

Minutes of the Ryedale District Council Air Quality Steering Group

10.00am 16 October 2015 at Ryedale House, Malton

Present:

Steven Richmond, Health and Environment Manger (Chair)

Paul Hunt, Environmental Protection Officer

Ailish Lilley, Environmental Health Officer

Jill Thompson, Forward Planning Manager

Richard Marr, NYCC, Area Highways Manager

Howard Wallis, Economic Development

Clive Staples, NYCC Transport Planning Officer

1. Minutes of meeting of 30 July 2015 and matters arising.

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting

Matters arising

All matters arising are covered in the agenda

2. Air Quality Grants

Further to the last meeting Defra have subsequently made £0.5m available for the Air quality Grant Programme 2015/16. This is half the amount that was available last year when our application was unsuccessful. Applications are open to local authorities in England who have one or more Air quality Management areas for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), or those authorities where Defra's national air quality assessment, as reported to the EU Commission, identified an exceedance in their area. Eligibility to apply also covers areas where the daily limit (24-hour mean) for Particulate Matter (PM₁₀) is at risk of exceedance. The deadline for submissions is mid day on 22 October.

The grants that were successful last year were reviewed and it was considered that based on those and the fact there was half as much money available this year, that applications for those authorities in infringement zones where Defra's national air quality assessment, as reported to the EU Commission, are likely to be prioritised..

PH explained the two separate systems of air quality reporting.

HW explained that there are two possible schemes that maybe worth consideration, both the Electric Pedal Assisted Cycle Scheme(EPAC) and the Malton to Pickering Cycle Route (MTPCR). The MTPCR feasibility study is almost complete. They were looking to the LEP for tourism funding but needs private sector match funding and needs detailed designs drawing up. It is a large scheme in it's entirety, but Phase 1 of the scheme has been costed at £48K and geared to improving cycling infrastructure and usage from the railway station through Malton out as far as Eden Camp.

Craig Natress was invited to the meeting to outline the EPAC scheme, which is already worked up. They applied for £42K DfT funding from a total of £107 public/private contributions in year 1. The bid just missed been accepted..

PH to check out key eligibility criteria in the application and discuss with CN as to the best fit for the grant..

3. Complementary Measures

Video survey of the crossing was undertaken over a 24 hour period on 7 October and will give a breakdown of the vehicle classifications. There will be a report to the 16 December Area Committee. It was emphasised that Brambling Fields was undertaken for the reason of highway capacity to allow growth of the town with businesses and housing without a worsening of the situation. The starting point will be aimed at a complete ban of HGV's but will go out for consultation.

Yorkshire Water are doing work on the water main in Church Street, Norton in January/February 2016, therefore the resurfacing won't take place until after that and it would be logical to tie in the realignment of the Welham Road junction with this work.

4. Defra - Consultation document - Draft Plans to improve air quality in the UK - Tackling nitrogen dioxide in our towns and cities.

The Government has launched a consultation <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/airquality/draft-aq-plans> to seek views from local and transport authorities, businesses and members of the public on what local action can be taken to improve air quality.

The European Commission has started formal infraction proceedings against the UK for not achieving NO₂ limits. The plans of how the Government propose to bring the UK into compliance will be submitted to the Commission by 31 December 2015. New projections based on latest data indicate that 35

out of the 43 UK Zones are expected to be compliant with legal limits for NO₂ by 2020. A zone plan has been produced for each of the 38 zones that were non-compliant in 2013. the Government propose a framework for Clean Air Zones in order to deliver a consistent approach. Such zones are aimed at reducing the number of polluting vehicles in an area and by encouraging the uptake of alternative low emissions vehicles and fleet turnover. This framework is for those local authorities that decide emissions based access controls are the most effective solution for them to meet the limit values for NO₂ and will set a standard for vehicles to achieve to ensure a consistent approach by local authorities. Those not meeting the standard will be subject to a charge or other restriction appropriate to the type of vehicle. The full frame work for Clean Air Zones will be set out in 2016.

The consultation closes on 6 November 2015.

5. AOB

Harrogate BC have secured some additional internal funding for 0.5FTE air quality post. They are not applying for an Air Quality Grant.

JT and RM to speak to James Kennedy, to seek clarification around proposed HGV ban over the crossing.

Off site improvements - In future it will be the Community Investment Levy (CIL) will provides funding for any transport improvements, rather than Sec 106 monies. This will provide grater flexibility and will apply to all developments. Parish/Town Councils will receive a proportion of the funding.

6. Next Meeting

To be arranged in January following the outcome of the December Area Committee.