

# ACTIVE NEIGHBOURHOOD SCANS

## BANBURY NEITHROP & RUSCOTE

This report provides an overview of the findings of the Active Neighbourhood Scan undertaken in Banbury Neithrop and Ruscote on Friday 22nd September 2023.

The report highlights how easy it is for residents to be active in Banbury Neithrop and Ruscote, what works well in the neighbourhood, what gets in the way of being active, and what needs to change.



### WHAT IS AN ACTIVE NEIGHBOURHOOD SCAN

Active Neighbourhood Scans are a way of understanding how easy it is for residents to walk, cycle, wheel the pavements and road, and to play and engage in physical activity in the parks and green spaces within their community.

*It gives an understanding of what works, what gets in the way and what needs to change.*

#### CYCLING / ROAD USE

Active Travel in your neighbourhood - including cycling & mobility scooters.

#### WALKING / PAVEMENT USE

This includes walking, wheelchair use, scooting, pushing a pushchair, wheeling a walking frame.

#### PLAY & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

This is the usability of spaces designed for physical activity in your neighbourhood - this includes being in parks and green spaces.

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MOVE**

Scans involve residents, community groups, along with representatives from schools, local authority planning, health, infrastructure and activity teams walking, wheeling, cycling and playing in their neighbourhood and whilst they do it **completing a scanning tool focused on three areas of activity**

### HOW SCANS WORK

1

Participants who live or work in the neighbourhood attend a scanning event, which is hosted at a community centre, leisure centre or school in the neighbourhood.

2

The scan participants are given a route to walk or wheel. The routes take them to local facilities for example shops, schools or parks. All routes are within a 30 minute walking distance.

3

The participants walk, wheel or cycle the route. On route they answer questions about how easy it is to walk, wheel or cycle and provide scores out of 10 for each question, making notes about things that make the route easy or difficult to access. Routes that go to local parks, playgrounds, outdoor leisure facilities and green spaces also have a set of questions about these facilities.

4

Participants are also asked to capture photos of things that make it easy, or hard to be active and to jot down their ideas for improvement.

5

In total we aim to cover 10-20 routes within the neighbourhood, taking in all the parks and leisure facilities.

# SNAPSHOT OF BANBURY RUSCOTE AND NEITHROP NEIGHBOURHOOD

The Banbury Ruscote and Neithrop neighbourhood is formed of two wards. The wards are in Banbury and are in the top 20% nationally, in terms of facing challenges of income and health outcomes. People living in Banbury Ruscote are 63% more likely than the national average to die under the age of 75 from an illness considered preventable. A child born in Banbury can expect to live 11 years less than a child born in the most affluent parts of Oxfordshire



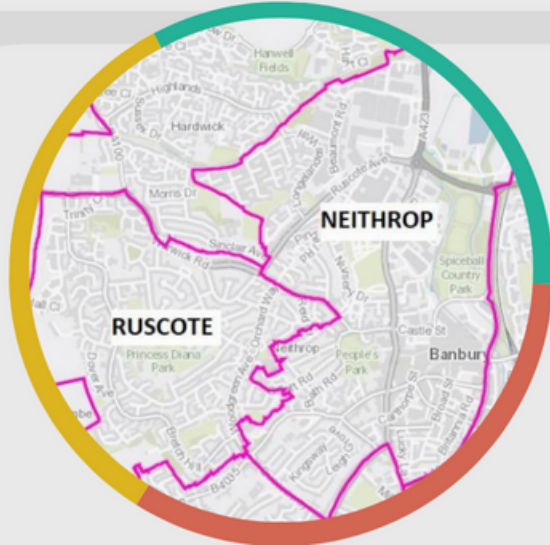
People in Banbury Ruscote and Neithrop value their green spaces and find them accessible. They value their shops, community centres, charities and local organisations, and the groups and activities that are available. The diversity of the community is celebrated.



People in Banbury Ruscote & Neithrop are concerned about cost of living, feeling safe in their neighbourhood, drugs and anti-social behaviour, significant minorities do not feel part of the community, loneliness and isolation. Local groups and organisations struggle with maintaining resources.

## BANBURY RUSCOTE & NEITHROP HAVE A RANGE OF COMMUNITY SPACES

- ✱ A swimming pool and leisure center
- ✱ 6 primary schools (William Morris, Orchard Fields, St Mary's, St Josephs, Queensway and Hillview) and a secondary school (North Oxfordshire Academy) and Banbury and Bicester College
- ✱ Parks including, Peoples Park, Princess Diana Park, Hastings Park, Chester Way Playground and Danesmore Park.



