



‘Too Dangerous’ B4044 Road Claims New Victim

Early October saw Farmoor resident and mother of two Dr Joanne Russell set off from home in the morning for the seven-mile cycle ride to work. She is a cycling marshal and teaching assistant at Cherwell School in Summertown, and was wearing a helmet and a high visibility jacket.

A few minutes later she was hit from behind by a car on the B4044 road in Farmoor and is lucky to be alive. She suffered numerous injuries – two broken collar bones, broken into three pieces each, head injuries, a broken thumb and gravel burns to her arms and thighs. Her cycle helmet, which was split open close to her temple, probably saved her life.

The driver who hit her “did not see her” – despite her high visibility jacket – at the edge of the village and simply ploughed into the back of her, throwing her off her bicycle, bending the frame and buckling the wheels. A witness saw her flying through the air, before hitting the ground with force.

The police attended the incident and are considering what action to take.

Dr Russell says: “We don’t just want the B4044 cycle path – we need it. I am truly lucky to be alive.”

Campaigners for the cycle path agree: “We have been campaigning for a safe cycling route along the Eynsham Road for years – but the county council has been dreadfully slow to listen to the pleas of taxpayers. We want action now – before someone gets killed on this road” says Ian Leggett, chairman of Bike Safe, the local charity campaigning for an off-road path along the five-kilometre stretch between Eynsham and Botley.

John Blackie