

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

15 Dec 2021, 16:00, Via Microsoft Teams

Present: Heather Blake (WC) Pam Rouquette (Walking for Health)
Alex Chutter (Salisbury Reds) Bill Symonds (community)
Karlene Jammeh (WC, CEM) Gary Tomsett (WC)
Cllr Charles McGrath (WC/SCC, Chair) Cllr John Wells (SCC)
David Newton (Salisbury Reds) Margaret Willmot (COGS: Note taker)
Marc Read (SCC, Env Services Manager) Neil Winter (Highways England)
Elaine Reid (community, STC)

Apologies: Mike d'Apice (Salisbury Transition City)

1	Welcome & Introductions Those attending gave a brief introduction, which included the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• David Newton was introduced as the new Operations Manager for Salisbury Reds, Alex Chutter is now General Manager with responsibilities including Salisbury Reds• Elaine Reid and Bill Symonds have been both involved in a Citizen Science project looking at measuring PM2.5s• Karlene Jammeh is now Community Engagement Manager for Salisbury, Marc Read was previously CEM but is now Environmental Services Manager at SCC• Cllr John Wells is Chair of SCC's Environmental Working Group
2	Review Minutes and Actions The previous minutes were agreed.
3	Latest Air Quality Data Gary went through the latest AQ data: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In general trends were improving across the county• In Salisbury there were still issues on Wilton Road, with NO2 exceedances particularly near St Paul's roundabout, but also up near the Halfway House. Readings were borderlines on South Western Road, and slightly below the legal limit on London Road• Diffusion tubes tend to overestimate, so once adjusted 2021 readings may improve.• Wiltshire's Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) is being reviewed, taking account of new and better guidelines. There are current internal consultations ongoing with WC Transport Planners, but will subsequently be available for wider review.• A revised Supplementary Planning document is also being prepared and should be available for review in parallel with the AQAP.• There should be a better idea of final figures for 2021 by March 2022. <p>Gary was asked whether there are other pollutants of concern, other than NO2: he mentioned that Environment Act will bring forward new regulations. There were concerns that PM2.5s, associated with tyre and brake wear, could be even more dangerous than PM10s, as being a smaller size they could penetrate tissue, including the brain, and had potentially been linked to dementia.</p>
4	Report from Salisbury Reds Alex Chutter gave an update on bus patronage, which, as elsewhere in the country, had been adversely affected by Covid-19. Patronage across the network was now at perhaps 70% of pre-Covid levels, with P&R levels at perhaps at 60% of pre-Covid. Beehive P&R was being used as a test centre and will not be re-opening until (possibly) March 2022. There was a move towards zero emissions buses, but Salisbury had not been one of the successful applications in a recent bid by Go Southcoast. It is currently unclear where future funding for investment in greener vehicles will come from. It was mentioned that the 'Bus Back Better' initiative had resulted in an Enhanced Partnership being set up by Wiltshire Council with bus operators around Wiltshire.

	<p>Cllr McGrath indicated that the AQ group would be keen to assist Salisbury Reds, and to improve uptake of the P&R service.</p>
5	<p>Citizen Science Project</p> <p>Elaine Reid gave a presentation on a Citizen Science project which had been running in Salisbury for nearly a year, to monitor the level of PM2.5s in Salisbury. This is supported by Salisbury Transition City, and linked to Sustainable Calne.</p> <p>Some 4 or 5 sensors were in use, the group were using 'Luftdaten' sensors which were low cost and real time but had some limitations in terms of lower accuracy, reduced operational range etc. It would be helpful if the devices could be calibrated against a reference system, and the group hoped this initial work could help raise awareness of the issue of PM2.5 concentration levels.</p> <p>Some graphs were shown which illustrated the variances measured over the last year, these showed 33 times when occurrences of PM2.5 were above $20\mu/m^3$, average value $10\mu/m^3$. Some peaks were explainable (e.g. fireworks on New Year's day), others less so, there was some thought as to whether wind direction was a factor.</p> <p>Action: Both Cllr John Wells (SCC, Env Working Group) and Gary Tomsett (WC, Public Health) expressed interest in working with the Citizen Science group to help better understand and raise awareness of PM2.5s in Salisbury, and they would liaise with Elaine re this. Possible actions could include making SCC's Env Working Group aware of the project and potentially having a PM2.5 sensor on an SCC-owned building.</p>
6	<p>National Highways</p> <p>Neil Winter updated the meeting with progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A project team had been set up with WC to review traffic models and look at a wide-ranging options which could be applied to ease congestion on the A36 Ring Road and Southampton Road. • A feasibility study was underway to look at improving the various underpasses to encourage walking and cycling. This initiative involved Salisbury Area Board, who had raised this issue. • The M4 to Dorset/South Coast strategic study was currently underway and the constraints on the A36 at Bath and Salisbury currently would be taken into account. • Projects which could be the subject of 'designated funds' were still under review. <p>Action: Neil will keep the group informed, and share an updated list of the current projects which are potential candidates for 'designated funds'.</p>
7	<p>Action Plan Updates</p> <p>The Salisbury action plan is out of date and Margaret Willmot expressed concern that it seemed unclear whether Wiltshire Council were supportive of measures to encourage modal shift: they were not currently progressing actions which formed part of the Central Area Framework. It was agreed that a sub-group would meet to review the Salisbury action plan before the next meeting.</p> <p>Action: Sub-group comprising Cllr McGrath, Cllr Wells, Marc Read, Karlene Jammeh and Margaret Willmot would meet to review the action plan [post meeting update: meeting via Teams set for 17/2/2021 at 16:00]</p>
8	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Tuesday 8/3/2022, 16:00 via Microsoft Teams</p>