

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
COUNCIL HELD ON 19 January 2022

STATEMENT and QUESTION from Mr Peter Dobbs, Ashbourne Local Resident

“The existing Local Plan does mention air pollution and how planning decisions should bear in mind their impact on air quality. However I would contend the guidance in PD9 is vague and perhaps less able to protect the health of residents than policy NBE15 from the 2007 plan that it replaced. Since the current Local Plan was written, the government has published revised guidance on “how planning can take account of the impact of new development on air quality.”

*In particular it says “All development plans can influence air quality in a number of ways, for example through what development is proposed and where, and the provision made for sustainable transport. Consideration of air quality issues at the plan-making stage can ensure a strategic approach to air quality and help secure net improvements in overall air quality where possible. It is important to take into account air quality management areas, where there could be specific requirements or limitations on new development because of air quality.”**

With this in mind it is disappointing to note that there is no planned revision of the section on air quality (which is bundled with a section on unstable land) yet since the Plan was adopted there has been an AQMA declared in Ashbourne and other areas have worryingly high levels of the pollutant nitrogen oxide, with some pollutants like particulates not being measured at all.

Question; May I ask why a revision of this section of the Plan (PD9) was thought unnecessary?”

RESPONSE:

The primary aim of the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan is to ensure that the District Council sets out a framework for decisions on the use and development of land that seek to achieve sustainable development. The policies and proposals in the adopted Derbyshire Dales Local Plan seek to achieve this and were subject to independent scrutiny by a Planning Inspector in 2017 and found to be fit for purpose at that time.

As the report to Council sets out the District Council is required to complete a review of the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan by December 2022. The purpose of the report is to set out where it is considered changes in principle should be undertaken, and for Members to approve further work on more detailed changes to the policies and proposals in the Local Plan.

The schedule set out in Appendix 1 of the report indicates those policies and

proposals of the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan that it is considered requires some degree of modification. In relation to Policy PD9 it states that the context to the policy remains relevant and very limited revisions of significance anticipated. It does not say that there will not be any changes to Policy PD9.

The District Council is required to carry out a Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Plan against a series of social, economic and environmental objectives. One of the objectives is set out as follows:

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Decision Making Criteria
SA1: To maintain good local air quality and to minimise noise and light pollution	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Will it maintain or improve local air quality? 2. Will it avoid adverse impacts from noise? 3. Will it reduce the extent of the area defined as 'tranquil'? 4. Will it minimise light pollution?

Baseline Data to underpin this objective indicates the factors that have been taken into account in relation to air pollution:

The National Air Quality Strategy provides a framework for air quality control through air quality management and air quality objectives that should be met as designated receptors. Local air quality can have major impacts to residents' health. The District Council have monitored air pollution at sites across the Derbyshire Dales for several years and have most recently published their annual Air Quality Status Report (ASR) in 2020 stating that air quality in the district is generally good. Derbyshire Dales District Council recently incorporated climate change as a priority objective, including a pledge to be carbon neutral by 2030, which should aid air quality improvements. Where exceedances of specified air quality pollutants are considered likely, Air Quality Management Area's (AQMA) may be designated. As of 7th April 2021, an AQMA was declared in the centre of Ashbourne. The AQMA lies along parts of St Johns Street and Buxton Road, up to Windmill Lane. This area is designated in relation to a likely breach of the NO2 annual mean objective specified in the Air Quality (England) Regulations 2000. This order is expected to remain in force until NO2 levels return to acceptable parameters. A new bypass is being considered by DCC to divert traffic from Buxton Road, which if delivered should subsequently improve air quality.

Development proposals in Ashbourne will be assessed against the Sustainability Objectives and including how it may impact upon the AQMA.

Assuming that Members approve the recommendations in the report Officers will seek to ensure that the Ashbourne AQMA, is included in the plan, and that there are suitable revisions to the supporting text, policies and proposals in the Local Plan to ensure that the impact, and minimisation of air pollution are addressed.

Any revisions to the policies and proposals in the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan in the plan will be subject to public consultation later this year. This will allow residents and stakeholders the opportunity to comment on any proposed changes to the plan. It will also allow residents and stakeholders the opportunity to set out their comments on areas of the plan they consider where changes should be made to the policies and proposals where none or minor changes have been suggested. All comments made during the public consultation will be considered by the Council in the continued development of the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan.