

Storrington Air Quality Update

Air pollution is a significant health, economic and environmental problem for the UK generally that requires concerted efforts from a variety of stakeholders to address effectively. Air pollution does not respect administrative boundaries. This means that all levels of government have to work together – locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

Air pollution has received a lot of media attention recently, with sometimes conflicting messages and often very technical information. The subject of Air Quality in Storrington is currently very topical however, it is also a complicated and wide ranging one. The Storrington Air Quality Steering Group was established to help the District Council to bridge that gap and provide a platform for discussion between the stakeholders so that improvements can be made. The Steering Group is a partnership between Storrington PC, WSCC, Horsham DC and other stakeholders (e.g. Highways), focused on improving local air quality in Storrington.

Horsham District Council in particular has responsibilities placed upon it by central government in regards to the assessment of air quality. They are required to follow a robust approach and operate appropriately within the relevant guidelines pertaining to the assessment of air quality. An annual report detailing this can be found at the following link;

https://www.horsham.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0005/58829/ASR2019_final2.pdf

The steps and measures introduced since the declaration of an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in 2011 and the public consultation on an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) for Storrington plus improvements in the vehicle fleet have resulted in significant improvements to AQ in Storrington. Pollution levels in Storrington have reduced and currently there is now only one point of exceedance in the Governments annual average mean objective for NO₂ (Nitrogen Dioxide). This is at the mini roundabout at junction of School Hill and Manleys Hill. Furthermore, analysis by AEA Technologies on behalf of DEFRA shows that, despite the exceedance, it is unlikely for the Governments 1-hour mean objective for NO₂ to be exceeded even at this location.

The recent introduction of the parking and loading ban in the High St and the lorry restrictions to School Hill are anticipated to bring further improvements in air quality. These schemes will be monitored and evaluated over the next 12 months at which point further options and/or interventions may be considered.

A coordinated approach is crucial if we are going to reduce the harmful effects. It is here that the Steering Group has a critical role to play. Different stakeholders have key involvement including a number of policy levers at their disposal, but they do not have all the power they need to address this issue alone. Everyone needs to continue to play their part in addressing air quality and improving the health and wellbeing of all our residents.

For further information please contact Marc Rankin – Principal Environmental Health Officer marc.rankin@horsham.gov.uk or by telephone on 01403215178

Notes of the meeting of the Storrington Air Quality Steering group held on 31st January.

Present: Cllr Anna Worthington-Leese (Chair), Cllr Richard Jerman, Cllr Richard Evea (Storrington & Sullington Parish Council) SSPC
Cllr Paul Marshall, Stephen Douglas, Jamie Dallen, Bill Leath, Penny Mather (WSCC)
Cllr Ray Dawe, Cllr Philip Circus, Cllr James Wright, John Batchelor, Marc Rankin, Anna Czarska (HDC).

Press Coverage.

It was agreed that a press release giving factual information re air quality in Storrington and the actions that have been taken to improve this would be issued.

Air Quality and Planning.

Clarification is to be sought from HDC's Planning Department on how applications are assessed for cumulative impact and also clarity on how the AQMA is considered when assessing planning applications for neighbouring parishes.

Update on recently progressed schemes.

(a) **HGV weight restriction on School Hill.** It was (a) noted that though HGV numbers are down many HGVs are still using the prohibited route. *SSPC to contact the police with regard to how this restriction can be enforced.*

(b) **Stopping Restrictions on North Street.** Again, it was noted that these restrictions are regularly being ignored. *SSPC to obtain information about number of tickets issued since the restrictions were introduced and to request increased Enforcement Officer presence.*

Cleaner Buses. A meeting has been arranged with WSCC's Cabinet Member for the Environment regarding the use of cleaner school transport.

School Travel Plans.

Liaison to take place with Storrington Primary School, Thakeham Primary School and Steyning Grammar School, Rock Road Campus, to work with them to carry out surveys of how pupils travel to school.

Schemes for consideration.

The following ideas were put forward for consideration.

- CCTV on School Hill to monitor HGVs using the prohibited route. *SSPC to enquire whether police can enforce using CCTV evidence and if so whether there are any conditions regarding specification of equipment.*
- Application for a Community Highways Scheme to address issues at West Street roundabout (junction with Monastery Lane, Amberley Road, Pulborough Road).
- Consider possibility of introduction of "Green Walls" in the village
- Anti-Idling schemes
- Review AQMA scheme proposals (June 2017) to consider whether any of the proposed schemes should be revisited.

S106 Monies.

The group was updated on the availability of S106 monies for AQMA action.

Electric Vehicle charging points

Funds have been secured from the Glebe Development for the servicing and maintenance of the charging points in the Library Car Park.

Information to be sought about the potential cost, current usage and future predicted use of the existing equipment. Consultation would also need to take place with service providers to ensure that sufficient supply of power is available. Parish council to be asked to consider installing charging points on PC land.

Idling Enforcement Options. Work to continue with local schools to organise informal campaigns to ask those collecting children to switch off their engines rather than leave them idling. This was considered preferential to implementing legislation to enforce compliance.

The group will meet again towards the end of March on a date to be arranged.