

# Café Scientifique Headingley

Monday 14 November 2022

## Designing a world without motorists?

By: Greg Marsden



**Outline:** If we are serious about being part of a world which 'only' warms by 1.5C, that a significant reduction in driving is essential by 2030. There are many other agendas that traffic reduction might contribute to but none which have provided the same urgency as the climate crisis. But is traffic reduction or a world without motorists remotely possible? After almost a century of the rise in individual car ownership our cities (and in particular Leeds) have become adapted to the car as a default way of getting round for many (although around 30% of households don't have access to a car). Leeds City Council have set out a vision for Leeds to be a city where you don't need to own a car. What would such a world look like (or what would we like such a world to look like)? Could we get there fast enough? How would the transition be managed so that people and businesses felt this worked for them? These are questions, I will argue, that we have never tried to address and ways of working we have never pursued. The talk will open up a discussion as to what a post-car ownership society could look like and what it would enable.

**Greg Marsden** is Professor of Transport Governance at the Institute for Transport Studies at the University of Leeds. He has researched issues surrounding the design and implementation of new policies for over 20 years covering a range of issues. He is the Principal Investigator on the DecarboN8 network where he is responsible for integrating a new place based approach to decarbonising transport. He is the Decarbonising Transport Champion for the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council. Greg regularly works for a range of governmental bodies. He is a member of the Leeds City Council Expert Panel on transport.

**Venue:** *The New Headingley Club, 56 St Michaels Road, LS6 3BG*

**Time:** *Room opens 7:30pm, the presentation begins promptly at 7:45pm*

**Entry:** *Donation please, for room hire and expenses: £4 at the door*

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Designing a world without motorists?

In this talk I will begin by setting out why, if we are serious about being part of a world which 'only' warms by 1.5C, that a significant reduction in driving is essential by 2030. There are many other agendas that traffic reduction might contribute to but none which have provided the same urgency as the climate crisis.

But is traffic reduction or a world without motorists remotely possible? After almost a century of the rise in individual car ownership our cities (and in particular Leeds) have become adapted to the car as a default way of getting round for many (although around 30% of households don't have access to a car). To even talk about restricting car use is to blow the bugle on the war on the motorist. Yet, Leeds City Council have set out a vision for Leeds to be a city where you don't need to own a car.

What would such a world look like (or what would we like such a world to look like)? Could we get there fast enough? How would the transition be managed so that people and businesses felt this worked for them? These are questions, I will argue, that we have never tried to address and ways of working we have never pursued. The talk will open up a discussion as to what a post-car ownership society could look like and what it would enable.

Biog:

### **Professor Greg Marsden PhD. Meng, FCIHT, FHEA**

Greg is Professor of Transport Governance at the Institute for Transport Studies at the University of Leeds. He has researched issues surrounding the design and implementation of new policies for over 20 years covering a range of issues. He is an expert in climate and energy policy in the transport sector. He is the Principal Investigator on the DecarboN8 network where he is responsible for integrating a new place based approach to decarbonising transport. DecarboN8 has worked closely with Transport for the North on the development of their Decarbonisation Strategy. He is the Decarbonising Transport Champion for the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council. Greg regularly works for a range of governmental bodies at an international, national, regional and local scale. He is a member of the Leeds City Council Expert Panel on transport.