

Devizes Air Quality and Transport Strategy Group Meeting

Thursday 30th July 2020, via Teams

Notes

Present: Cllr Richard Gamble (Chair), Gary Tomsett, Andrew Jack (Wiltshire Council); Richard Ormerod (Trust for Devizes), Kate Freeman, Jasper Selwyn, Jeremy Cross (Sustainable Devizes), Cllr Kelvin Nash, Cllr Nigel Carter (Devizes TC); Philippa Morgan

Item	Notes	Action
Apologies	Martin Aldam, (Wiltshire Council)	
Recap / Funding Summary	<p>Prior to this remote meeting, AJ resent the notes from last time 04/02/20.</p> <p>RG welcomed everyone and covered some of the points of using MS Teams. He apologised for the delay in setting up this meeting.</p> <p>There was no formal agenda for this meeting, so RG used the notes of the last to cover the points being dealt with by the group.</p> <p>NC asked about the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for New Park Road. He wanted more detail on this and how it might develop. He felt there are issues about access and also about increased commuter parking. KN also felt there were other areas that could be in need of a TRO. This might need CATG to gather these together and coordinate them into a bundle to save admin costs. RO agreed and mentioned the residents' parking scheme in Victoria Rd and the need to look at how it is operating and spread this further. KN asked RO to email him with these details.</p> <p>NC wanted TROs to be used in the right context and with the challenges of parking in other areas. He asked about the TRO for the closure of Rotherstone, which is being dealt with through CATG, as it will affect parking in that area.</p> <p>JS spoke about opportunities for reducing traffic in Sidmouth St and Maryport St, especially following the reduction in traffic seen during the Covid-19 lockdown. He mentioned the tables, etc that have been put on the Market Square encouraging a good feeling there, which could be increased if traffic through the Market Place was reduced. JS also said he would have liked to see Wine St and High St included in the temporary road layout at St John's St. He pointed out lockdown had a great effect on traffic, but it is now coming back and fears a lost move to keep traffic down.</p> <p>KF asked about travel planning and what Wiltshire Council monitors during lockdown. Is there anything to support the increase in cycling seen? Are there patterns in air quality over lockdown? She mentioned the wait for new cycle signage, which has been going on for many years. RG mentioned a new cycling document from central government which he can circulate. KF wanted a way to monitor the amount of cycling now happening and for the new signage to be in place. She thought Spencer Drinkwater has details of the new signing plan, including maps. JC would like to see a whole plan for the town and wider area to be</p>	<p>RO</p> <p>RG/AJ</p>

	<p>joined up. NC felt there needs to be a review of what's needed, including new routes and some existing signage where the markings are faded.</p> <p>RG asked KF to pass on the map to him.</p> <p>RG said it was a shame the Devizes cycling group no longer existed. RO mentioned Sustainable Devizes had identified a new cycling lead. RG asked if he should be invited to this group in future and there was some agreement. RG would like to hold a meeting just about cycling in future. He is keen for all sorts of people to be able to access Devizes by bike, not just "keen" cyclists, in particular young people to socialise.</p> <p>RG tried to recap the funding summary but needs an officer to confirm where the group is with funding and timings in which it is to be spent.</p>	<p>KF</p>
<p>Wiltshire's new Air Quality Strategy, October 2019 + recap of Devizes' Action Plan</p>	<p>GT said that the new air quality strategy is on the Wiltshire Council website to view. His time is being spent on the air quality action plan for Wiltshire. This is a large document and needs updating. It will be out for consultation in early 2021. He is currently getting into the detailed parts, e.g. measurements and impacts on air quality as well as Covid-19 response issues, like protected cycleways and People Friendly Streets taking place in Salisbury.</p> <p>GT spoke about the difference between the air quality strategy and the action plan. The action plan is for the 8 Air Quality Monitoring Areas within Wiltshire, of which Devizes is one.</p> <p>GT showed on screen a chart of NO₂ levels for different locations in Devizes from 2006 to 2019. This showed a clear trend towards reduction in levels. 2020 data will show an anomaly due to Covid-19. RG asks about the peak seen at 2018. GT said there is no clear reason for this but it was also seen elsewhere. GT will circulate graph for the lockdown period.</p> <p>NC asked about Ariane Crampton's new post at Wiltshire Council as Head of Carbon Reduction and if there is any crossover with the group. GT replied that air quality is one part of her role but it includes all aspects of carbon reduction. GT confirms it would be appropriate to invite Ariane to this meeting.</p> <p>JS pointed there have been approx. 45,000 deaths in the UK due to Covid-19 but that each year, approx. 40,000 deaths are linked to poor air quality. We have had to learn to change our lives and be careful due to Covid-19 so we need to try harder to reduce the number linked to pollution. GT responded that the new Environment Bill will help with this and set new levels for air quality. KF added that high levels of pollution have been linked to areas with high rates of Covid-19.</p> <p>RO said how data on the effect of Windsor Dr has been shared. This shows NO₂ to have dropped from 28-30 to 20. He wanted this highlighted as a good news story for the town.</p>	<p>GT</p> <p>GT/AJ</p>
<p>1. Updates on:</p>	<p>I Canal towpath & extension beyond Windsor Drive:</p> <p>RG went over to JC and his work on continuation of the towpath beyond Windsor Dr to serve the Lay Wood area. JC described that to the north side of the canal beyond Windsor Dr lives a large proportion of Devizes' population. JC talked about the current arrangements for crossing the road and continuing and his ideas to improve this.</p> <p>RG felt more officer work needs to be done to identify the most</p>	

