POETS
Planning Oxfordshire's Environment and Transport Sustainably

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POETS 'Vision for Oxfordshire' sets out challenges and solutions

Development in Oxfordshire over the next twenty years should focus on addressing the existential threat of climate change. New housing and employment should be based around excellent public transport, cycling and walking provision. Reforms are also needed to provide a massive increase in social housing for rent in order to meet housing need.

These are some of the conclusions of local group **POETS** (Planning Oxfordshire's Environment and Transport Sustainably) in their newly published **Vision for Oxfordshire**.

POETS also set out the case for a properly funded and democratically accountable planning system to deliver sustainable development.

POETS Chris Cousins said: "We need to ensure that the benefits of growth are shared equitably among the people of Oxfordshire.

"The Government is focused on further planning de-regulation, continuing and expanding the failed strategy pursued by its predecessors over the last decade and more. Current ideas include weakening environmental protections and further reducing the role of local authorities. Our view is that this approach will not meet housing and other needs and risks environmental catastrophe, including the building of homes that are hopelessly inadequate to meet future climate extremes.

"We need the Oxford Growth Commission to expand its remit to consider not just economic growth but broader social and environmental considerations, set within the context of the climate emergency.

"And we need our local councils to push back against the Government's approach and set out the case for a well-funded, democratic and strategic approach to planning.

"We need politicians that do what they say, not just sit back and wait as targets disappear over the horizon."

POETS are seeking meetings with Neale Coleman CBE, the Oxford Growth Commissioner, and local council leaders to discuss these matters further.

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Notes to Editors

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.org

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