

Westbury Area Board – 12 April 2018

## Air Quality

Air Quality has been monitored for many years in Westbury. The public protection team currently monitors air quality using nitrogen dioxide diffusion tubes in five locations along Haynes Road and Warminster Road. Historic data is available on the reports pages of the Wiltshire air quality webpage:

<http://www.wiltshireairquality.org.uk/> .

The primary source of pollutant emissions is, and continues to be, road traffic. We would therefore welcome any support the Area Board can give to reducing traffic on the A350 through Westbury.

I recognise that recent coverage of air quality in London has focused on the rise in popularity of wood burners. However, in Wiltshire, where it is practical for properties to access natural gas as an alternative, there is no evidence to support a supposition that wood burners are a significant contributor to reduced air quality. We would encourage those in areas that can use natural gas or renewable energy to adopt these options, but recognise this is not practicable for all cases. That said the focus should continue to be on reducing road traffic emissions which is the primary source of poor air quality in Westbury.

The council produces an annual air quality status report for DEFRA in June each year. The data contained in the report has to be quality assured before release and we are awaiting the publication of the national criteria for diffusion tube monitoring before figures for 2017 can be published. These are usually published at the end of March. If we are able to provide figures in time for your meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April, we will endeavour to do so.

John Carter

Head of Public Protection