

Devizes Air Quality and Transport Strategy Group Meeting

Thursday 17th February 2022, Council Chamber, Town Hall, Devizes

Notes:

Present: Cllr Tamara Reay (Chair), Andrew Jack, Martin Aldam, Gary Tomsett, (Wiltshire Council); Philippa Morgan (Trust for Devizes); Martin Read, Catherine Reed (Cycle Friendly Devizes); Jasper Selwyn (Devizes Passengers' Group); Cllr Eric Clark (Bishops Cannings PC); Cllr Ted East (Devizes TC)

Item	Notes	Action
	Because of other commitments, CR, GT and MA joined the meeting remotely via Teams	
1. Apologies	Richard Ormerod (Sustainable Devizes); Jason Salter (Wiltshire Council)	
2. Notes of last meeting 18 th November 2021	Any comments on the notes were picked up during the meeting at the appropriate section	
3. Air Quality Data	<p>GT described that the AQ data from December was now available and looks to show an improvement on pre-Covid levels. GT will share graphs to show this data once ready.</p> <p>GT covered the incoming UK Environment Act and the changes this will introduce. The new Act aims to fill gaps left in legislation caused by Brexit where the UK does not currently have rules covering these elements. The Act will bring in legally binding environmental targets, including for air quality to be in place by October '22 and of at least 15 years duration. There will be a new requirement that Local Authorities must have regard to the National Air Quality Strategy when exercising any public function that could affect air quality. Local authorities are no longer required to "work toward" air quality standards and objectives. Requirements around Air Quality Action Plans will become more specific.</p> <p>"Air Quality Partners" will be created to cooperate towards air quality functions. These can include e.g. transport planners and other agencies to help create AQ Action Plans. JS asked how town councils could work with Wiltshire Council and would they be considered AQ Partners. GT said that where town and parish councils have an AQ responsibility, e.g. in planning, then Wiltshire Council will include them.</p> <p>Greater emphasis will be put on PM_{2.5} in terms of monitoring and action. There are limitations on the sources of PM_{2.5} that we can influence – sources include sea-spray and pollen but man-made sources include brake dust, agricultural fertilizers and burning biomass for energy. Targets for PM_{2.5} are currently based on AQ hotspots leading to designations of AQMAs. In future will have an exposure objective to lower a pollutant to a particular level.</p> <p>Also discussed were proposed reductions to WHO thresholds for NO_x, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} and how they will affect UK thresholds. GT agreed there's still debate if the UK will adopt these as they are very aspirational.</p> <p>TR asked GT what he thought the biggest concerns for Devizes</p>	GT

	<p>will be? GT replied it will be moving to improved AQ. Devizes will look at PM_{2.5} and he mentioned a CIL bid for funding towards new monitoring equipment as the current kit is old.</p> <p>The slides GT talked to are included with these notes.</p>	
4. Finance	<p>MA showed the figures remaining in the three different budgets: £447,464 Discretionary Sustainable Transport £540,404 Public Transport £64,870 Highways (Shane's Castle)</p> <p>£1,045,322 Total</p> <p>TR asked if there are any time limits on spending this money. MA said there are limits but far enough away not to be of concern. TE asked about improvements at Shane's Castle / Dunkirk Hill. MA said how that scheme is about controlling the flow of traffic to manage AQ but not necessarily congestion. MA said how that scheme has been costed at £800k. The £64k is a contribution towards this but there will need to be a significant funding package put together. TR asked about a timeline for any work at Shane's Castle. MA replied that it is linked to AQ at that location and if AQ is okay (compliant) there, why try to implement a scheme?</p> <p>TE commented on the amount of traffic at the top of Dunkirk Hill trying to turn right onto Bath Rd. AJ explained that this had been a request looked at by CATG 3 years ago. CATG had requested Devizes TC find more data to gauge the scale of this issue but this had not happened and the request had been dropped. AJ also described that Highway's alternative route instead of turning right is to turn left, travel through the town centre to the A361 / A342 junction at The Green and to travel back through town, so this could encourage greater volumes of traffic to use the town centre.</p>	
5. Buses	<p>EC said how he'd been asked to research a new bus shelter for Horton Rd. Originally, he thought the project would need significant engineering to create a larger footprint but has now found a supplier able to put a shelter onto the existing footprint. This quote is for £5,500 AJ can circulate this after the meeting. The process is for this group to agree allocating funding to this purpose and make that recommendation to Devizes Area Board. The board will ratify this at their next meeting on 7th March. Bishops Cannings PC has agreed to project manage the installation of the new shelter. The group agreed to recommend the sum of £5,500 towards the new bus shelter.</p> <p>EC described the lack of bus services into Lay Wood and how he had been in discussion with Phil Grocock from Passenger Transport Unit. JS described the town bus service as being made up of 2 buses running a half-hourly service. Adding the extra 6mins it would take to service Lay Wood cannot be made to work. JS pointed out this will not serve the new care centre at Marshall Rd. There will be a different service there, but it will involve a longer route.</p> <p>AJ was asked to set up a meeting with Jason Salter and Phil</p>	<p>AJ</p> <p>AJ</p>

