Active Neighbourhood Scans

Oxfordshire
ON THE MOVE

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.

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PLAY & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

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

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 particpants 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 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.

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Our strategic priorities 2023-2027

Strategic priorities

Healthy Active Children
- Low-income families
- Disabled young people
- Teenage girls
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Early Years

Healthy Active Adults
- Long Term Health Conditions
- People at risk of falls
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Adults with disabilities
- Maternity

Healthy Active Neighbourhoods
- Enabling active travel
- Priority neighbourhood focus
- Co-production with priority neighbourhoods
- Increasing access to green spaces

Through these priorities, this is how we work to achieve maximum impact and long-term change:

Creating system change

- Creating Active Schools framework
- Removing barriers to swimming and cycling
- Generating new insight through Youth Voice consultation

- 'Pathways to physical activity'
- Whole systems approach to physical activity
- Condition-specific pathway

- Demonstrating high quality co-production
- Modelling new funding approaches
- Influencing policy

Health and wellbeing strategy

Oxfordshire, 2024-2030

Live well

Priority 3: Healthy people and healthy places

The length and quality of people's lives in Oxfordshire should not be negatively impacted by exposure to tobacco, alcohol, or unhealthy weight. People in Oxfordshire should live in healthy environments where they can thrive free from these harms.

1. The built environment – shaping the built environment, green spaces, and infrastructure at a local level to improve health and wellbeing.

2. Community activation – working with local people, local community organisations, businesses and schools to engage them in developing places, facilities and services which create health.

