



Ashbourne Draft Air Quality Action Plan Consultation

Introduction

The Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) is produced as part of our legal duties required by the Local Air Quality Management framework. It outlines the actions we propose to take to improve air quality in Ashbourne between now and 2027. This Plan will be reviewed every five years and consulted upon; the results from the consultation will be included, where appropriate, into the final plan.

Monitoring undertaken by Derbyshire Dales District Council revealed that the National Air Quality Objectives annual average limit of 40 micrograms per cubic metre (40µg/m³) for Nitrogen Dioxide was being exceeded at a site on Buxton Road, Ashbourne.

This led to Derbyshire Dales District Council commissioning a Detailed Air Quality Assessment to establish if an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) should be declared. The recommendation that an AQMA should be declared was approved by the Community and Environment Committee on 7 April 2021. A declaration was made on 5 May 2021. This can be viewed at the [Defra UK-Air website](#).

This consultation will last 4 weeks. Please respond by **xxxx**

By taking part in this survey, you agree that DDDC and/or its partners will process your data in line with our [Data Protection Policy and procedures](#). If you have any queries or complaints, or need help regarding this survey/questionnaire, please contact *Environmental Health on 01629 761212 or email Envhealth@derbyshiredales.gov.uk*

Priorities

Action 1: Investigate the use of Urban Traffic Management Control to optimise traffic flows within Ashbourne town centre

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) recognises that Urban Traffic Management Control (UTMC) computerised systems can improve the flow of traffic in towns. Where these systems work well, shorter journey times, fewer congestion periods, and lower pollutant emissions are likely.

The County Council's UTMC will be considered by a specialist consultancy to improve the flow of HGVs and other motorised vehicles across the town centre and within the AQMA. The work will consider whether any extra traffic control measures are required for the UTMC to be most effective within the AQMA.

How strongly do you agree with Action 1?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Comments: -----

Action 2: Investigate town centre priority or capacity changes to improve heavy goods and other vehicle flows on A515 Buxton Road, Ashbourne

Positive changes to driver behaviour, where there are fewer accelerations or decelerations provide an opportunity to make a positive impact on air quality. HGVs and other motorised vehicles are sometimes stopped from a smooth driving style on the A515, particularly because of conflict between northbound traffic and congestion on the southbound side during busy times.

This action will consider whether giving priority to southbound traffic to flow freely through either, or both, the A515 Buxton Road/ St Johns Street junction and A515 St Johns Street junction/ Park Road has an impact on driving styles. This assessment will consider air quality emissions associated with HGVs and other motorised vehicles.

How strongly do you agree with Action 2?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Comments: -----

Action 3: Influence route selection via live traffic information systems

The A515 is one of the Main routes in western Derbyshire. It connects Ashbourne and Buxton and the national strategic network via the A50 at Sudbury.

At the moment, there are no alternative routes that could move traffic away from Ashbourne town centre. There could be opportunities to influence the route for longer distance trips by HGVs and other vehicles by providing live traffic information before, or early in a journey.

A funding bid has been made to DEFRA to develop an air quality function within the UTM. This would allow road users to use automated alerts and live traffic information to help them choose a different route when air pollution is building within the town centre.

How strongly do you agree with Action 3?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Undecided
- Disagree

- Strongly Disagree

Comments: -----

Action 4: Investigate tree canopy pollution dispersal

Where there are a great many trees, the flow of air may be reduced and can affect the natural circulation and reduction of pollutants. This happens because the thickness of the trees can intensify or create a 'street canyon' effect.

Derbyshire Dales District Council are taking an opportunity to deal with this issue on Buxton Road by removing diseased trees, increasing the height of the general tree canopy, and removing re-growth from any previously removed tree canopy.

How strongly do you agree with Action 4?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Comments: -----

Wider Air Pollution Preventative Measures

Action 5: Active Travel Promotion

DEFRA air quality guidance states that walking and cycling can help improve air quality, combat climate change, improve health and wellbeing, and tackle congestion on our roads. Over half of all residents both live and work in Ashbourne and, therefore air quality could be improved by encouraging people [who are able to], to walk or cycle instead of driving short journeys.

Action 5a) St John Street and Dig Street/Compton Public Realm

This Action will seek to improve the town centre public areas by widening footways and improving the ability to safely walk or cycle in partnership with the "Ashbourne Reborn" Levelling Up Fund proposals, and make Dig Street/ Compton one-way for traffic using a Traffic Regulation Order.

How strongly do you agree with Action 5a?

- Strongly agree
- Agree

- Undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Comments: -----

Action 5b) Mobility Hub

The ‘Ashbourne Reborn’ Levelling Up Fund Bid contains a proposal to provide a high-quality transport hub. This will provide real time travel information and provide links to other transport such as cycling and walking routes. The Ashbourne Hub will be sited close to the Tissington Trail to link up to existing cycle paths and includes provision of cycle parking and electric cycle charging points. (See also Action 8b).

