

## **The Plain and East Oxford Traffic**

### **Keeping traffic moving at The Plain, & restoring connectivity between East Oxford & Headington**

#### **A Proposal from the Independent Oxford Alliance**

#### **Executive Summary:**

The proposals, informed by local knowledge and long experience, involve taking pressure off The Plain roundabout by restoring the route to Headington and the hospitals, together with other measures to mitigate issues that were causing problems prior to the post-2019 LTNs. **As well as removing all post-2019 LTNs**, it involves some new one-way streets and revisions to previous arrangements, to result in quicker and smoother traffic flow, including, importantly, for buses.

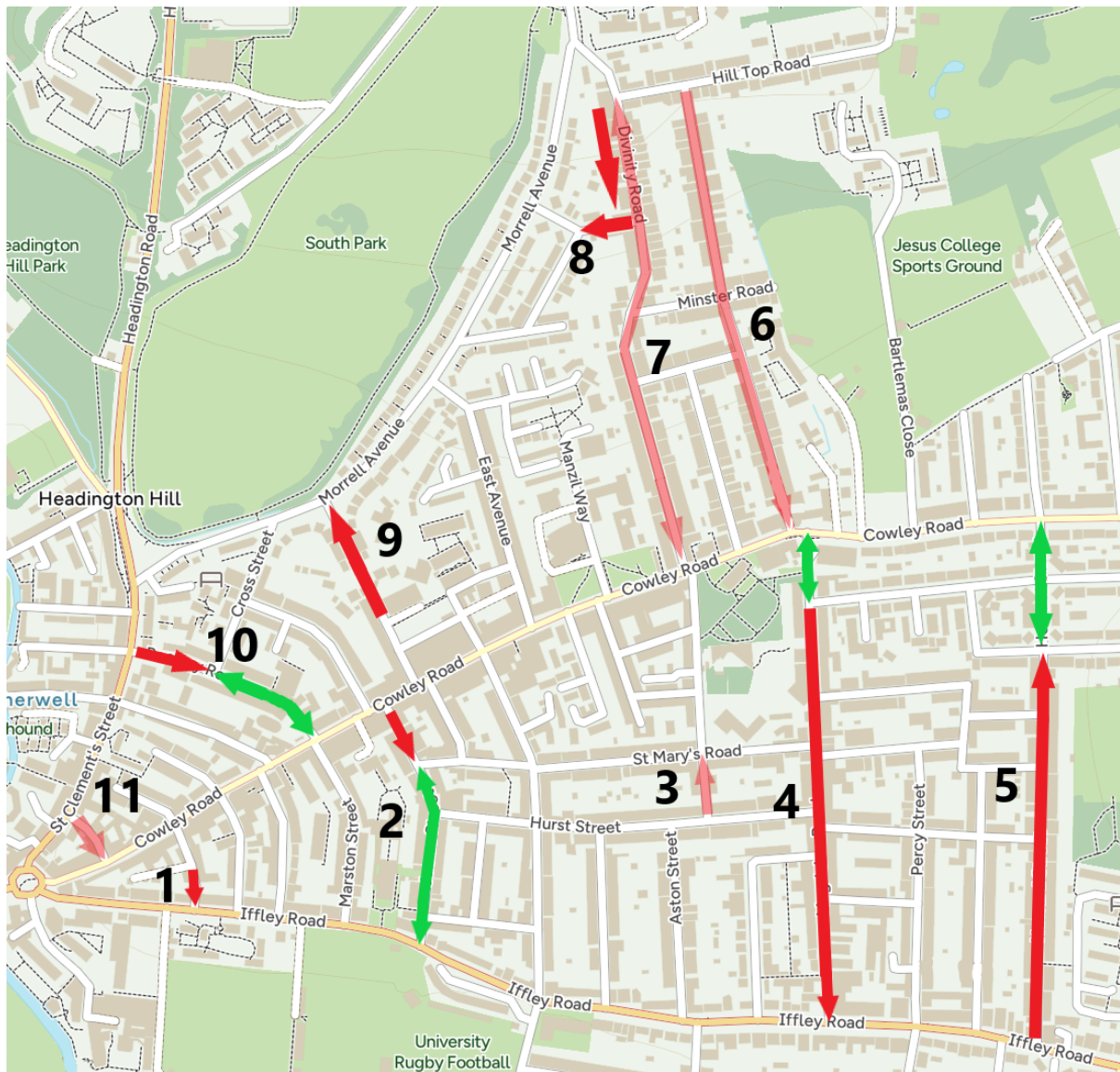
- **Magdalen Rd and Howard St: Restore one-way streets, but with the directions reversed, so Howard St flow would be Iffley Rd → Cowley Rd, and Magdalen Rd flow Cowley Rd → Iffley Rd.** This removes previous tailbacks in Howard St due to difficulties getting out into Iffley Rd near Donnington Bridge lights. The northerly sections of each road (Cowley Rd to Ridgefield Rd, and Cowley Rd to Cricket Rd) to remain two-way.
- **Divinity Rd: Make the section of Stone St one-way westbound (uphill) to Tawney St, and the first, narrow, section of Divinity Rd one-way southbound (downhill) to the Stone St junction.** This removes the problem of cars trying to pass and damaging wing-mirrors etc in the narrow section of Divinity Rd; cars going up Stone St then turn right into Morrell Avenue to reach the roundabout at the top.

