

Devizes Air Quality and Transport Strategy Group Meeting

Tuesday 6th July 2021, via Teams

Notes:

Present: Cllr Tamara Reay (Chair), Martin Aldam, Gary Tomsett, Lucy Ayres, Andrew Jack (Wiltshire Council); John Schofield (Sustainable Devizes); Cllr Ted East (Devizes TC)

Item	Notes	Action
1. Apologies	Martin Reed, (Sustainable Devizes); Philippa Morgan (Trust for Devizes); Jasper Selwyn	
2. Notes of last meeting 16 February 2021	The only comment was from JS to confirm that Sustainable Devizes (SD) is currently working with Devizes Town Council (DTC) to look at new locations for more cycle parking within the town centre.	
3. Review of Terms of Reference	There were no further comments on the Terms of Reference.	
4. Wiltshire Council's Climate change and carbon neutral objectives	TR described Wiltshire Council's climate change objectives, including for Wiltshire Council itself to be carbon neutral by 2030 and an ambition for the county of Wiltshire to do so too. TR also mentioned the consultation around the new climate change strategy which is due to be launched in September and be the basis for work going forward.	
5. A cycling strategy for Devizes community area	<p>JS described the work of SD during summer/autumn of 2020 to produce a survey and following report looking at cycling habits within the area. This showed that the thing that put off most people from cycling within town was having to mix with traffic. SD is currently investigating routes in town parallel with London Rd and in the Drew's Pond area. SD has also focused on getting people on their bikes and organised a ride around Devizes as part of the national Big Ride on 30th May. This attracted about 30 people plus the guides. JS reiterated that SD wants to work with Wiltshire Council to promote and increase cycling.</p> <p>TE mentioned that as a cyclist, he is intimidated by traffic and is worried by vehicles passing too close. He also mentioned the A360 being bad for pedestrians and the hazard of cyclists for pedestrians. He had concerns about cyclists and increasingly about e-scooters on the pavement. TE described that previous work identified a number of cycle routes to the north of Devizes, now similar work is needed for the south of the town. MA pointed out there are steps to go through to achieve this. He asked JS for SD's report. He can review this and offered to meet on site and walk or cycle the proposed route parallel to London Rd to see what infrastructure might be needed. MA also said an engineer might also be needed too to give their input. He described how this might need to be on a two-year programme over different financial years, as long as the group is willing to fund it. TR wanted to look further at this option. TR also wanted to make progress on the rural routes previously raised and also at Drew's Pond.</p> <p>JS wanted to arrange a date for a group to walk/ride the proposed route in about 6 weeks. TR agreed to send dates to AJ. JS cycled the route</p>	<p>JS</p> <p>TR</p>

	<p>and filmed this. He will send a link to this footage to AJ</p> <p>*Following the meeting, Cycle Friendly Devizes sent an invite to Devizes Area Board and DTC to ride the route from the town centre on 18th July at 10.00am starting from the Wharf.</p> <p>TR was also keen to identify other groups who could be encouraged to cycle more – to school, tourists, etc.</p> <p>TR mentioned the Devizes Be Active day, 2021 as an event that will showcase lots of activities and services in the area that support physical and mental health and wellbeing. JS said that SD is planning to be there and maybe lead rides or have cycle repair available. TR asked AJ to find out about local bike shops or mobile repairs that could be invited. GT suggested Richard Francis in Public Health might support. TR also wanted to see e-bikes there and thought a retailer could be invited. There was a discussion about the different incentive / salary sacrifice schemes available to help people buy new bikes. This is down to an employer to sign up to before individuals can buy a bike. These include Cycle Scheme, Halfords Cycle 2 Work, There was a feeling local businesses should be encouraged to sign up to allow their employees to benefit.</p> <p>JS thought the town and wider area needed a cycling strategy and to identify different segments of users – families, serious riders and as journey replacement. He thought there had been a cycle strategy from 2013-14, maybe from Atkins.</p> <p>MA described how central government wants local authorities to have a cycling and walking plan (LC WIP) which will allow them to bid for funding to support this. This will be very specific and be countywide, then focus on the larger towns of Salisbury, Trowbridge and Chippenham, then down to the market towns such as Devizes. This will review existing networks. MA confirmed there was a cycle plan and some of the infrastructure is now in place so the document will need updating.</p>	<p>JS</p> <p>AJ</p>
<p>6. Report on Devizes Air Quality data and Wiltshire Air Quality Strategy & Action Plan</p>	<p>GT showed to the group the Wiltshire air quality monitoring website and the data it shows. Figures for Devizes are monitored by diffusion tubes at Sidmouth St, opposite Rose's. There is also the Know and Respond function which sends alerts to people with health concerns. GT gave a brief history of air quality monitoring in Devizes and the AQMA.</p> <p>GT gave a positive picture of air quality in Devizes at the moment. Mean pollution levels should not exceed the 40µg/m³ threshold and Devizes is currently below this. Covid-19 has positively affected air quality and pollution has dropped below this threshold.</p> <p>Central government has agreed that AQMAs cannot be revoked due to 2020 data which will show artificially low levels.</p> <p>GT is currently working on revising the air quality action plan. A company, Aecom, is working on modelling and has looked at a breakdown of traffic data. GT showed data giving pollution levels by vehicle type and diesel cars were clearly the greatest contributor to pollution both in Devizes and elsewhere in Wiltshire. The contribution of light goods vehicles is increasing, likely due to the rise in online shopping and deliveries. The AQ action plan is in a template format and contains modelling scenarios that would help reduce pollutants.</p>	

