

Air Quality Action Plan for Wiltshire- Summary (For all area boards with an Air Quality Management Area)

Wiltshire's Air Quality Action Plan

Where an air quality management area (aqma) has been declared the Council must produce an Action Plan detailing measures to improve air quality. Since the formation of Wiltshire Council we have been left the legacy of the District Councils Action Plans. These now need to be consolidated into one single plan as well as including actions for our more recently declared AQMAs.

Wiltshire's Air Quality Strategy

We have recently produced an air quality strategy for Wiltshire which details actions the Council will undertake to improve air quality. These actions will impact the whole of Wiltshire in working towards improving air quality and include action such as producing supplementary planning guidance with respect to air quality ensuring all new development is considered in a consistent manner. The Strategy can be viewed on the Council website:

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityandliving/publicprotection/pollutionandnoise/airandwaterpollution/airquality/airqualityreportsandsummaries.htm>

Community Involvement

The Council has produced what it feels are the 'strategic' actions, however one of the most important areas is the community input into the Action Plan. We want the community to effectively write their own action plan, agree it at area board level then submit to ourselves for inclusion into the Wiltshire Air Quality Action Plan which will ultimately be submitted to DEFRA.

Devizes Community Area Partnership (DCAP) and their traffic sub group have been very active in coming up with local solutions to improving air quality in the town. We would like to see their approach adopted across other area boards with air quality issues and let the community take some ownership of the problem.

Examples of innovative ideas

Making it easier for people to walk by having overgrown hedges cut back from pavements
Providing more cycle racks in the centre of town
Looking at getting supermarkets to deliver goods that people have actually been into the store to buy. Eg. Iceland allow you to shop then have it delivered later. Particularly aimed at people who want to cycle and walk to shop but purchase of heavy goods prevents this
Joining up cycle ways
Promote the school walking bus – pay parents to take on the role?
Target school travel planning – how can it be made easier for children to walk, cycle, share lifts, use public transport? A school car share scheme
Look in detail at refuse collection routes and times of day. Some collections are on busy roads at peak times in the morning

ECO stars – promoting less fuel consumption on commercial vehicles
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Insert electric charging points for cars
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Encourage use of local suppliers to reduce 'freight' miles
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Improve bus and cycle provisions

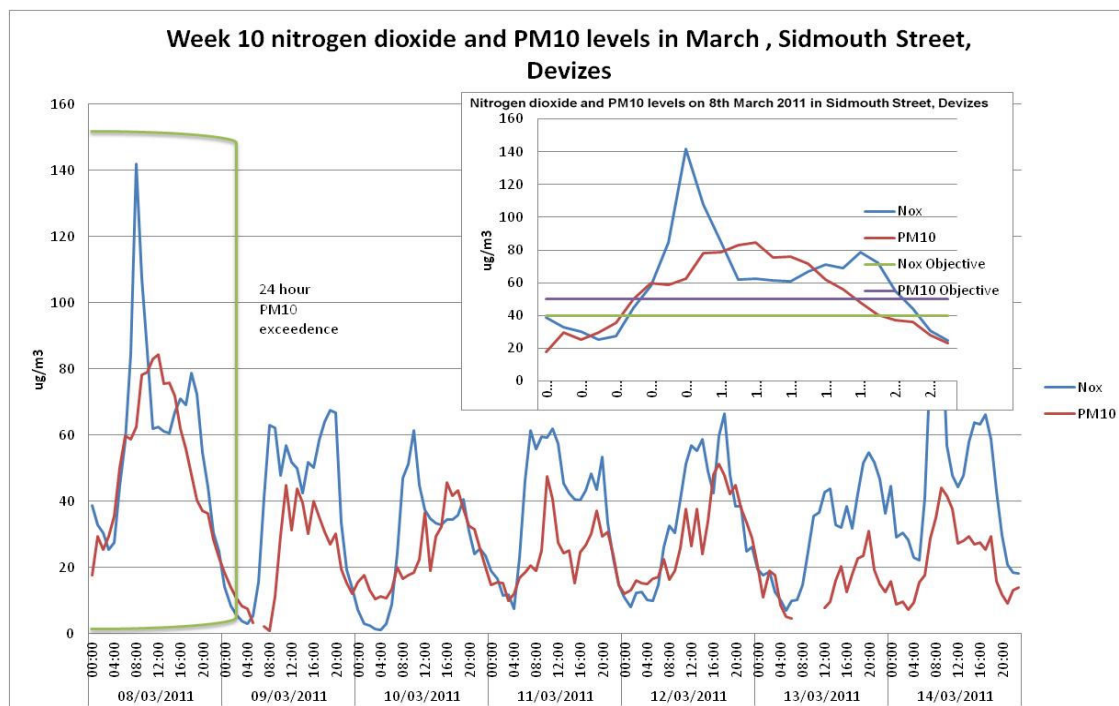
Undertake safe cycle training for adults and children

Data

We monitor for nitrogen dioxide with diffusion tubes at around 100 locations around Wiltshire and have automatic monitoring sites in Bradford On Avon, Westbury (soon to be moved to Calne), Devizes and Salisbury monitoring for nitrogen dioxide and particulates.

We will be in a position to provide diffusion tube data for 2011 by mid March 2012 and automatic data by the end of February 2012. If you would like data to be sent to you after this time please contact Rachel Kent. (details below)

Example of a graph from the Devizes automatic monitor



Next Steps

Please could the area board consider if you have a sub group already in existence which could take on the issues surrounding air quality. If there are none can one be formed?

Once the relevant group is in place we would like to come along and facilitate a workshop on generating ideas such as those suggested in the table above to help with the writing of the community action plan.

The plan will need to have timescales as well as a basic cost benefit analysis. It may well include 'aspirational' actions as well as actions that can be worked on almost immediately. Some may be very costly and others may have very little cost associated.

Timescale

March 2012	make initial contact with the area boards and see if relevant sub groups are in place
April – July 2012	facilitate workshops and work with groups in formulating the action plan
August 2012	have an agreed community action plan to be submitted to Wiltshire Council for inclusion in the Wiltshire Air Quality Action Plan
September – October 2012	Wiltshire Council to consult on the Action Plan
December 2012	have an agreed and accepted plan to submit to DEFRA

Further information

Further information on air quality can be found on our website at:

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityandliving/publicprotection/pollutionandnoise/airandwaterpollution/airquality.htm>

or by contacting Rachel Kent, Environmental Health Officer, Public Protection Services, Browfort, Bath Road, Devizes. Tel 01380 734888 or email Rachel.kent@wiltshire.gov.uk