

Notes and Action Points from Air Quality Management Group (AQMG)

12 January 2021, 14:00, Via Microsoft Teams

Present: Heather Blake (WC) Nicola Lipscombe (SAGP)
Richard Bolton (COGS) Marc Read (CEM, Salisbury: Chair)
David Bradley (SCC Env Services Mgr) Pam Rouquette (Walking for Health)
Dan Collins (Salisbury BID) Margaret Willmot (COGS: Note taker)
Richard Gagg (Salisbury Reds) Neil Winter (Highways England)

Apologies: Scott Anderson (WC), Cllr Derek Brown, Alex Chutter (Salisbury Reds), Richard Francis (WC), Gary Tomsett (WC)

1	<p>Review Minutes & Actions</p> <p>Actions covered by separate agenda items, other than the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tree Strategy David reported that an updated version of the Tree Policy was adopted by SCC Services at their 7/12/2020 meeting. This policy covered how existing trees would be handled: a Tree Strategy was still outstanding. The draft Strategy would be shared with Nicola when available. Action: David B• Salisbury P&R usage Due to commercial sensitivities limited figures could be released: but Richard reported that the COVID-19 pandemic had led to a dramatic fall in patronage across bus services generally, down to about 10% of normal levels. There was some recovery over the summer, but once again another lockdown had led to decreased usage.• Clean Air Day Previously deferred from 2020 to 2021 but Margaret reported that the sub-group involved has now decided not to draw down the funding (allocated from the Health & Wellbeing budget). Plans put on hold for the day, given the uncertainties re PFS and COVID-19 restrictions.
2	<p>Latest Air Quality Results</p> <p>Gary was unable to attend the meeting, but sent in a report. (To save space in these minutes only the average figures for the 7 diffusion tubes with the highest Salisbury readings are given below). Data was supplied for months excluding December: <i>“As you can see we are awaiting the December tube results. These in “normal” years are high as there is a seasonal trend in nitrogen dioxide levels which peaks in winter and falls in summer, due to the nature of the chemistry of nitrous oxides in the atmosphere. The figures to look at are South Western road and 17 Wilton road, these are our highest readings normally, (in the order of 50ug/m3).</i></p> <p><i>Both these are down this year. The bias adjustment we make when QA/QC figures are released in March generally reduced these figures by about 10%. Diffusion tubes are known to over estimate nitrogen dioxide and we use data from our real time monitors (hence the triplicate co location tubes at the real time monitor) and data from other councils that use the same laboratory to apply a national correction figure that eliminates this error.</i></p> <p><i>The first lockdown commenced on the 23rd March and figures for Wiltshire achieved a low in May 2020 with no tubes in the county above 40ug/m3.</i></p> <p><i>I asked for the monitoring package to progress following the removal of the PFS scheme but</i></p>

