

HWBB Meeting of 17th November – Response to Air Quality questions

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A) *There is no mention in this 2022 ASR or in the 2021 ASR of the Zephyr monitor results. Where are these please?*

Earthsense Zephyrs are commonly referred to as ‘low-cost sensors’, the information provided by the monitors is therefore indicative and not reference-level monitoring to be reported within the annual status report (ASR).

During the initial grant-funded project, data was displayed on a public-facing portal. In October 2021, it was decided not to renew the public-facing portal due to funding requirements and the change in role for the monitors, whereby they would be rotated for specific projects, and not solely fixed within each AQMA as previously.

The Council has currently retained two Earthsense Zephyr units within an active servicing and calibration contract, it is anticipated that these will be used for shorter-term monitoring such as: before and after highway interventions, school-street closures and for screening potential exceedances of standards and newly identified locations.

Reporting of this data will vary dependent on the purpose for which it is collected. If specific information is required for certain or all locations, the Council can provide the information it has available on an individual basis by contacting Environmental Protection (environmental.protection@shropshire.gov.uk or 0345 678 9067) or using the Freedom of Information Request process.

B)

1. *Would the officer give an indication of levels at these places so far for 2022.*

2. *Has any traffic monitoring been undertaken?*

As we are still within the 2022 monitoring year, we cannot yet provide annualised figures as they will be reported in the 2023 ASR. This work and analysis will most likely be undertaken in early 2023 once the December results are received.

C) *What are the plans if the NWRR does not get built?*

The Council is currently preparing Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) documents. These will consider upcoming scenarios for each AQMA and if it is assessed as being necessary, propose further interventions to reduce emissions in both Shrewsbury and Bridgnorth AQMA. In Shrewsbury, this work will consider scenarios and interventions both with and without the implementation of the North West Relief Road (NWRR).



D) There is no mention of action in Bridgnorth, why not?

References to 'AQMA's' within the 2022 ASR should be taken to refer to both Shrewsbury and Bridgnorth AQMA's unless stated otherwise. Work is progressing in Bridgnorth and officers are working closely with the Highways department to maximise any potential air quality benefits from strategic work in Bridgnorth, this is closely related to the current AQAP review project. Further updates will be provided to the HWBB, Shropshire Council's website, and within future ASR's as this work progresses.

Summary: Given the lack of effective action since the current NO2 limits became legally binding in 2010 and which have been illegally exceeded since then, will the Board please agree at this meeting to demand positive real action and firm plans within deadlines? Without plans, lobbying for external funding is extremely difficult.

Officers would draw both the Board's and the public's attention to recent changes to the Environment Act 1995 (which were introduced from 1st May 2022). These specific changes have been underlined in the below text for clarity.

The 2021 Act introduces new [Section 83A to the Environment Act 1995](#) which strengthens requirements in respect of local Air Quality Action Plans (AQAP). Under the new requirements AQAP's must set out how the local authority will exercise its functions to secure that air quality standards and objectives are achieved in the area to which the plan relates, and how standards and objectives will be maintained thereafter, rather than a requirement only to "work towards" achievement.

Local authorities must also specify a date by which each measure within the Air Quality Action Plan will be carried out. Air Quality Partners are required under the Act to collaborate with local authorities in developing and carrying out Air Quality Action Plans.

In essence, the above new changes have introduced more stringent requirements on the development/review of action plans (AQAPs). The current AQAP review project is carrying out a data and intelligence-led assessment of both AQMA's in order to develop the most-effective plan that can feasibly be implemented. Further information of AQAP review project can be found within the November update to the HWBB.