How strongly do you agree with Action 5b?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Comments: -----

Action 6: Electric Vehicle Charging Points

There is wide Government and local policy support to move to zero emission vehicles and improve air quality, by installing more Electric Vehicle charging points. A County Council commissioned study (2022) has identified a need for extra charging points in Ashbourne in addition to those already provided in Shawcroft Car Park. The County Council has made a proposal to provide additional charging points within a ‘mobility hub’ (action 5b) associated with the “Ashbourne Reborn” Levelling Up Fund bid.

How strongly do you agree with Action 6?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Comments: -----

Action 7: Business and School Travel Planning

DEFRA air quality guidance identifies that changes to behaviour can support a reduction in trips by car by encouraging more sustainable and active forms of transport, including cycling and walking. To enable this the Action Plan seeks to undertake measures including:-

Action 7a) Workplace travel plans

The County Council's sustainable travel team providing advice to businesses and new developments to encourage greater use of more sustainable modes of transport.

How strongly do you agree with Action 7a?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Comments: -----

Action 7b) School travel plans

The County Council is encouraging all schools in Derbyshire to sign-up to Modeshift STARS (a centre of excellence for delivery of effective travel plans) including within Ashbourne. The County Council's sustainable travel team has already begun to work with teachers and pupils directly at one Ashbourne primary school to encourage greater use of sustainable travel modes and to formalise these in a School travel plan (STP).

How strongly do you agree with Action 7b?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Comments: -----

Action 7c) School Streets

School Street schemes combine a way for communities to tackle air pollution and improve road safety around schools. During term time, streets are closed to through traffic and have parking restrictions at school pick-up and drop-off times. The schemes have been shown to reduce the number of people driving their children to school by up to a third.

The County Council is currently seeking a view from all schools in Derbyshire about demand for implementing School Streets and funding is being sought. They are actively engaging with a school in Ashbourne.

How strongly do you agree with Action 7c?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Comments: -----

Action 8: Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) implementation

Promoting and improving public transport is vital to increase the number of local journeys taken by sustainable travel modes. Funding is being sought for BSIP and it is intended that early actions in support of the BSIP will include:-

Action 8a) Bus priority

Increase bus performance in terms of punctuality, reliability and journey times by using automated bus location systems linked with the UTMC system to prioritise late running buses through traffic lights.

How strongly do you agree with Action 8a?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Comments: -----

Action 8b) Mobility hub

Provision of a high-quality transport hub is embedded within the Community Hub proposals of the 'Ashbourne Reborn' Levelling Up Fund Bid. Funding of the transport

hub would facilitate real time travel information including bus times and Demand Responsive Transport such as zero emission minibuses with a modern booking system as a possible cost effective way of providing the first mile/last mile transport provision. (See Action 5b also).

How strongly do you agree with Action 8b?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Comments: -----

Action 9: Engagement with minerals and logistics companies

The A515 is an important route for minerals haulage and there are opportunities to talk to mineral site operators through site planning, site monitoring and the local liaison committees. Several local companies are using lower emission vehicles to become more efficient and there are opportunities to work together and embrace new technologies as they come forward.

Information will be gathered about the importance and use of the A515 as a freight corridor for HGVs, to develop a more effective and focused approach to reducing air quality issues in Ashbourne.

How strongly do you agree with Action 9?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Comments: -----

Parking spaces

Would you support the removal of some parking spaces outside homes and businesses on Buxton Road during daytime peak periods if this would reduce conflict between HGVs and minimise emission of pollutants?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Comments: -----

Which of the above actions are most important to you? (tick up to 3 answers)

- Action 1
- Action 2
- Action 3
- Action 4
- Action 5
- Action 6
- Action 7
- Action 8
- Action 9

About you:

Tick all appropriate.

- Live in Ashbourne Air Quality Management Area
- Live in Ashbourne
- Live in the Derbyshire Dales
- Work in Ashbourne
- Visitor to Ashbourne
- Representative of a group or charity
- Representative of a Statutory Body
- Other

Equality Monitoring Questions:

You do not have to answer these questions, however the information that you do provide in this section will ensure that the survey is representative of people across the authority area and help us to identify if there are different views between different groups of people.

1. What is your age? Please tick one box only

- 16-17yrs
- 18-24yrs
- 25-34yrs
- 35-44yrs
- 45-54yrs

- 55-64yrs
- 65-74yrs
- 75+yrs
- Prefer not to say

2. Please select the option(s) that most reflect your gender? Please tick all that apply

- Female
- Male
- Non-binary
- Transgender
- Intersex
- Gender non-conforming
- Prefer not to say
- If not listed, please use this space to describe your gender how you wish

The definition of disability in the Equality Act 2010 is: “A physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on a person’s ability to carry out normal day to day activities”.

3. Do you consider yourself to be disabled? Please tick one box only

- Yes, daily activities limited a lot
- Yes, daily activities limited a little
- No
- Prefer not to say

4. How would you describe your ethnic background? Please tick one box only

- White British/English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish
- White Irish
- White Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- Any other White background
- Mixed / multiple ethnic groups - White & Black Caribbean