	<p><i>this has not been possible.</i></p> <p><i>We have our consultants from AECOM working on modelling for the Wiltshire AQ action plan. I have nothing to report at present but as things evolve will keep the group informed.</i></p> <p><i>We are working on new developer guidance and will let the group know more on that as it comes together."</i></p> <p>Average figures, excluding December, for top 7 diffusion sites, figures in ug/m3:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Location</th> <th>Ave</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>17 Wilton Road</td> <td>49</td> </tr> <tr> <td>123 South Western Ave</td> <td>36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>31 Devizes Road</td> <td>35</td> </tr> <tr> <td>225 Wilton Road</td> <td>35</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 Minster Street</td> <td>32</td> </tr> <tr> <td>161 Castle Street</td> <td>32</td> </tr> <tr> <td>91 Exeter Street</td> <td>30</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Location	Ave	17 Wilton Road	49	123 South Western Ave	36	31 Devizes Road	35	225 Wilton Road	35	2 Minster Street	32	161 Castle Street	32	91 Exeter Street	30
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3	<p>Highways England Application</p> <p>There was discussion of the 'Business Case' and evidence of positive impact on the A36 which projects needed to be funded from 'designated funds'. Heather was not aware of what further information was needed and felt that what was requested needed to be proportionate to the size of the scheme. Neil would try to find out what additional information might be needed: the COVID-19 situation had led to some difficulties communicating with HE's Air Quality team. Action: Neil W</p> <p>Nicola inquired if there was any scope for a landscape improvement scheme. Neil thought probably not, although one of the other funding streams might be able to help with this, it would need an appropriate initiative from someone at WC (e.g. Lynn Trigwell).</p> <p>Neil mentioned a ULEV fleet trial system being undertaken in Leeds and something similar in Bristol: David inquired whether there was funding SCC could access as they were looking to replace their fleet of older city council vans. Neil was not sure whether funding was still available for this but would make inquiries. Action: Neil W/David B</p> <p>David mentioned that an initial vehicle is being brought in during the next few weeks, this was being funded by SCC, but any additional funding source would speed things up.</p>																
4	<p>Salisbury People Friendly Streets</p> <p>Marc reported that this started on 21/10 but WC suspended the scheme indefinitely from 1/12 because of a lack of support from SCC and other stakeholders. SCC's Full Council has since voted narrowly to support reintroduction in 2021, but realistically nothing was likely to happen before the May elections.</p> <p>Whether there would be any funding for additional measures, which was to have come from the SWLEP, would be determined at a LEP meeting later this month.</p> <p>Margaret mentioned that a review of the statements sent in to SCC's Full Council meeting had shown that there was some concern about traffic migrating from the City Centre to other roads and causing air quality issues there.</p>																
5	<p>Salisbury River Park</p> <p>The consultation closed on 8/1 and Richard Walters will be making a statement to the Area Board on 21/1. David reported that SCC have been involved, due to their ownership of the Ashley Green area, and a good working relationship has developed with the Environment Agency. SCC have been supportive and we await the results of the public consultation.</p>																

6	<p>Future High Street Fund</p> <p>Salisbury had been provisionally awarded £9.3 million as part of the Government's Future High Street Fund. This would be used to improve the Fisherton Street gateway/Railway station area. Only about 70% of the funding requested had been allocated and there would be work on a revised Business Case to specify what could actually be delivered. Victoria Moloney would be presenting to the Area Board on 21/1 which would be an opportunity to get an update on proposals.</p>
7	<p>Salisbury Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>Margaret reported that she is on the Transport & Movement theme group and the overall steering group for the Neighbourhood Plan being developed by SCC. A draft is currently being prepared and it has been suggested that the Plan should include a policy which seeks to prevent the air quality from getting worse, and to have an improvement. It would seem to be appropriate to refer to the Supplementary Planning Guidance on AQ which might be in force: it is noted that this is currently being reviewed by Public Health.</p> <p>Various other policies are being drafted, including one which will apply maximum, rather than minimum, parking standards within the City and which will allow for car free development in the City Centre. This is already happening, as e.g. as flats over shops get brought back into use, but Wiltshire's current parking standards do not make allowances for this sort of development. Heather suggested that any draft like this should be shared with the Sustainable Transport team for their review at an early stage.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Margaret/Heather</p>
7	<p>Action Plan Update</p> <p>Version 6 had been circulated prior to the meeting and all were requested to consider this plan and submit updates, including info re monitoring & funding, to Marc for the next meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: All/Marc R</p>
8	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heather mentioned that the consultation on the reallocation of road space to cycle lanes had closed on Friday. • Work has started on an improved cycle path along the north side of the A36. There was some discussion of this as it was unclear quite what improvements this would provide. It did not appear that cyclists were being given right of way across junctions, however there were could be some improvements such as getting cyclists out of the roadway at bus stops.
9	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Tuesday 11/05/2021, 14:00 via Microsoft Teams</p>

Notes: Margaret Willmot, 14/01/2021