

# Air Quality in Dacorum

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# Local Air Quality Management (LAQM). Brief Overview

- Legal Duties - Statutory Duty under The Environment Act 1995.
- DBC undertake annual reports and assessments to DEFRA.
- DBC are members of the Herts and Beds Air Quality Network and airAlert system.
- <http://www.hertsbedsair.org.uk/hertsbeds/asp/home.asp>
- [www.airalert.info](http://www.airalert.info)

# What Pollutants -

- **Benzene,**
  - **1,3 Butadiene,**
  - **Carbon Monoxide,**
  - **Lead,**
  - **Nitrogen Dioxide,**
  - **Particles (PM<sub>10</sub>),**
  - **Sulphur Dioxide.**
- DBC only monitors for Nitrogen Dioxide NO<sub>2</sub> – main pollutant from traffic.

Nitric oxide (NO) is an odourless, colourless gas which is produced during high temperature burning of fuel in, for example, cars and other road vehicles, heaters and cookers. Once it is mixed with air it quickly combines with oxygen, forming nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>).

The Government set air quality objectives for each pollutant.

# Monitoring

- Nitrogen Dioxide – mainly from Traffic Pollution.
- 31 diffusion tubes around the borough.
- Tubes are analysed and assessed against national objectives.
- If levels exceed national objectives then LA declares an Air Quality Management Area.



# What is an Air Quality Management Area? (AQMA)

- Where pollutant levels exceed the national objectives.
  - Over 230 LA's have AQMA's. (The whole of London is an AQMA)
- Undertake a report to DEFRA informing of exceedance and intention to declare an AQMA.
- Present findings to Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Full Cabinet for order to be made.
- LA's must then undertake an Air Quality Action Plan.

# Dacorum Borough Council - Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA)

Three locations within the borough to be declared an AQMA.

- 1. **London Road Apsley – Featherbed Lane to Dunelm Mill**
- 2. **Lawn Lane Apsley – Durrants Hill Road to Belswains Lane**
- 3. **High Street Northchurch – Darrs Lane to Duncombe Road.**

**Pollutants struggle to disperse due to the '*street canyon effect*'.**

# What is an Air Quality Action Plan – (AQAP)

- Its a plan that provides the mechanism for LA's in collaboration with national agencies and others, to state their intentions for working towards the air quality objectives through the use of powers available.
  - Details ways to reduce pollution in affected areas.
  - Work closely with other departments/agencies to set targets/plans.
  - Undertake an Annual Action Plan Progress Report.

# Whose in on the Action Plan?

A Local Authority in carrying out its functions shall consult:

- Herts County Council
- Hertfordshire Highways
- Environment Agency
- Interdepartmental. – Planning/Spatial Planning. Development control/ Regeneration.
- Corporate policy and resources.
- Neighbouring Local Authorities.
- Bodies representing local businesses or other organisations.
- Local Environmental Groups

# Steering Group

- Set up a Steering Group –
  - To take forward the development and implementation of an Action Plan and decide who should be included to support such a plan such as outside bodies, local businesses and community groups.
- Will then work within the Local Strategic Partnership.
  - As this brings together representatives from the local statutory, voluntary, community and private sectors to address local problems, discuss strategies and initiatives. Aims to encourage joint working and community involvement.

# Possible Options/Actions.....

## • Traffic -

- LEZ's -HGV restrictions.
- Walk to School plans.
- Traffic calming.
- Improved cycling walking provisions.
- Road system redesign.

## • Planning Development

- S106 agreements – Improved transport links.
- Strategic Planning – Transport and Environmental control
- Development control - Control of what goes where.

# Possible Options/Actions.....

- **Industrial Emissions** -

- Changes in operation of source.
- Emission abatement equipment.
- Relocation of process.
- Fuel change.

- **Domestic Emissions** -

- Smoke Control Areas.
- Home Insulation schemes.
- Bonfire bans.

# airAlert



- A free service provided by the Herts and Beds Air Quality Network informing people of poor air quality in their area.
- airAlert is targeted at people with respiratory health problems who may be affected by air pollution.
- airAlert warns people the day before or on the day that elevated air pollution is expected to occur.
- airAlert sends a voice or text message direct to a mobile or home telephone or email or via web pages.
- [www.airalert.info](http://www.airalert.info)

# Any Questions?.....

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