	<p>appropriate route and crossing here. He describes how Devizes does not really hit central government policy on high bus usage to get the new funding available to encourage cycling and new cycle routes. RO pointed to the new guidance in the wake of Covid-19, that shared use paths are not best practice and need segregation. There was discussion about changing the pavement on the south side of London Rd. Some felt it is already wide enough to be made into a separated cycle- and footpath. RG felt this could be covered in the cycle meeting he wants. This meeting could include AJ, Martin Aldam, Spencer Drinkwater and possibly Cllr Philip Whitehead. GT confirmed transport planners and money for new cycle routes is for segregated ones only. KF felt that if there is any funding available, it should be used towards employing an adviser, such as Sustrans or the Rivers & Canals Trust, to look at the situation and come up with acceptable solutions.</p> <p>II Shane's Castle: There is better data now and RG asked if there is anything known about this location. There are possibly some traffic issues here based on vehicles trying to make turns against the tight bends from some directions. This is being dealt with through CATG.</p> <p>III Trees: JC asked 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 and the police's use of it is uncertain and they are not able to agree to planting there.</p>	
<p>Buses:</p>	<p>RG mentioned he is still seeing people on buses but they are fewer than before Covid-19. JS pointed out the Lay Wood development is now established but there is no public transport into the estate, so residents have become reliant on cars, which is a shame and a missed opportunity. He asked about the new Urgent Care Centre on Marshall Rd and availability of buses to it. Routes there need some thought. Not everyone going there wants to start the journey from the centre of town, so there will need to be pick up points elsewhere. This will need planning and the centre is due to open in two years' time. RG offered to speak with Phil Grocock about routes. KF asked about the NHS' contribution. She felt they need to contribute towards travel planning as they have a sustainable transport policy. Wiltshire Council should ask for this. GT thought the NHS is not exempt from S106 or CIL payments. KF asked if Passenger Transport Unit has current ridership reports to show how public transport is developing in the area and how they are operating. RG replied they are depressingly low numbers. RO had not seen a planning application for the centre, so the process will lead to a transport assessment being created. NC replied it had gone through and conversations about the S106 payments are taking place now.</p>	

	<p>JC asked about walking buses to help younger pupils get to school on foot safely and whether the group could be encouraging local schools to use these more often. RG pointed out there is a separate school travel team and this would be within their work. AJ can raise this with that team.</p>	<p>AJ</p>
<p>Other updates and AOB</p>	<p>I No idling: NC reported there has been little done and recently heard of a case where the police had to be called to the Hopton HRC site. He has seen operators there wearing body-cams in case of incidents. He has made written requests to Wiltshire Council but not heard anything.</p> <p>II Enterprise Car Club: Martin Aldam was leading on this and has given no update. (since the meeting, AJ has found this message from MA dated 20th March: Enterprise are working with the NHS and emergency services to provide vehicles during the Covid-19 crisis. Hopefully, we'll resurrect this one at some point in the future)</p> <p>RG spoke about developments for a new rail station at Lydeaway as a step in the right direction. It is proposed to be called Devizes Gateway to suggest a way for tourists and business to come into the town and wider area. There is strong need for sustainable access, including bike and walking routes, especially as many residents live that side of town. There are plans for bike hire at the station, so visitors arriving can then head off around the wider area. He strongly felt the new station would help local business by allowing potential customers to visit Devizes more easily.</p> <p>KF asks about the timeframe of feasibility? This will be soon. RG quoted SWLEP saying the GVA of the new station is estimated at £6m.</p> <p>KF said how local shops had begun offering deliveries during lockdown and raised the idea of a local delivery service to make it easier for businesses to offer this. RG liked this idea and was happy to support. NC felt there might be interest among businesses for this common service. RO said that Sustainable Devizes had looked at a click and collect service for the town, where customers came to the Shambles at a pre-arranged time, but this was dropped. AJ mentioned that Justina Pettifer from The Healthy Life is involved in Indie Devizes and this could be something they pick up as an additional offer.</p>	
<p>Next meetings</p>	<p>Dates for futures meetings have been set as: 6th October. It is very unlikely Devizes Library will be available, so this meeting will be held via Teams.</p>	