3. New models of care – re-shaping health, wellbeing and care services, and the infrastructure which supports them, to prevent future ill health and wellbeing.
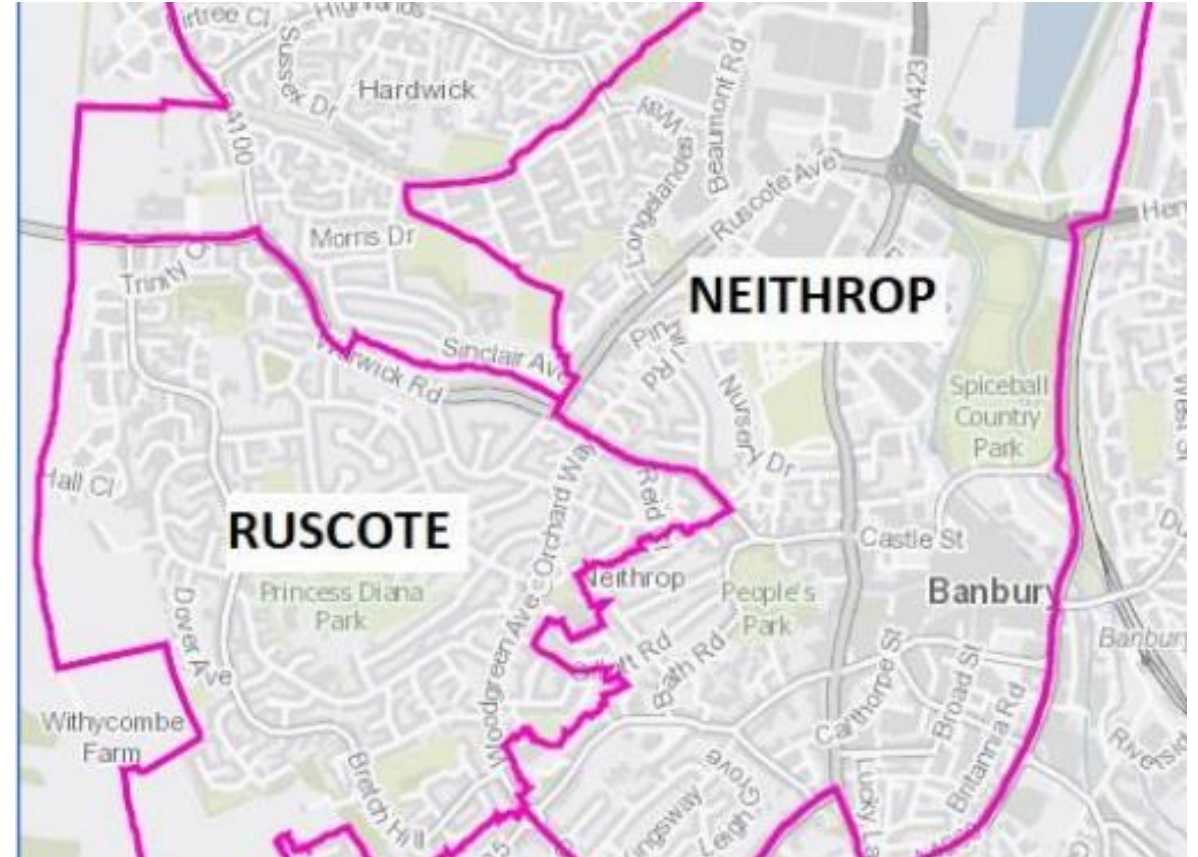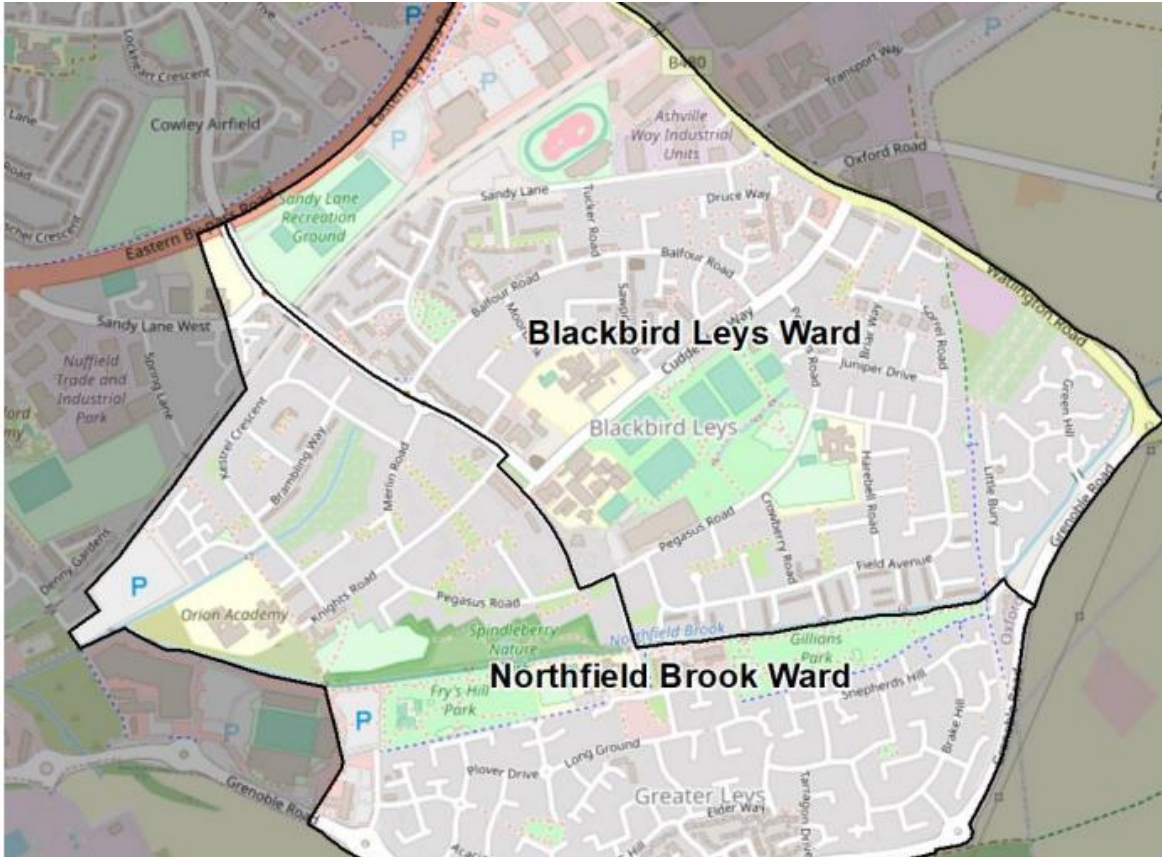
Match funding