	<p>Grocock about this within 2-4 weeks.</p> <p>EC mentioned the new Berkeley employment development at Horton Rd about to take place and the need for buses there in time for new employees to get into the “habit” of using buses from the start.</p> <p>JS mentioned a car share scheme at Aster which apparently halved the number of cars in their car park. There’s more information about car sharing within Wiltshire at https://liftshare.com/uk/community/wiltshire</p>	
6. Walking and Cycling	<p>The group looked at the proposal for a new LCWIP for Devizes area.</p> <p>CR said how Cycle Friendly Devizes has looked at the spec and was happy with the timescales but felt the scope was not ambitious and the level of consultation to be used was inadequate – it is currently expected to be all online and CFD felt this was not sufficient. CR suggested a separate meeting to look at this and MR agreed. Sustainable Devizes would like to help promote this. MA was happy to meet to look at this before the initiation meeting with Atkins goes ahead. He pointed out that any kind of consultation event taking place within town if it was organised by Atkins would add to the final cost. MA will set up a meeting with CR and MR.</p> <p>MR wanted to add an area covered by the plan to include many local villages.</p> <p>MR also asked about when to start promoting the LCWIP. MA wanted to wait until the plan is commissioned before promoting in detail, although he thought it would be fine to let people know the plan is coming. MR said he did think this was good news. MA confirmed the current cost of £26,500 was indicative only at this time.</p> <p>TR was also keen that the plan includes leisure cycling as a way to support villages’ economies.</p> <p>CR wanted to see walking included and MA said the LCWIP would always include walking too.</p>	MA
7. Rail	<p>TR said there was not a lot more to report on rail. The Devizes Gateway Strategic Outline Business Case is with the Dept for Transport now and is being looked at. Danny Kruger MP is lobbying on behalf of it.</p>	
8. EV Charging Strategy	<p>AJ was asked to get an update from Adrian Hampton on progress of the new policy.</p>	AJ
9. Car Clubs	<p>AJ explained the conversation he had had with the CEM from South West Wiltshire area board about the introduction of a new car club for Mere.</p> <p>Mere does not have an AQ issue or a sub-group. The original idea came from the local Wiltshire Councillor and was helped by the CEM knowing someone working for the car club currently in Salisbury. The company interested in moving into Mere is Co Cars, a cooperative social enterprise based in Exeter and operating 2 shared vehicles in Salisbury. In order for Co Cars to operate in Mere, the area board is providing £5k towards the purchase of a new electric vehicle and up to £6k towards a new EV charger within</p>	

	<p>Mere (implementation looking to be approx. £3k). Co Cars would arrange for the new vehicle and the charger to be installed via a 3rd party. Mere TC currently lease the town's car park from Wiltshire Council, so a decision to release a parking space for the Co Cars vehicle would be down to them. Co Cars has arranged for a town-wide survey about the use of the car club to take place over Christmas and January. This was online and the Wiltshire Councillor wanted there also to be a paper-based version available too, which the CEM had to arrange and analyse. Wiltshire Council has asked the legal team to look over these arrangements for the area board to enter into an agreement like this with Co Cars. The vehicle and equipment will not belong to the area board or town council. As well as an opportunity for local people to access a vehicle, this scheme is intended to boost Mere's economy by attracting visitors from the nearby A303 to charge their vehicle and spend some time in the town.</p> <p>MA said that when he had been talking with Enterprise Cars, they had been looking at 3 cars for a town the size of Devizes. Within the town, the cars would be located where there was the greatest demand for them, based on a survey of residents. At 3 vehicles for Devizes, that could increase any financial support to £15k.</p> <p>There were questions about the business risk and who would take that?</p> <p>The opportunity for car club vehicles to be based or serve the new Gateway station came up.</p> <p>AJ pointed out the need for car parking spaces for the vehicles, particularly at EV charging points. He questioned whether Parking Services would give up the income from these spaces.</p> <p>AJ was asked to make contact with Co Cars and set up a meeting between them and this group</p> <p>CR pointed out Co Cars also operate e-bikes and cargo bikes.</p>	AJ
10. AOB	<p>CR said that Cycle Friendly Devizes had used the My Wiltshire system to report a blocked right of way in January but there had been no action. Was there any further information? TR said how the process is with My Wiltshire and will be ongoing. CR was asked to email TR and AJ with details of the issue and it will be forwarded to Paul Millard.</p> <p>TR said how Wiltshire Council has recognised more action needs to be taken on rights of way and has made more funding available, to be actioned through CATGs and changes to what that group can deal with, to include rights of way.</p>	CR
Next meetings	Date tbc. To be before 24 th May.	