

**ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 6 JUNE 2019**  
**RESPONSE TO CLEAN AIR STRATEGY 2019 - DR KEVIN FELTHAM CC**

The Leicestershire County Council Local Transport Plan 3 states it will be important to develop a better and more robust understanding of how the transport system impacts on air quality.

A cumulative development traffic impact study for the Kibworths, Fleckney and Great Glen was carried out by Jacobs UK Limited during 2016 and was published in January 2017. The purpose of this study, jointly funded by Harborough District Council and Leicestershire County Council, was to assess the cumulative impact of committed/proposed developments and their effect on traffic on the A6 through the Kibworths. It also identified potential mitigation measures to resolve A6 junction capacity problems. The study report concluded that the highway link capacity on the A6 corridor through the Kibworths is operating significantly above its theoretical capacity level.

Harborough District Council declared the A6 through the Kibworths to be an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) on 29 November 2017 because the levels of nitrogen dioxide exceeded the annual mean air quality objective. This followed a detailed assessment and report in May 2017 of air quality by Air Quality Consultants Ltd, who concluded that a reduction in traffic emissions along Leicester Road (A6) would result in a decrease in the concentrations of nitrogen dioxide. An Air Quality Plan was produced by HDC in February 2019.

As part of the Air Quality Plan, it was recommended that a real time monitor be procured to measure nitrogen dioxide levels, and the data, at 15 minutes intervals, has been made available on a website since the middle of April 2019.

Amongst other recommendations, were

**An Impact assessment of local traffic management options**

1. Detailed traffic surveys
2. Undertaking traffic simulation of proposed junction improvements
3. Undertaking air quality impact assessment of junction improvements

The annual average daily traffic along the A6 was measured during 2017 to be between 17,000 and 24,000 vehicles per day depending on the measuring location, as some vehicles divert off to other rural villages. Cars and vans make up 90% of this traffic volume, leaving the remaining 10% being made up of HGVs and buses. This level of daily traffic volume already far exceeds the Department for Transport guidance levels for this width of road.

Friends Of The Earth have said that levels of nitrogen dioxide, caused by vehicle fumes, are alarmingly high on the A6 through the Kibworths – ranking it the 4<sup>th</sup> worst on a list of 71 areas of the East Midlands where national air quality standards are being breached.

The Kibworths Neighbourhood plan was adopted following a referendum in January 2018 and includes the following policy on Air Quality:

- Planning decisions should take account of the impact on air quality in the Plan area, supporting proposals which will result in the improvement of Air Quality or minimise reliance upon less sustainable forms of transport.

Solutions proposed by residents have included a bypass and imposing a Clean Air Zone.

The Harborough District Council local plan was adopted in May 2019 and includes the following section related to the Air Quality policy:

Residential and commercial development proposals will be permitted, subject to the provision of:

- mitigation for any adverse impact on air quality, especially in Air Quality Management Areas,

I am therefore asking the Scrutiny Committee to note the evidence shown above of the high capacity traffic volumes and air pollution problems on the A6 through the Kibworths, and ask members to encourage work by the Environment and Transport directorate on a business case, under the Government's Major Road Network scheme, for an A6 Kibworths bypass as this would demonstrate another unambiguous commitment by the county council to the Clean Air Strategy 2019.

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