	<p>TR asked why the data shows seasonality? GT said that NO is broken down by sunlight into less harmful by-products. It is not so much about differing vehicle use.</p> <p>The types of vehicle on the road was discussed. As larger SUVs become popular, they need more fuel to move than smaller vehicles. This is off setting any reduction in fuel consumption / pollutants that more electric or hybrid vehicles bring.</p> <p>MA felt any solution to this needed to be county-wide. Diesel cars are most polluting in all areas. One solution might be for Wiltshire Council to look at parking charges based on emissions so that park & rides on the outskirts of towns target “dirty” cars and only “clean” cars use town centre car parks.</p> <p>TR asked about EV charging points. GT said that his team is looking further at this and whether developer contributions can go towards charging points at households or at businesses. Adrian Hampton from Wiltshire Council is looking at charging points on the Highway. JS asked about the charging points in Station Rd car park, being both out of action and old technology anyway. TR has met with Adrian and Parvis Khansari and any action needs a response from Devizes TC, although she can help with that. The points at Station Rd are from 2014 paid for with central government money. Following he meeting, MA found that s106 money can be used toward EV charging pints at there is £20,000 available to repair or install “new technology”.</p>	
<p>7. New cycle parking within Devizes town</p>	<p>JS talked about plans for new cycle parking in town. This is being discussed by DTC and they have a working party looking at it. SD sits on DTC’s new Sustainability group. They are close to agreeing locations and design of racks and are looking to the AQ&ST group for funding. AJ described how, if this group approves of the new parking arrangements, it can make a recommendation to Devizes Area Board for the funding to be confirmed and awarded. The next area board meeting is on 6th September and AJ wondered if DTC could agree the parking plans and costs, would this group need to meet before the 6th September to agree the recommendation. TE and JS said they would look at these timings to make a decision if this group meets again before 6th September.</p>	<p>TE & JS</p>
<p>8. New cycle routes within Devizes and linking to villages</p>	<p>JS had already discussed SD’s work on developing the route parallel to London Rd. This is ready to be tested by Wiltshire Council officers. Progress on rural routes (Potterne to Devizes and Poulshot to Devizes) was not discussed.</p>	
<p>9. Enterprise Car Club and Devizes</p>	<p>MA described discussions with Enterprise Cars to establish a new commercial car club in Devizes. Under this scheme, members pay an annual fee, then get to rent cars at an hourly or daily rate. Users pay by the hour. Cars can be booked through an app at short notice and unlocked by the same app on their smartphone, without needing to visit an office to collect keys, etc. This can be an attractive alternative to owning a 2nd car that is rarely used.</p> <p>Enterprise would need a number of on-street parking spaces throughout town reserved for these vehicles. They had looked to Wiltshire Council for pump-priming funding, but MA has seen them operate in Chippenham on a commercial basis without this funding.</p> <p>The benefits of this scheme are that a number of cars will be taken off</p>	

	<p>the streets as owners give up their own vehicles to use hire cars and that these vehicles tend to be smaller and newer, hence less polluting.</p> <p>TR asked about Zelf car hire as a local alternative.</p>	
10. Monitoring of Travel Plan, Lay wood development	<p>MA described that as part of the creation of Lay Wood, the developers would monitor residents' transport use over a period of five years to look if the targets set by Wiltshire Council are being met. This is currently year 2. MA showed a number of slides that gave responses from residents to a number of questions about travel habits. This included age, occupation, reason for common journeys and main mode of transport. There was a question about what would encourage people to use public or active transport more and these answers are being used by Wiltshire Council.</p> <p>TE asked about use of real-time information at bus stops and felt that could encourage people to use buses more. Can Wiltshire Council push bus companies to install them? MA felt this was a question for Jason Salter in the Passenger Transport Unit.</p> <p>AJ was asked to invite Jason to the next meeting</p>	AJ
11. Report on S106 finances	MA reported there were no changes to s106 funding since the last meeting.	
8. AOB	There were no items of AOB.	
Next meetings	<p>Following the meeting, AJ set a date of Monday 8th November at 2.00pm to hold a face to face meeting at Devizes Library</p> <p>If DTC and SD agree locations and designs for new cycle parking in town, a special meeting may be called to make a recommendation for funding ahead of the Devizes Area Board meeting on 6th September</p>	