

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

**2 Sept 2021, 14:00, Via Microsoft Teams**

Present: Richard Bolton (COGS) Cllr Charles McGrath (WC/SCC)  
Mike d'Apice (Salisbury Transition City) Marc Read (CEM, Salisbury: Chair)  
Richard Gagg (Salisbury Reds) Pam Rouquette (Walking for Health)  
Nicola Lipscombe (SAGP) Margaret Willmot (COGS: Note taker)

Apologies: Heather Blake (WC), Gary Tomsett (WC), Neil Winter (Highways England)

1	<b>Introductions</b> There had been no previous meeting under this administration, and it was agreed this meeting would set the scene and provide an introduction to future meetings. Cllr McGrath would normally chair, but Marc Read would chair this initial meeting which would cover updates from various parties.
2	<b>Latest Air Quality Results</b> Gary was unable to attend the meeting, but sent in a report which contained the following key points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Annual Status Report to DEFRA, has been submitted to DEFRA and is posted on the Wiltshire Air Quality Website (see <a href="https://www.wiltshireairquality.org.uk/reports">https://www.wiltshireairquality.org.uk/reports</a>)</li><li>• Currently the contract for maintaining the real time monitoring stations is out for competitive bids.</li><li>• WC's Public Health Dept have been very busy over the past year so are somewhat behind with the Air Quality Action Plan review, but there have been meetings with internal stakeholders across the council and progress is being made on modelling work.</li><li>• The 2020 results were unusual due to the pandemic and periodic lockdowns, shifts in working patterns to home from the office and the rise of online sales deliveries. Trend graphs for 2020 show monthly Nitrogen dioxide levels at various locations around the city below the objective in 2020 at all measured locations other than 17 Wilton Road.</li><li>• Raw diffusion tube data for 2021 so far was also shared – this needs to be treated with caution as various checks etc are still to be applied – in addition to exceedances on Witon Road this data also showed some monthly exceedances on South Western Road.</li></ul>
3	<b>Report from Salisbury Reds</b> Richard Gagg gave a brief overview of the current situation. Bus services were running largely as pre-pandemic, distancing measures had been removed other than a couple of seats behind the driver, however occupancy was down to around 70% compared to the pre-Covid. Also, in common with other bus companies and industry sectors, it was a problem getting sufficient trained drivers.  There were 3 electric buses currently in Salisbury, all had been dependent on DfT subsidies and it seemed unlikely there would be further such investment in the short term.
4	<b>Action Plan Updates</b> Margaret had sent an email in May which suggested that a number of items in the Action Plan would need to be updated as they were dependent on the People Friendly Salisbury (PFS) initiative which had now been cancelled. This included not just PFS itself but also various other projects which relied on complimentary SWLEP funding e.g. ebike

	<p>hire scheme, additional cycle parking, Car Share Club expansion etc.</p> <p>Cllr McGrath explained that as Chair of SCC’s Environmental Working Group he is involved with a review of Salisbury’s Environmental Action Plan (EAP). This would reflect the plans of the new coalition administration at SCC. There was further discussion of this and the Climate Strategy (CS) which WC are currently consulting on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Between them WC’s CS and SCC’s EAP would cover a range of subjects related to AQ – e.g. EV charging strategy</li> <li>• The Greens and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) Strategy is being consulted on by WC in parallel with the CS.</li> <li>• David Bradley has put together a Tree Strategy for the City, which would be discussed at SCC’s next Environmental Working Group meeting. It would be helpful to have this in place e.g. to facilitate bids to external bodies for grant funding.</li> </ul>
5	<p><b>A36 improvements</b></p> <p>Margaret mentioned that the Salisbury Transport Strategy refresh had indicated that improvements would be needed at all the A36 roundabouts, however these had not been progressed.</p> <p>It was unclear whether National Highways (as Highways England now wish to be called) will be covering these improvements in their A36 study, which in any case will take some years to report. Cllr McGrath felt that the current consultation on major junction improvements in Salisbury could give some leverage, as many responses suggested the root of the problem was College roundabout/Southampton Road.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Action: Cllr McGrath to liaise with WC colleagues re putting pressure On National Highways to address Salisbury’s A36 problems.</b></p>
6	<p><b>Other matters raised by meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Margaret mentioned that the updated Air Quality Supplementary Planning Guidance was still awaited – this was needed in relation to the emerging Neighbourhood Plan.</li> <li>• Margaret also mentioned the Transport Accessibility Study which had been promised by the CAF (and previously by the Salisbury Vision). Cllr McGrath agreed that this should be a priority, it might now need to wait for the outcome of the Climate Strategy consultation.</li> <li>• Mike expressed support for the Tree Strategy and mentioned the large number of STC/XR funded whips which had been planted in Churchill Gardens and Bemerton Heath as a contribution to biodiversity. He would be interested in whether the Tree Strategy could encourage private landowners and third parties such as Network Rail to plant additional trees.</li> <li>• Mike would be interested to know whether any more raw data could be collected – e.g. continuous monitoring at locations in Salisbury other than Exeter Street. Cllr McGrath will investigate this.</li> </ul>
7	<p><b>Park &amp; Ride</b></p> <p>Cllr McGrath asked Richard Gagg could offer any insights into how to make P&amp;R work more effectively in Salisbury, and would also be interested in current data on P&amp;R usage (although noting that 2020 was a bit of a dud year).</p> <p>Richard said P&amp;R is run under contract from WC, &amp; he will inquire whether figures could be shared. Passengers from Britford &amp; Southampton Road P&amp;R had been particularly low, services to other sites served residential areas as well and these had done less badly. P&amp;R sites were also looking shabby, which was not helpful.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Action: Richard will see whether P&amp;R usage data could be passed to Cllr McGrath.</b></p>

	<p>Richard indicated that the abundance of cheap parking in Salisbury City Centre undermined P&amp;R, as a comparison of quantum and prices of town centre parking with other places with P&amp;R would show. Pam mentioned that this had been a historic issue, dating back to the start of P&amp;R. The original plan had been to remove city centre parking as P&amp;R sites opened and this had not happened, and converting long stay spaces to short stay increased traffic movements and contributed to AQ issues. Signage to encourage the use of P&amp;R rather than City Centre car parks might help.</p> <p>There are plans to redevelop some of the City Centre car parks, starting with the Maltings and Brown Street, which will help to reduce the number of city centre spaces and encourage the use of P&amp;R.</p>
8	<p><b>Future Plans</b></p> <p>There are currently a number of documents either out for review, or being developed – this included WC’s Climate Strategy, WC’s Green/Blue Infrastructure, SCC’s Environmental Action Plan and SCC’s Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>It was agreed that a future meeting in November would provide an opportunity to review these and make any changes to the AQ Action Plan which might result.</p>
9	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>Tuesday 23/11/2021, 18:00 via Microsoft Teams</p>

Notes: Margaret Willmot, 7/09/2021