

Wexham and the Ivers Air Quality Update

Air Quality Action Plan

The Air Quality Action Plan was accepted following some amendments and the Healthy Communities Policy Advisory Group. A very successful public consultation was hosted on the council's website and all Statutory consultees were advised by email. Following the consultation, the Air Quality Action Plan was slightly amended to take on board some but not all of the consultation responses. The publication of the Air Quality Action Plan has been delayed by the Unitary process and Covid – 19. However, it will be available on the Council website before the end of the year.

Air Quality Action Plan Feasibility Study and s106 Funding

Defra grant funding was received in March to undertake a Feasibility study for the Air Quality Action Plan. The main purpose of the study is to determine the best measures outlined in the AQAP to reduce nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) concentrations within the AQMA in the shortest time possible. The resulting report would support our application for s106 funding and demonstrate that SBDC will use the money wisely and the measures put in place would reduce emissions from road transport in the AQMA.

Buckinghamshire Council have commissioned Ricardo Energy and Environment to undertake a project to develop and assess different options for an Air Quality Actions Feasibility Study (AQAFS) in Iver, and potentially the wider Buckinghamshire area. An initial long-list of measures to reduce air pollutant emissions has been developed to be considered as possible air quality actions. Together with other departments in the council these options were considered further, both developing the detail of the options and assessing their potential impacts. Consequently, a short-list of measures was identified that had the greatest potential of improving air quality in the area, whilst also being cost-effective, practical and achievable. The implementation time for each measure was considered, with the ability to implement the measure prior to 2022 viewed as being favourable. It was also seen as beneficial if the emissions impact of the measure could be quantified through modelling; this is primarily reliant on the availability of transport data. Ricardo E&E are now in the process of carrying out emissions, air quality and economic assessments on these measures. This task will be completed in the next 2 months.

Although s106 funding has been promised for the implementation of the AQAP this has not yet been received. Disappointingly, the measures within the AQAP have yet to be implemented.

Air Quality Monitoring Sensors

Defra grant funding was received to purchase and trial Air Quality Sensors. Four Vaisala sensors have now been installed in Iver. They are located as follows:

- Lighting column outside Iver Village Junior School
- Lighting column on the corner of Thorney Lane North and Iver High Street
- Lighting column outside the Tower Arms

- Lighting column on North Road to the West of Old Slade Lane

Provisional data for the Vaisala AQTs will be disseminated onto Ricardo's Air Quality England website beginning in November. (<https://www.airqualityengland.co.uk/>). Although the data is provisional and can only be considered as indicative it will be an opportunity to view live data by all those who are interested. In the meantime, please see a summary that was put together by Ricardo for Iver Village Junior School (Appendix 1). Please note that these results should not be compared to the Annual Mean Objectives as they do not cover a full calendar year.



Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy.

Buckinghamshire Council was committed to developing and publishing a Low Emission Strategy and a Climate Change strategy in 2020. It was decided that these 2 strategies would be stronger if they were combined, especially as they have similar ambitions. In September 2020, the council launched two climate change and air quality surveys. One is open to organisations, the other is for residents. The surveys were designed to help the council understand local views and experiences about addressing climate change and poor air quality. The information provided will help develop the draft strategy, which people and organisations will be able to comment on in a consultation later this year.