

Devizes Air Quality and Transport Strategy Group Meeting

Tuesday 5th November 2019, White Horse Room, Devizes Community Hub

Notes

Present: Cllr Richard Gamble (Chair), Cllr Peter Evans, Gary Tomset, Andrew Jack (Wiltshire Council); Richard Ormerod (Sustainable Devizes), Cllr Nigel Carter (Devizes TC)

Item	Notes	Action
Apologies	Kate Freeman, Jasper Selwyn (Sustainable Devizes); Cllr Kelvin Nash (Devizes TC); Martin Aldam (Wiltshire Council)	
Recap / Funding Summary	<p>As new to this meeting, RG asked to find out the groups everyone represents. People went round the table and also gave details of those not present.</p> <p>NC had heard about a new group which sounded as if it has a similar role to this. AJ explained that after Wiltshire Council's declaration of climate emergency, a colleague, Tracy Carter, had been tasked with setting up a new team to look at the Council's ambition for Wiltshire to be carbon neutral by 2030. RG confirmed there is a 'global warming and climate emergency task group' set up under the Council's Scrutiny panel of councillors, headed by Cllr Graham Wright.</p> <p>There was discussion about the S.106 and CIL money coming in to the group. NC pointed out most new development now would take place outside of the Devizes parish boundary and so was concerned about the amount or rate of new funding becoming available to this group.</p> <p>RG agreed this could be a concern but feels Devizes could absorb some of the county's housing requirements. He wanted to see funding remaining available for the Parkway rail station for the area.</p> <p>RG recognised that this group had a high level of funding, whereas the Community Area Transport Group (CATG) does not. He asked if it is possible for some of the air quality funding to be used by CATG on their projects that could help to make a difference to air quality.</p> <p>RO asked about the neighbouring parishes that are part of Devizes' Neighbourhood Plan. No-one during the meeting was clear. (Following the meeting, he found out Bishops Cannings and Rowde PCs have decided to participate fully in the NP review.)</p>	AJ to find out
Wiltshire's new Air Quality Strategy, October 2019 +	Wiltshire Air Quality Strategy – RG felt this referred back to the action plan from 2015. GT states this strategy looks at the whole county and action plans deal with each of the 8 Air	

<p>recap of Devizes' Action Plan</p>	<p>Quality Management Areas (AQMA's). There has been a new group set up countywide to look at air quality.</p> <p>RO asks how air quality in Devizes has responded to the new Windsor Drive junction scheme and when we might see an impact? GT says that the model uses 12months of data so it will be about April '20 before accurate data is released.</p> <p>NC asks about the impact of idling engines on air quality and what can be done to make drivers switch off engines? AJ responds that this is something he looked at in the Marlborough area. Wiltshire Council's civil enforcement officers have the power to ask drivers to switch off engines or issue fixed penalty notices. In Marlborough, it was felt that setting up voluntary areas around schools or shops where drivers were encouraged to switch off would work better than being heavy handed. AJ left Marlborough before this work began. AJ was asked to find out more about this issue and report back. RG wanted this to be part of the Devizes area action plan. RO feels the Southbroom School area (with primary & secondary school, Children's Centre) would be a good location for this.</p> <p>NC would like to be more updates at area board meetings detailing work to the action plan and reviewing the work done. NC will begin carrying out a review of the 2015 action plan.</p>	<p>AJ</p>
<p>1. Updates on:</p>	<p>Canal towpath: Update from MA on 18/10/19 said "was going well until a bank collapse occurred resulting in additional expenditure that CRT is trying to cover off. It is likely they will use s106 funding secured from the Quakers Walk development which is specifically for towpath works. The final surfacing will be completed when there is a dry spell."</p> <p>The members present feel the cycle path is comprehensive although JC would like to see it go further beyond Windsor Drive towards Coate.</p> <p>There is discussion about foot/cycle bridges over the canal to link people living on one side with the towpath.</p> <p>RG asked about a cycle club in Devizes. RO says there was one as part of Sustainable Devizes, but this has tailed off.</p> <p>There is also a club for keen cyclists. It was agreed these are not the people the group wants to target and improvements to cycle routes and other facilities need to encourage people to cycle instead taking their car.</p> <p>The group agreed it would like to update the cycle route map. GT recommended Heather Blake.</p> <p>Shane's Castle: Air quality there is improving. Devizes TC will be looking at the no turning issue (no right turn from Dunkirk Hill, no left turn from Bath Rd) and making a</p>	

	<p>recommendation. This is a matter being looked at by the CATG and could be actioned via them.</p> <p>Windsor Drive: the group felt better publicity was needed there about the improvements the new junction has brought. It was felt it has helped with congestion, definitely at certain times of the day.</p> <p>Trees: AJ confirmed he had contacted Wiltshire Police's property team about planting trees at HQ and at Bath Rd. The response from them was that the future of the HQ building is uncertain and they are not able to agree to planting there.</p>	
Buses:	<p>Ideas included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bus to Lay Wood, using S106 money Direct bus to Salisbury via Stonehenge (setting down only) Plans for bus to Marshall Road treatment centre when it opens Other improvements to town bus 49A direct service to Swindon <p>Wiltshire Council's Passenger Transport Unit was not able to provide an update on these but will try to in time for the February meeting.</p>	
Other updates and AOB	<p>Drop kerbs at Victoria Rd. It was agreed these are needed. RG would like to use S.106 and air quality money for this scheme being developed by CATG. It would allow more people to walk, ride or use mobility scooter to get to town, rather than take cars instead.</p> <p>RG asks if this group is limited to projects within Devizes town boundary or could include the wider area. GT says that the AQMA needs to be around the area of air quality exceedance but it is recognised the causes of this will be outside of these small areas, so projects can cover a wider area if they have an impact on air quality at the area of exceedance.</p> <p>NC asks about bringing together a wider area for transport, thinking about the parkway rail station, Devizes Market Place and Devizes' ambition to become a tourist destination.</p>	
Next meetings	<p>Dates for futures meetings have been set as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuesday 4th February, 11.30 in Devizes Library Tuesday 28th April, 11.30 in Devizes Library Tuesday 28th July, 11.30 in Devizes Library 	