

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

SALISBURY AREA BOARD
15th March 2018

SALISBURY'S AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT GROUP UPDATE

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1. To receive an update from the Salisbury Air Quality Management Group.

2. Background

- 2.1 Local authorities have a duty to monitor air quality within their areas having regard to national air quality objectives and standards and report this information to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) on an annual basis. There are seven pollutants which we are required to consider under European and UK Law, these include lead, benzene and sulphur dioxide. Air quality in Wiltshire is predominantly good with the majority of the county having clean, unpolluted air. There are however a small number of locations (including Salisbury) where the combination of traffic, road layout and geography has resulted in exceedences of the annual average for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and fine particulates (PM₁₀).
- 2.2 Community involvement in air quality has been key to producing the Wiltshire Air Quality Action Plan. As part of this process Area Boards with an air quality management area have been tasked through whatever means they feel suitable to produce a plan of actions to help with the improvement of air quality in their area which is community lead. The plans form part of the Wiltshire wide air quality action plan. The community action plans and projects are continuously evolving; therefore each group has their own page to detail their work. - See more at: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/env-health-air-quality#sthash.kyDF5kS9.dpuf>
- 2.3 In Salisbury, the city centre, Wilton Road (including part of Devizes Rd) and London Road are each the subject of an air quality management area.

3. Progress update

3.1. At the meeting in January, the main issues discussed were:

- a) The group's rolling action plan (**see attached**). The plan includes some practical short term aims and projects, including tree planting, the development of a mobile phone App to indicate poor air quality hot spots in the city, further development of the co-car initiative, promoting walking and cycling opportunities, and much longer term aims which are reliant upon the

refresh of other plans such as the Salisbury Transport Strategy, Wiltshire Core Strategy and the development of Salisbury's neighbourhood plan

- b) We noted that the Salisbury Transport Strategy was currently being reviewed.
- c) We discussed the need to be more explicit on the action plan that the work of the AQMG, in attempting to mitigate the negative impact of poor air quality with local action, was underpinned by the overall objective to protect those living and working in the Salisbury Community Area from any harm caused by air pollution. An introductory sentence will be drafted for inclusion in the plan
- d) Also, the group felt that it was necessary to raise the profile of this work, to ensure the wider community were aware of its objectives (work on this to also refer to the update from the Home Run project)
- e) Members of the group were working to get a clearer idea of existing tree cover in Salisbury with a view to knowing where else new trees should be planted. An interim update on this will be provided at the next meeting, with plans for a fuller update towards the end of 2018.
- f) The group noted that Wiltshire Council was producing an updated Green Infrastructure Strategy during 2018, in conjunction with a review of the Core Strategy. The group regarded this to be of very high importance, as it was felt that the absence of a county-wide GI Strategy has a continuing impact on planning decisions because officers do not have a strong strategic framework to support them when dealing with developers. This is compounded by recent changes in the planning system where the emphasis on local spatial planning has shifted to neighbourhood planning and in this area there are as yet no Neighbourhood Plans in place.
- g) Gary updated that the research commissioned by NICE from PHE to develop a tool that would help to extrapolate the health impact of poor air quality will be reported on in March. Gary will update the AQMG when the model and report are published
- h) The group was still keen to understand how a mobile APP might help to better inform the community where air quality was poor, i.e. on their way to work or school, giving them greater knowledge to make informed decisions about their route to work or school. Gary suggested that the group also look at this [link](#) on the Wiltshire Council website, as this might provide the facility that the group previously were looking to the UTC to help build
- i) the group is keen to understand how days of action (example quoted from Manchester) can reduce air pollution particularly caused by traffic, in addition to smarter traffic control engineering, i.e. crossing points which minimise pedestrian waiting times
- j) Paul Walker from Go South Coast confirmed that this bus company had bid for funds to purchase 3 new electric buses for Salisbury. The hope being that the buses would be on the road late 2018/early 2019. The most appropriate

locations for these buses to recharge would need to be carefully considered in the meantime. Paul also commented on the group's aspiration to see Salisbury designated as a Clean Air Zone. The group noted that the closest city in the south to be successfully designated was Southampton, where Go South Coast also operated.

- k) The group asked to add to its action plan a focus on lobbying for taxi fleets in the city to be euro rated to help with emissions.

- l) The Environmental Protection Team is consulted by Development Control on Planning Applications. On occasions applications are identified as potentially having an effect on air quality, and therefore we ask for S106 funding to mitigate the proposal's effects. This may be tree planting, electric vehicle charging points or enhancements of measures asked for by Heather's team such as way finding, or cycling / walking routes. Planners often ask us to specify a project and will not accept the Air Quality Action Plan as specific enough. Therefore, the group would need to request specific projects for putting forward for S106 funding support.

4. Recommendation

4.1 That the board notes this progress update.

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