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Oxford poll held Cyclists name danger roads



CYCLISTS revealed which areas of Oxford they considered danger blackspots in a straw poll at a rally in Broad Street.

Hundreds of people ditched their cars and cycled to work or used public transport to mark European Car Free Day on Monday. Cyclists were stopped by campaigners and asked which roads in Oxford they found the hardest to navigate safely.

Responses were roughly split equally between Cowley Road — from The Plain to the bingo hall — the Botley Road and city centre streets.

The survey was organised by the newly-formed Cyclox group, which was set up to campaign for tougher action by the Highways Authority, Oxfordshire County Council, to make Oxford a worry-free zone for its members. In six weeks, the group has gained more than 60 members.

Founder James Styring said he had launched the campaign because he had been stunned to find conditions for cyclists unbearable after returning to Oxford after two years away. Mr Styring, an Oxford University Press editor, said: "The

By Roseena Parveen

county council should be actively seeking to reverse that trend, and do more to promote cycling throughout Oxford. By gathering on European Car Free Day, cyclists demonstrated one of the easiest ways to free Oxford from the blight of car traffic."

Oxfordshire County Council senior transport planner James Gagg said: "We are aware of these issues and where the problems are. We are completing quite a comprehensive review of Cowley Road. The Botley Road bridge is more complicated as it has always been difficult to find solutions."

He said conditions had become better for cyclists since the Oxford Transport Strategy was introduced, and work was under way to improve things further throughout the city centre.

Cyclox members are putting together a plan of action to be presented to highways officers. Cyclox meet on Wednesday, October 1, at Cowley Community Centre in Cowley Road at 7pm.

roseena.parveen@nqo.com