The alternative, often suggested and marked in pink on the map, would be to have Divinity and Southfield Roads one-way throughout, but that would be far more inconvenient to residents, without any gain over the Stone St solution.

- **Circus St: make the section from Alhambra Lane to Iffley Rd one-way in that direction.** This is to facilitate left turns from Cowley Rd to Iffley Rd avoiding the left-turn ban at The Plain which currently causes vehicles to circumnavigate the entire roundabout adding unnecessarily to traffic on the already congested pinch-point.
- **Rectory Rd: One-way St. Clements to Cross St, then two-way to Cowley Rd.** This reopens the route from Marston & Headington Hill to Cowley Rd, avoiding The Plain.
- **Union St: Re-open from Collins St to Morrell Avenue, one-way.** This street has been closed with a gate since 1983, but has relatively few houses and the school entrance has been moved to Collins St (also closed) and there are safety barriers along Union St, so there should be no issue with child safety. Re-opening it would take pressure off Divinity Rd.
- **James St: Make one-way from Cowley Rd to St. Mary's Rd.** This is to avoid right turns into Cowley Rd at a difficult junction with a badly placed pedestrian crossing. It might be better to move the very busy crossing further west to the other side of Princes St.
- **Leopold St: Consider making the section from Hurst St to St. Mary's Rd one-way north-east.** Keep this in reserve in case traffic returns to using Leopold-Aston St as a route to Iffley Rd from Cowley Rd. This is, however, unlikely if Magdalen Rd is made one-way from Cowley Rd to Iffley Rd.
- **Dawson St: Consider re-opening one-way St. Clements to Cowley Rd,** to take pressure off The Plain. This road was closed in the 1990s, but has few houses directly on the street, and allowing vehicles to access Cowley Rd directly from St. Clements would speed up buses along St. Clements.

The above proposals will work best if implemented in the context of:

- Traffic Filters not being implemented
- Cancellation of expansion of the Zero Emission Zone, which would avoid further pressure on the Plain roundabout, which would otherwise be the turn-around point for vehicles needing to avoid the ZEZ. It is worth noting that, if implemented, the expanded ZEZ would effectively block most traffic from East Oxford from accessing the rest of the city, thus exacerbating everyone's problems.



**Map of IOA proposals for alleviating pressure on the Plain roundabout**

**1 - Circus Street**

**2 - James Street**

**3 - Leopold Street**

**4 - Magdalen Road**

**5 - Howard Street**

**6 - Southfield Road**

**7 - Divinity Road**

**8 - Stone Street**


**9 - Union Street**

**10 - Rectory Road**

**11 - Dawson Street**

 **One Way Route**

 **Two Way Route**

 **Alternative Options**  
(see notes)