Two separate grants totaling **£50,000**

This has enabled us to second a member of staff from a local community group for 12 months. 2 days per week as well as fund more projects.
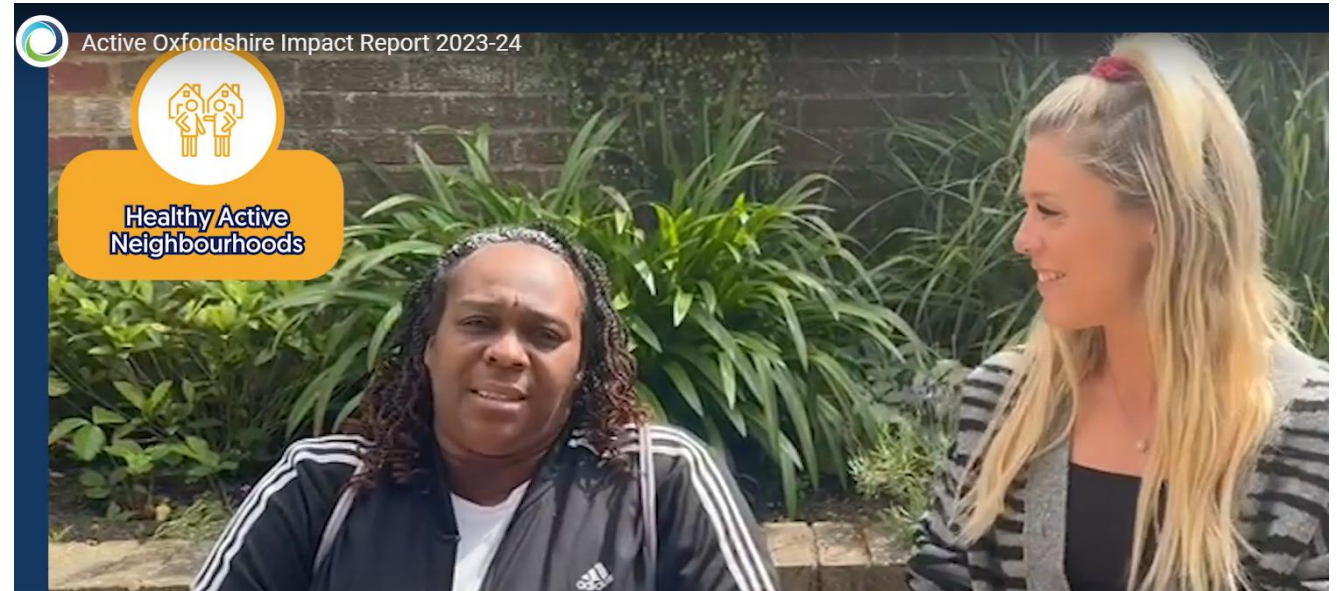
The first two Active Neighbourhood Scans

Who was engaged?

NHS • Oxfordshire County Council • Joy Riders • British Cycling • Local Councillors • Oxford Academy • Parish Councillors • Oxford City Council • Schools • Oxford Hub • Oxford Community Foundation • Banbury Mosque • MyVision Oxfordshire • Banbury Litter Pickers • Active Oxfordshire • Oxford District Council • Public Health • Breeze Oxfordshire • Residents • St Leonard's Primary School • Local MP's • Dashwood Primary School • Young people on work experience • Local government - Wellbeing department • Local police officers • Buckingham, Oxfordshire, and Buckingham West Intergrated Care Board • Refugee resource

Participants feedback

> "What stood out was that the thought process of those with limited mobility, vision, or other disabilities were included in every aspect.
>
> The session was very inclusive, diverse, and lots of fun.
> I would recommend joining in the Active Neighbourhood Scans.

