POETS
Planning Oxfordshire's Environment and Transport Sustainably

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Rail strategy welcomed - but must be part of a wider plan

County Council consultation ends midnight Wed 1 October

Oxfordshire County Council's rail strategy has been welcomed by planning and transport experts as a first step towards a better transport system for the county. However, local group POETS (Planning Oxfordshire's Environment and Transport Sustainably) think that the strategy should go further.

"The rail network has an important part to play in developing a transport system that doesn't rely so heavily on the private car, with all the congestion, health and environmental damage that excessive car use causes," said POETS member Chris Cousins. "However, there are two areas where we would like to see the rail strategy improved.

"First, it should form part of an integrated plan for land use and transport, with new development concentrated only where it can be very well served by public transport.

"Second, rail services should be fully integrated with bus services and timetables. Stations should also make excellent provision for active travel, with such things as secure cycle parking and repair services as well as charging facilities for electric bikes."

POETS are also urging the County Council to explore the feasibility of providing frequent and economical light rail/trams on existing railway routes and on new routes such as Oxford - Witney/ Carterton.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

1. Oxfordshire County Council's OxRail 2040: Plan for Rail consultation runs until 23.59 on Wednesday 1 October.

2. POETS are a voluntary think tank of professionals providing analysis, commentary and ideas on sustainable planning and transport for Oxfordshire

   Further info, incl. POETS Vision for Oxfordshire, available here: www.poetsplanningoxon.uk

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