

## **Bradford on Avon Area Board, 9 January 2013**

### **Chairman's Announcement: Progress since approval of the Air Quality Action Plan in September**

#### **Bradford on Avon Air Quality Alliance**

To drive forward the agreed action plan it will be important to carry the support of all key stakeholders responsible for air quality, public health and traffic management in the town.

The Bradford on Avon Area Board at its meeting on 19 September agreed to establish an Air Quality Partnership or 'Alliance'.

The Bradford on Avon Town Council at its meeting on 30 October agreed to join the Alliance.

The inaugural meeting of the Bradford on Avon Air Quality Alliance will be held on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February at St Margaret's Hall, to be chaired by Maggie Rae, Director of Public Health for Wiltshire and newly appointed Corporate Director at Wiltshire Council with responsibility for adult social care, public health, housing and communities. Invitees will include Allan Creedy, Head of Sustainable Transport at Wiltshire Council and Duncan Hames MP.

#### **Origin and Destination Survey**

A proposal for a numberplate recognition survey (NPR) from the Bradford on Avon Preservation Trust was deferred by the Area Board in November pending further discussions with highways officers.

The proposed survey will distinguish traffic passing through the town; originating and finishing in the town; and internal to the town. A NPR survey using volunteers will allow more detailed observation of traffic than a Road Side Interview (RSI) Survey and would be significantly less expensive.

Highways officers are scoping the technical merits and cost-benefits of both NPR and RSI surveys to allow the community to debate the relative merits of the surveys, in full knowledge of all the facts.

#### **Health Survey**

The survey has attracted a very good response and the findings have been collated and evaluated by Martin Valatin and Rosemary Brown.

#### **Air Quality Monitor** – report from Peter Nobes, Senior Public Protection Officer

"Basically we are nearly there. The ground works at the Old Vicarage on Masons Lane were carried out on 19 December. They have levelled and concreted the area where the analyser will sit, have installed the bespoke frame it will sit on and carried out the electrical works to provide the power. The analyser itself has been disconnected from the mains and we have confirmed an order with Envirotechnology, the company who will physically move the device and reinstall it (calibrate and test the monitoring kit prior to commissioning) to come in as soon as the final hurdle has been cleared.

I am waiting for Scottish and Southern to provide me with a quote to remove the cables supplying the site in Westbury. This is proving a frustrating delay as the work couldn't be ordered by us, it had to go via British Gas, the power supplier who disconnected the analyser on the 6<sup>th</sup> December. They weren't allowed to touch the cables which are still inside the analyser box and live. We can't move the analyser until these have been disconnected from the lamp post supplying the power and physically removed. The order was made in early December and despite several (unreturned) phone messages and (unreplied) emails I have yet to receive the quote to carry out this work. I will continue to chase them. Once this is received I need to pass it via our procurement office for approval and to agree a date. As soon as this is done we can get it moved and start measuring real time levels of PM10 and NO2 on Masons Lane.

I will of course be in touch when the move is imminent; perhaps Cllr Brown will be available to 'flick the switch' for publicity purposes?"

### **Electric Vehicles**

Platinum Renault Trowbridge donated a Renault Kangoo ZE electric van to Climate Friendly BOA for the month of December 2012 and this was used to run daily collections from shops and services in the centre of town, including helping Bradford on Avon Community Agriculture to deliver their veg boxes and deliveries from the Co-op and Budgens.

It has been confirmed that, as part of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund, Wiltshire Council is looking to install two electric vehicle charging points at Bradford on Avon railway station (as well as at Chippenham, Salisbury and Trowbridge railway stations). At this stage the Council is in the early stages of procuring a relevant supplier and will need to agree an easy accessible location with the station manager. All being well, the Council hopes to have the charging points installed by the end of this financial year.

Discussions continue with Ian White, Head of Passenger Transport at Wiltshire Council, regarding a possible bid to the Government's Green Bus Fund for an electric bus for the town as a demonstration project to the rest of Wiltshire.

### **Air Quality Egg**

Jim Lynch and Dr. Jeremy Bunting, both of BoACAN, have been following the development of a low-cost pollution monitoring device, commonly known as 'The Egg', which is currently being tested in Bristol. It enables real-time, web-based monitoring of air quality and is attracting worldwide attention. They are liaising with Climate Friendly Bradford and will publicise details shortly.

**Peter Dunford, December 2012**