

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

SALISBURY AREA BOARD 5th July 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 promotion of the council's Know & Respond online tool 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 the development of the Home Run project, in particular that Manor Fields and St Josephs schools locally had taken part in the pilot, and discussed what the group might be able to do to increase take up of the Home Run app, focusing on those schools where there is known to be air quality concerns.
- c) We input into the consultation on the redraft of the Salisbury Transport Strategy, in summary,
- heartened to see investment in cycling and walking schemes and improvements to the city centre,
 - requesting reassurance that this strategy be closely cross referenced with other related strategies, i.e. green infrastructure strategy, housing allocation figures
 - requesting short and medium term measures in the strategy to reduce HGV traffic
 - suggesting that a bus lane be put on Exeter Street, accepting the issues to mitigate around on street parking
- d) we agreed a new air quality group action plan, so that the group could be more focused on local actions such as tree planting or marketing and promotion of local initiatives and projects intended to raise the profile of the council's focus on air quality and to showcase what local groups were doing on the subject
- e) agreed to mark Clean Air Day in 2019, and in the meantime to put up information stands at local events, i.e. Transition City day on the 30th June, and at Five Rivers or the library at other times
- f) discussed concerns for air quality and transport sustainability/modal shift generally due to the original decision to make parking free all day in city centre following the poisoning incident. The group noted that bus passenger trips and cyclists were down as a consequence of the all day free parking, and that these concerns had been expressed in the journal and to the leader of Wiltshire Council. The Chairman of the group requested that Steve Godwin of BID be invited to the next group meeting to help the group discuss how businesses can be proactive in incentive / reward schemes for customers travelling into the city on bus/cycle/pedestrian.

4. Recommendation

4.1 That the board notes this progress update.