

- **Presentation by Dr Ian East: A comparison of Local Transport Options**

After the AGM, Ian East, Chair of the Oxford Bicester Rail Action Group, and author of 'The Cost of the Car', to be published later this year, gave a wide ranging talk, illustrated by extensive numerical data. Among the points he raised were:

- The issues of where people live and transport are inseparable – for example many modern cities make car use almost obligatory, so that those without a car in effect suffer from a new kind of disability in addition to social isolation.
- For local transportation, a bike or LEV (light electric vehicle, e.g. electric bike), although slower than a car, is vastly cheaper both in terms of running costs and cost of provision than a car and has a considerably higher capacity (travellers per hour per unit width of road/path) than a car. Light rail (e.g. tram) has a much higher capacity still. Currently, however, a bike or LEV has a much higher death rate per passenger km than any alternative means of transport.
- Four major concerns regarding future transport policy are
 1. Congestion (even now hugely expensive in terms of lost production, etc.)
 2. Energy security (fossil fuel supplies are insecure and unsustainable)
 3. Climate change (the UK is committed to reducing carbon emissions)
 4. Health and safety (e.g. deaths and injuries on roads, air pollution, obesity).
- Road congestion can never be permanently relieved because any extra capacity will lead to extra use for a variety of reasons.

The detailed data, and much more, will be available in the book 'The Cost of the Car'. See the website <http://costofthecar.info/> for details.