

## **Air Quality Action Plan for Bradford on Avon**

### **Note of Meeting 27 June 2012 at the Fat Fowl**

#### **Present**

Councillor Rosemary Brown, Wiltshire Council  
Councillor Simon Fisher, Bradford on Avon Town Council  
Councillor Jonathan Brown, Bradford on Avon Town Council  
John Carter, Bradford on Avon Preservation Trust  
Shay Parsons, Bradford on Avon Lorry Watch  
Bryan Harris, resident  
Don Hinde, Historic Core Zone Working Group  
Hazel Yates Jones, Bradford on Avon Senior Citizens Forum  
Heather Knight, Bradford on Avon Senior Citizens Forum  
Jerry Smith, Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon  
Francis Chinemana, Wiltshire Primary Care Trust  
Martin Valatin, resident  
Peter Dunford, Community Area Manager for Bradford on Avon  
Gary Tomsett, Wiltshire Public Protection  
Rachel Kent, Wiltshire Public Protection

Gary Tomsett introduced the workshop. There is a requirement on the Council to prepare an Air Quality Action Plan to improve air quality in Bradford on Avon and this is the first of 3 workshops to develop a community-led approach to developing the action plan. The group will submit its proposals to the Bradford on Avon Area Board for approval in September and, following a round of public consultation, the final action plan will be submitted to DEFRA by December 2012.

Gary explained that this is the first opportunity to bring together air quality strategies and action plans since the formation of Wiltshire Council. It is hoped that having a single council will help to join up professional approaches and that the area boards can act as a single focus for community action and consultation. The Government has issued a white paper linked with the Localism Act which would potentially allow Government to pass down EU fines to a local level. Further information and clarification on this is awaited.

Data was shared which demonstrated the air quality problem in Bradford on Avon. Diffusion tubes are located at several sites throughout the town and a new NO2 and particulates monitor is to be sited on Masons Lane where nitrogen dioxide levels are way above UK and EU targets.

The presentation included discussion of innovative solutions to air quality issues from elsewhere. Also of the data and support available from the Public Protection team at the Council. The powerpoint slides are attached.

Comments made in response included:

- we know the issue here, it is clearly the volume and heavy nature of the traffic
- unless serious action is taken to reduce through-traffic and HGVs there can be no improvement in air quality
- if a bypass is a non-starter in cost-benefit terms then the alternative must be for HGVs to be re-routed – although this will impact on neighbouring communities such as Staverton
- Lorry Watch cannot continue indefinitely – what the town needs is a London-style ‘low emissions zone’ and number plate recognition system to crack down on breaches of the 18 tonne weight limit on Town Bridge
- the new HGV ‘advance warning’ signage planned for the approaches and outskirts of the town is a positive move
- any one-way system using the circuit of Masons Lane, Market Street, Silver Street, Springfield, New Road would require in-bound traffic to go DOWN Masons Lane in order to reduce vehicle emissions; the disadvantage is that out-bound traffic would then need to accelerate up Silver Street thereby affecting a larger number of residents in that location
- ‘origin and destination’ traffic data is required to effectively plan any new road management system
- buses are also polluters, we need greener buses
- the previous action plan was adopted in 2005 following much preparation and consultation but the findings of this went nowhere – we should at least start with this as a baseline – or are we just wasting our time?
- developer contributions through the Community Infrastructure Levy may be a way to secure funding for future improvements through the planning system
- Councillor Rosemary Brown and others are looking at the health effects of poor air quality in the town, supported by NHS Wiltshire.

Next Steps:

The Public Protection team explained that, having kicked off the process, they would now like to take let the community take forward the detail of the action planning. 2 further meetings are planned between now and September, to be co-ordinated under the auspices of the Area Board, to be held on Monday 23 July at the Bradford on Avon Town Council offices and on Thursday 23 August (venue to be confirmed).

Peter Dunford agreed to send a note of the meeting to all present.