## BANBURY RUSCOTE & NEITHROP HAVE A POPULATION OF JUST OVER 23,000 BUT IF IT WAS A VILLAGE OF 100 PEOPLE...

**85** people would be white British **15** people would be from another ethnic background

**HEALTH**  
**81** view their health as good or very good  
**5** are in bad or very bad health  
**14** view their health as fair

**44** people don't think they get enough exercise  
**17** people need to use food banks

**24** are younger than 18 and 5 of them are in receipt of free school meals  
**76** are adults, 16 of the adults are aged over 65

**62** people are of working age and of these:  
**5** are long term unemployed  
**17** are disabled  
**8** are carers

**9** are living in overcrowded conditions  
**LIVING CONDITIONS**

## ...THEY WOULD LIVE IN 40 HOUSEHOLDS OF WHICH:

**23** would face greater financial inequalities  
**3** houses are lived in by just one person  
**FINANCES**

**11** won't own a car  
**5** households are in fuel poverty

## BANBURY RUSCOTE & NEITHROP HAS A RANGE OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES

- ✱ Community facilities; The Sunrise Multicultural Centre, The Hill Community Centre, The Mill Arts Centre, The Beacon Drop-in Centre, Ruscote Community Centre and the Library.
- ✱ 4 GP practices, a pharmacy and a dentist are in easy reach
- ✱ Volunteer led groups including Faithworks, Women's Breakfast Craft Club at the Hill, Lunchbox Project, Men's Breakfast Club at the Hill
- ✱ Within easy reach there are 3 local grocery shops and a supermarket
- ✱ Support services including Banbury Community Support, Restore, MIND, Park Road Mosque Foodbank, The Oxford Parent Infant Project, YouMove

We held two sessions on Friday 22nd September 2023, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, allowing as many people from the community as possible to attend to the most convenient session for them.

A training session was provided before undertaking the scan, to ensure that everyone understood the process and knew how to keep themselves safe whilst on the scan. The scans started at The Hill in Banbury, a central point within the neighbourhood.

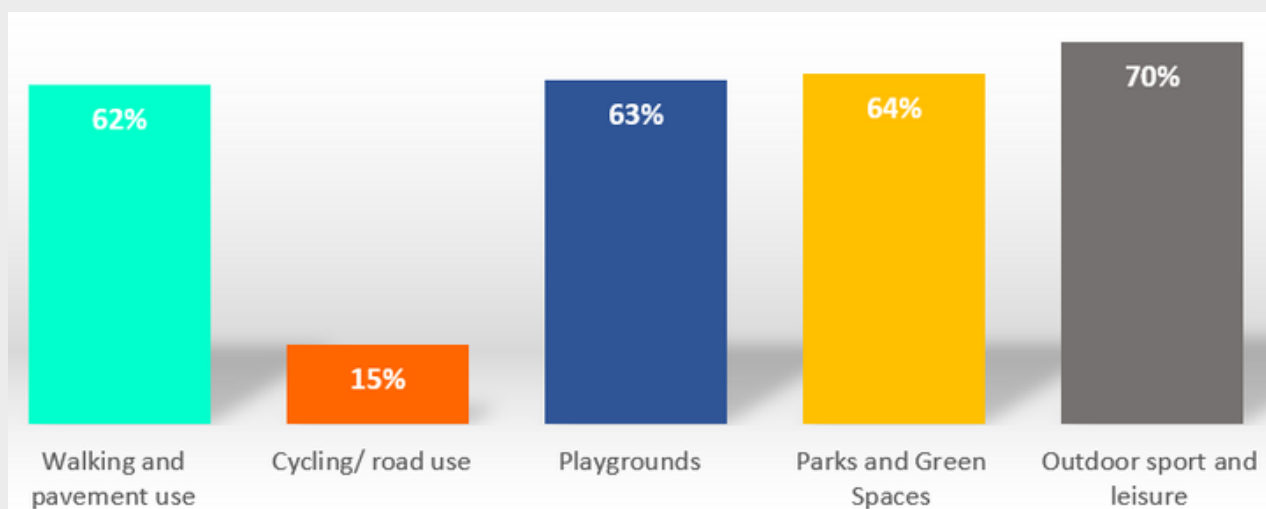
Those who attended, included members of the community, from young children, families, and older people, residents, and representatives from Cherwell District Council, Oxfordshire Community Foundation, MyVision Oxfordshire, British Cycling, OCVA, as well as Active Oxfordshire. Participants came from a range of different backgrounds with different experiences of Banbury.