Natasha - Oxford Hub

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We held two sessions on Tuesday 12th 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.
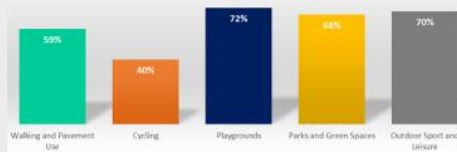
A training session was provided before undertaking the scan, to ensure that everyone understood the process and knew how to keep themselves safe whilst on the scan. The scans started at the Leys Pools and Leisure Centre, a central point within the neighbourhood.

29 people attended, including members of the community from young children to older people, a group of sixth formers from The Oxford Academy, and representatives from Oxford-based organisations (including MyVision Oxfordshire, Oxford Hub, Joy Riders, Refugee Source, a city planner from Oxford City Council, and a Parish Councillor, as well as Active Oxfordshire). Participants came from a range of different backgrounds with different experiences of Blackbird Leys.

"I enjoyed the Active Neighbourhood Scan, the vibe and energy in the room were lovely and Ellie and the team were so inviting. What stood out was that the thought process of those people with limited mobility, vision, or other disabilities, were included in every aspect. The session was very inclusive, nice diversity, and lots of fun. I would recommend joining in the Active Neighbourhood Scans."

OVERALL SCORE OF BLACKBIRD LEYS

Walking and Pavement Use	Cycling	Playgrounds	Parks and Green Spaces	Outdoor Sport and Leisure
59%	40%	72%	68%	70%

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST BARRIERS TO BEING ACTIVE IN BLACKBIRD LEYS?

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

Poorly Maintained Paths
Poorly maintained paths were a recurring issue with concerns around accessibility. This includes paths disrupted by tree roots, and uneven paths, which make it difficult for those using walking aids.

Lack of Lighting
On all routes, at some point it was mentioned that there was a lack of lighting.

100% of participants said that they would feel uneasy walking at night, and they wouldn't feel comfortable allowing a 12-year-old to walking in those parts of the neighbourhood alone in the evening.

Lack of Safe Crossings
Lack of safe or formal crossings was raised on 89% of routes, and was an issue for both pavement users and cyclists. This issue is an accessibility and safety issue for people with visual impairment, and buggy, wheelchair, and walking aid users.

It was also surprising that many key local assets (including schools and the leisure centre) lacked matching dropped kerbs.

Reports

- [Banbury 2023 - Active Neighbourhood Scan](#)

- [Active Neighbourhood Scan Blackbird Leys September 2023](#)

Key themes

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Underutilised green space	**Making spaces more attractive**
Litter and Fly Tipping	**Creation of more community spaces**
Availability of accessible play equipment in parks	**Cycle safety**

Active Neighbourhood Scan Ideas Fund

Changes to the green and communal spaces in these neighbourhoods

Active Neighbourhood Scan Ideas fund successful projects so far...

- Bowls Club

- Body Mind and Soul Activate Learning

- Individual/ Dovecote Centre

- The Leys Neighbourhood Watch

- The Leys Youth FC

- Oxford Hub

- Banbury Litter Pickers

- Banbury Mosque - Neithrop Methodist Centre

Oxford Hub Gardening

The Oxford Hub applied for £3,000 to create a community garden at Windale hub. They are going to open to local residents and community groups.

Banbury Litter Pickers

A totally voluntary group working throughout the town, co-ordinates community litter picks across Neithrop and Ruscote.

Banbury Mosque - Neithrop Methodist Centre

Creating a community space in the under-utilised green space outside the center and adding cycle parking.

Learning and development

THE WORKSHOP IS JUST PART OF THE BIGGER PICTURE

WORKING CLOSER WITH THE COUNCILS

AMENDING THE ACTIVE NEIGHBOURHOOD SCAN TOOL

Next Steps for Active Neighbourhood Scans

- Supporting projects in Blackbird Leys, Banbury Neithrop and Ruscote.
- Reaching out to other funders to support some of the larger scale projects
- Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre to create a play corridor (5K)
- Banbury Grimsbury and Abingdon Caldecott Active Neighbourhood Scans
- Sharable Active Neighbourhood Scan pack

Active Neighbourhood Scan Webpage

[Active Neighbourhood Scans | Active Oxfordshire](#)