

Devizes Air Quality and Transport Strategy Group Meeting

Tuesday 4th February 2020, White Horse Room, Devizes Community Hub

Notes

Present: Cllr Richard Gamble (Chair), Martin Aldam, Gary Tomsett, Andrew Jack (Wiltshire Council); Richard Ormerod, Kate Freeman, Jasper Selwyn, Jeremy Cross (Sustainable Devizes), Philippa Morgan, Philip Abbott (Potterne PC)

Item	Notes	Action
Apologies	Cllr Kelvin Nash, Cllr Nigel Carter (Devizes TC); Cllr Peter Evans, (Wiltshire Council)	
Recap / Funding Summary	<p>AJ resent the notes from the last meeting on 05/11/19 RG covered points within these notes. He raised the local plan vs. the core strategy, the timings of this and the number of new houses. Devizes has changed and moved into the Chippenham Housing Market Area. This has consequences for Devizes and RG would like a proper discussion on this topic at another meeting.</p> <p>JC raised the issue of infrastructure and the level of congestion, asking what is going to be done. RG responded that whilst this group can look at re-modelling junctions, this is expensive, and the group needs to look at different ways to make it less attractive to drive, especially within town. RG pointed out that previous traffic counts had shown that not much of Devizes' traffic was passing through, so must be locally generated.</p> <p>KF thought more needed to be done with travel planning, especially with employers. Aster had started using this and a communication strategy but it had not gone anywhere.</p> <p>Regarding the county-wide Air Quality plan, MA said that the plan for Devizes would not be as well developed as those for Salisbury, Trowbridge and Chippenham. RO pointed out LTP4 will be county-wide, but MA said that there will not be a separate model for Devizes based on the level of development here compared to Salisbury, Trowbridge and Chippenham.</p> <p>MA covered the funding situation. There is £11k for modelling. A further £3k which is non-discretionary for a TRO at Quaker's Walk. Cars parking there are mostly commuter, and this could be squeezed. This was not included in the residents' parking area. Also, allotment holders park there. Funding could be used in Victoria Rd and Quaker's Walk area, at the top end of New Park Rd. There is further discretionary funding, £500k, to deliver sustainable transport from the transport strategy. It couldn't be used for all of the work at Shane's Castle, maybe the sustainable transport element there. The £563k public transport funding is for the Lay Wood area and what effects that area but if public transport solutions do not go ahead, it could be used for sustainable transport.</p> <p>JC said he would like to see bigger budgets for walking and cycling schemes. RG agrees and would like to see full networks of cycle routes,</p>	

	<p>not simply sections, e.g. a route from Worton into Devizes for young people to meet their friends. MA said that Wiltshire Council will offer £100k in revenue funding (officer posts) to encourage cycling. Sustainable Transport dept. has been asked to put together a plan to spend this money, if this groups wants to put in a bid for someone to work in Devizes to promote cycling.</p> <p>RG felt that the south of the area is well covered by rights of way but the north has far fewer.</p>	
<p>Wiltshire's new Air Quality Strategy, October 2019 + recap of Devizes' Action Plan</p>	<p>GT said that the new county Air Quality Strategy has now gone out. The document is on the county air quality website http://www.wiltshireairquality.org.uk/reports Air quality actions plans are for the 8 AQMAs.</p>	
<p>1. Updates on:</p>	<p>I Canal towpath & extension beyond Windsor Drive: JC has done a lot of work on this. The cycle path on the towpath ends at Windsor Drive. An option is a crossing over the road to take people safely to the other side to re-join the towpath or to go under the road. The footway on top of the bridge is too narrow. Ideas include opening up the towpath to get to the back of the Lay Wood development. This would end up on the wrong side of the canal from the houses. There was lots of discussion about ways to cross the canal north of Windsor Drive to access Lay Wood and where this could be.</p> <p>MA pointed out there is a shared use footway (pedestrian and cycle) from Lay Wood, past the Barracks to Windsor Drive and people can join the towpath southwards there.</p> <p>RG asked about how to go about getting costings and plans established. MA said that K&A Trust people could be asked whether they want to do this work and open the towpath further. Could get the canal engineers to see how far the width of the towpath could be opened up. RG asked someone to write a note for this plan and JC will do this.</p> <p>RG raised the link from Potterne to Devizes, e.g. to get students in to the secondary school. Potterne PC has agreed to support this. Part is still a footpath but the northern section is a bridleway. There may be some objections to the change of the footpath to a bridleway. It is approx. 2miles from Potterne to the school. MA felt the cost effectiveness of this plan in reducing the number of cars travelling in to Devizes would be less than if the same amount of money was spent on plans for Lay Wood.</p> <p>II Shane's Castle: Land there is confirmed as reserved to allow for a design there. MA stated the scheme is on hold because air quality levels dipped, so the need for the scheme appears to be diminished. GT said that levels have risen this year and levels are now above the threshold, so the Shane's Castle project could be back on the agenda.</p> <p>JS pointed out traffic can back up as far as the market place because of this junction.</p> <p>MA felt the design would produce a marginal drop in poor air. KF felt the money would be better spent on improving footpaths.</p> <p>GT stated the data has gone up for 2018 and has now passed the threshold. He has data for London Rd and will circulate this.</p>	

	<p>III Trees: JC asks about the idea of planting trees on land north of Quaker's Walk, next to Police HQ. 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> <p>KF felt there are open spaces at Nursteed Rd and asked if trees could be planted there. AJ said there are a number of local groups about to begin tree planting projects, including DOCA, CUDS and a new group Trees for Devizes. Tree saplings are available all year round from the Woodland Trust and are free for community groups. They come in different packs of species and numbers depending on the purpose.</p>	
Buses:	<p>There is no update from PTU although RG said the unit is working on a response.</p> <p>There was discussion about disabled access on school buses, the D6 service to Bath and the No. 2 to Salisbury – RG spoke about the increase in number going past Stonehenge. Also that links from Devizes to Marlborough are in active discussion.</p> <p>RO spoke about buses and travel time and the detours routes take to visit rural communities. He felt PTU's priority is with vulnerable people and not in focusing on travel time to encourage people to choose the bus over driving. RG spoke about his ideas on how to do that involving small park & rides along the route of longer inter-town services.</p>	
Other updates and AOB	<p>I No idling: RG is happy to support new signage to encourage drivers to switch off engines at certain locations, such as outside schools or shops. GT mentions new legislation coming in about air quality and taxis. He also mentions banners that are being produced for schools.</p> <p>II Enterprise Car Club: MA says that Enterprise Car Club is likely to move in to Devizes. There was discussion around the suitability of different locations within town to be the parking place and from where club members will pick up the vehicles.</p>	
Next meetings	<p>Dates for futures meetings have been set as: Tuesday 28th April, 2.00pm in Devizes Library Tuesday 28th July, 2.00pm in Devizes Library</p>	