*"I really enjoyed being part of the neighbourhood scan in Banbury. It's not often that you take the time to reflect on the environment around you and consider it from different viewpoints.*

*Bringing people together to consider these things highlights them as a collective issue and means that the people who are impacted by this aren't fighting for change by themselves."*

## OVERALL SCORE OF BANBURY NEITHROP AND RUSCOTE



# WHAT ARE THE STRENGTHS OF BANBURY NEITHROP + RUSCOTE?

- People's Park and Princess Diana Park
- Danesmoor Playground
- Outdoor gym sets at Trinity Park, Princess Diana Park, and People's Park
- The Hill and The Sunshine Centre - these were both described as great community facilities
- Prescott Avenue - this was described as being accessible, quiet, and safe compared to other roads
- Interactive signs and symbols on pavements to encourage walking



# WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST BARRIERS TO BEING ACTIVE IN BANBURY NEITHROP + RUSCOTE?

## Litter

All participants commented on the abundance of litter, and litter or flytipping were issues raised on 100% of routes.

## Cycling isn't made a priority

Those who participated in the road-use routes commented on the lack of cycle lanes and the poor promotion to cycle in Banbury.

## Poor maintenance of paths and accessibility issues

100% of routes highlighted that there was overgrown greenery along paths, and that the paths are uneven, poorly maintained, or disrupted by tree routes making it difficult to pass over.

Participants also commented on unnecessary barriers on paths, making it difficult for those wheeling or using walking aids.

## Lack of formal crossings

Lack of safe or formal crossings was raised on several routes, and was an issue for both pavement users and cyclists.

On many routes, there were no dipped or matching kerbs, making it difficult for those wheeling, or using walking aids or buggies.



## WHAT OTHER THEMES EMERGED FROM THE SCANS?

### Availability of accessible outdoor play equipment

The outdoor play equipment and parks were appreciated by participants, however those spaces could be improved with more accessible play equipment. There were also accessibility issues with physically getting into the parks (such as lack of pavements in parks and inaccessible surfacing), which would make it difficult for those wheeling.

### Underutilised green space

On 100% of the routes, participants said that there was a lot of green space which was being underutilised. Ideas of how to maximise the space were, skatepark, water fountains, picnic benches and space to socialise, outdoor gym or play equipment.

### Making spaces more attractive

Suggestions of how to make areas more attractive – bins to reduce litter, benches, planting flowers in green spaces and along paths to make them more pleasant.

### Litter and fly tipping

Litter (including dog mess and flytipping) was an issue commented on by all participants on every pavement and road-use route. Ideas to resolve the issue included increasing the number of bins, and organising community litter picks.

### Cycling safety

On 100% of road-use routes, participants noted the lack of formal cycling paths, safe cycling lanes, the very little cycling markings on the roads, and the lack of encouragement for cycling in general.

### What else did we find?

We also identified a range of issues and opportunities which we will be raising with local authorities. Issues included pavement surfacing, lack of safe crossings, curb locations, availability of bins, anything else, and are detailed in the full report, which you can find [here](#).

<https://www.oxfordshireonthemove.org/active-neighbourhood-scans>

Some of the issues identified on the scans required further attention from local authorities, such as local councils or police.

# What are the next steps?

## Future Scans

The results of the Banbury Neithrop and Ruscote Active Neighbourhood Scan demonstrated a need for further engagement with communities in the area. There are plans in place to work with more schools, youth clubs, and other specific community groups, to ensure that we are as well-informed as possible and that the feedback reflects the views of residents more accurately. We will also be proactively sharing this insight with key partners, planners, and developers, to help create long-term change, and importantly will be investing small amounts of funding, with potential for these to be matched, so that we can turn residents' ideas to create more active neighbourhoods into reality.

## Funding

We are launching the Active Neighbourhoods Ideas Fund to turn the ideas which came out of the scan into a reality.

Funding from a few hundred to a few thousand pounds is available for each project, and projects should focus on making it easier for Banbury residents to be active in their neighbourhood.

For Banbury Neithrop and Ruscote, we are looking for projects which tackle the following themes -

- Availability of accessible play equipment in parks
- Underutilised green space
- Making spaces more attractive
- Litter and fly tipping
- Cycling safety

Find out more about funding opportunities and how to apply [here](#).

<https://www.oxfordshireonthemove.org/active-neighbourhoods-ideas-fund>

