution along Bridge Street which remains an Air Quality Management Area. Despite this, the County Council refused to act on the petition at the time.

This issue has been ignored by our local councillors until now. **Green Councillor Andrew Prosser, who was elected to the Town Council for Witney North in May,** is asking why the concerns of residents about this key route for walking and cycling into Witney town centre have not been addressed and **calling on the County Council for action.**

WITNEY'S CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Public invited to shape climate emergency response



Clean energy: solar panels on a house in Witney North

Witney Town Council is taking responsibility for driving down harmful climate pollution locally. The Council declared a climate emergency in June and **Andrew Prosser is one of five councillors on the Climate Emergency working party,** developing a comprehensive plan to improve green transport options, insulate buildings and support clean energy.

Green Party member Rae Cather attended the first meeting of the working party on 11th September and said, "**I am very impressed at the tack that the council is taking. All the points that were brought up at the public meeting in July are being reviewed.**" The aim is to keep the public closely involved."

CAN WE HELP?

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



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NEWS IN BRIEF

REPAIR OF RIVER BANK BY WOODFORD MILL
Residents have raised concerns and fears for wildlife due to the failure to repair a damaged riverbank and breach of the River Windrush west of Woodford Mill. The work is the responsibility of West Oxfordshire District Council and is now scheduled to be fixed by the end of October.

TEENAGERS TEAM UP TO TACKLE WASTE
In August Andrew went to show his support at a National Citizen Service team building event for 15-17 year-olds on the Leys in Witney to improve recycling and reduce throw-away plastic use. He commended their "fantastic, community-led work."

ANDREW PROSSER: WORKING HARD FOR WITNEY NORTH