

Chair's ARERA Annual Report - AGM February 12, 2025

The Residents' parking scheme has taken up a lot of our time and I shall not go into details as our Secretary is giving a separate report detailing where we are with this and what we expect to see happen over the next year.

Dealings with the officers and councillors concerning Arbury Road's problems with the scheme have been immensely complicated and frustrating so I am very grateful to Ian for taking us through this in some detail later on the Agenda. There will be an opportunity for questions and answers after his presentation.

Zebra Crossing proposal. We spent a considerable amount of time discussing the possibility of applying for funds to put in a zebra crossing at our end of Arbury Road for safety reasons. Camcycle and in particular Josh Graham were instrumental in providing the technical information needed to complete our application. We canvassed members of ARERA and all Arbury Road East residents for their views and in particular for their consideration of where exactly the crossing should be placed. Unfortunately, in the end the funds were simply not available! The type of crossing which the City Council's Technical Officer preferred (raised to be level with the pavement) was by far the most expensive and was way beyond the amount of grant available. As a result the Council felt unable to support the application with the required additional funds.

We know that people cross roads wherever they want to rather than lengthen their walk by going to a safe crossing. It appears that the only sort of evidence which the Council might take heed of is accidents – thankfully no pedestrians have been injured to date and we very much hope that none will be in future.

Connections with local councillors. We currently have two Labour representatives on the City council – Rachel Wade and Richard Swift. Sam Carling was elected to Parliament last July for a Peterborough constituency and will need to be replaced at the forthcoming May elections. Councillor Gerri Bird remains the County Councillor representing Chesterton Ward who is also Labour. We endeavour to keep them informed and to encourage them to support our work where appropriate.

Speeding and traffic calming. Although we hoped that traffic might reduce once the Milton Road works were complete, this has not materialised. As a result we continue to suffer heavy traffic in the rush hour, heavy lorries, and speeding traffic especially when the road is less busy. We have suggested that the 20 mph signs painted on the road should be renewed and that in addition white bicycles should also be painted on the road to remind drivers that Arbury Road is a **bicycle priority route**

Milton Road improvement scheme. This is now finished and the 30-mph speed limit on that road has been restored. The Elizabeth Way traffic lights are causing tailbacks especially during rush hour but it is not clear whether this is the reason for the tailbacks on Arbury Road.

Road hierarchy review - Nothing seems to be happening on this front.

Potholes – these are everywhere and are hugely problematic especially for cyclists at night. I would urge everyone to regularly check out the pothole website and make sure that the potholes near you are listed. Even if a particular pothole is already on the map you can add your own comments to keep up pressure for something to be done about them.
<https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/>

Other issues – We hope that you will all fill in the forms on the AGM flyer so that we can see where our residents' priorities lie.

Constitution. As we are a relatively new organisation, it seems appropriate that the Committee should spend some time in the next 12 months or so having a look at the constitution with a view to updating it if needed. I anticipate that our new members will be able to bring a new perspective to this.