

Otley Town Council

Meeting:	Traffic & Transport
Date:	6 th July 2026
Venue:	Otley Core Resource Centre, Orchard Gate, Otley
Committee Members Present:	Cllr P Carter (Chair) Cllrs C A Campbell, P Robinson, T Featherstone
Co-optees in Attendance:	G Silverwood, A Watson, S Lax, J Keessen, S Fildes
In Attendance:	Mrs E Bradley (Admin Officer)
Apologies:	It was resolved to accept the following apologies: Cllr M Bradley. Mr G Cross

61. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest, of any nature, were received.

62. Minutes for approval

Resolved: the minutes of the Traffic & Transport Committee meeting of 23rd March 2026 were approved for accuracy and signed by the Chair

63. Terms of Reference

Resolved: to approve the Committee Terms of Reference

64. Car Parking Survey & Report

Members received a report from the Chair on the Otley Car Parking Survey.

The survey found that Otley is generally well supplied with parking spaces, particularly due to the presence of three supermarkets, but parking vacancy rates have been steadily declining. While spaces can usually still be found, there are increasing pressure points, and Otley has a much higher level of car use than the average small town.

Discussion focused on the reasons for increased parking demand, with suggestions including the lack of a railway station, unreliable bus services, and the number of people who drive into Otley for work. Members also noted that the issue is not just the number of spaces available, but whether the right type of parking is provided in the right locations, particularly short-stay parking close to the town centre.

Members discussed opportunities to encourage more active travel, including improved signage showing walking times to key destinations. However, it was recognised that factors such as age, steep gradients, and unattractive walking routes can discourage walking.

The Chair concluded that Otley would benefit from the development of both a car parking strategy and an active travel strategy to support and protect the town centre.

65. X84 Campaign Group

Members received a verbal update from the Chair on the X84 Campaign.

Chair said that a group had been formed with several neighbouring local councils to address the issue. A photo opportunity and press release had been organised to raise awareness, and MP Katie White is due to meet with the Mayor of the Combined Authority to discuss the matter further.

66. Projects

Members received an update from the Chair on current transport related matters.

Bus Station: Cllr Campbell reported that First Bus intends to remove the banksmen at the bus station, having stated that they are no longer required. Members expressed concern that the removal of banksmen could create safety risks, particularly given the open layout of the bus station. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to both First Bus and the Mayor of West Yorkshire Combined Authority to express concerns about the proposed removal of banksmen and the potential impact on public safety.

Path in Wharfemeadows Park: Cllr Campbell advised that he had been contacted by a local resident regarding concerns about the mixed-use path in Wharfemeadows Park. One potential solution discussed was the installation of signage identifying the route as a bridleway for use by pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. Cllr Campbell is currently exploring potential funding opportunities for this work.

Cycle Stand at Waitrose: Steve Lax said that he had spoken with the Manager at Waitrose regarding the cycle parking. A new barrier has been installed which allows bicycles to access the cycle parking area while preventing shopping trolleys from entering. While this represents an improvement, it was noted that larger bicycles, including those with trailers, are unable to gain access.

Otley Town Council Bikes: Steve Lax reported that the Otley Town Council bikes had been taken to local schools, generating considerable interest among pupils and staff. Information leaflets had been distributed, and the initiative had been well received. Members noted that the activity had successfully raised awareness of the scheme and attracted a positive response from the community.

67. Agenda Items for next meeting:

Resolved: Members to notify the Executive Officer of matters for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting

68. Next Meeting

Resolved: to confirm the date of the next meeting of the Traffic & Transport Committee as the 12th October 2026

Chair