

# scrap the toll

## on Swinford bridge

### The real cost is far higher than 5p

#### **It's a waste of time**

An average motorist using the bridge each working day wastes 6½ hours every month waiting to pay the 5p toll - virtually a whole working day. With 10,000 vehicles using the bridge every day, the time wasted must run into thousands of hours a week.

#### **It's a waste of fuel**

Toll collection forces 1000s of vehicles to queue with their engines idling, revving in low gear, or crawling along: an utterly needless waste of fuels. At a time of economic crisis, wasting fuel and money for no good reason except a measly 5p toll is sheer madness.

#### **It causes needless pollution**

All those engines idling or crawling along creates clouds of poisonous and choking emissions. On warm, still days you can actually see the cloud of noxious fumes. Residents of west Oxfordshire do not want to cause this unnecessary pollution. Let us get on with our journeys swiftly.

#### **It's unfair**

We pay our road tax. Why should those of us who have to use the bridge pay on average (if you use the bridge every working day) £25 more a year? It is grossly unfair.

#### **It's highway robbery**

5p per car. It's not a lot, but it all adds up. Now, in the 21st century, why are we beholden to 18th century transport laws? How is it that a bridge on a busy route - 10,000 vehicles a day - is still privately owned and creaming in our cash? How is that not 'highway robbery'? And still, most of us still say 'thank you' to the toll collectors. We must be mad!

#### **History**

This beautiful 18th century bridge was built when we had a much smaller population, when bridge users were on foot or horse-drawn. How come we're still stuck with 250 year old transport policy? Isn't it time to move on? It's time to repeal that silly Act of Parliament which allows the private bridge owners to rake in a living from we held-to-ransom bridge users.

### Bridge users have run out of patience. It's time for Oxfordshire County Council to scrap the toll.

#### **write to**

Steve Howell, Head of Transport  
Oxfordshire County Council  
Speedwell House  
Speedwell Street  
Oxford OX1 1NE  
**email:** steve.howell@oxfordshire.gov.uk

#### **write to**

Councillor David Robertson  
109 Newland Mill  
Witney  
Oxfordshire  
OX28 3SZ  
**email:** david.robertson@oxfordshire.gov.uk

<http://scrapthetoll.blogspot.com>