

Comments on the draft Action Plan can be made online:

<http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/>

Or by post to:

Claire Spendley

Environmental Health officer

SODC

Benson Lane

Crowmarsh Gifford

Wallingford

OX10 8ED

Claire.Spendley@southandvale.gov.uk

The Action Plan can be seen online in the Library where paper copies are also available to read.

WATNEXT is a campaign group formed to be the voice of residents and businesses in Watlington in respect of key issues that affect our historic town.

We would welcome your support in working towards our objectives and you can find out much more about our work by visiting our web site :

www.watnext.org



Is Our Air Fit to Breathe?



IT'S TIME TO VOICE YOUR CONCERN...

SODC's DRAFT Air Quality Action Plan 2014 consultation document is now available to view and comment upon:

https://consult.southandvale.gov.uk/portal/south/health_and_housing/ep/aqap2014?pointId=1401442405890

Plus the opportunity to discuss your views at Watlington Town Hall On Saturday June 14th between 10am and 12.30pm with South Oxfordshire District Council staff

In March 2010 the UK Parliamentary Environment Audit Committee stated: "Poor air quality reduces the life expectancy by an average of 7/8 months and up to 50,000 people a year may die prematurely because of it"

The Public Health England figures published this year: in 2010 the deaths of 59 people aged over 25 in South Oxfordshire were associated with small particulates in air pollution. 608 associated life years were lost.

WATNEXT

SODC Draft Air Quality Action Plan 2014

There are several district wide 'greening' proposals and 3 specific actions for Watlington:

1. A feasibility study for a low emission zone (this study will also cover the whole SODC area but will not be complete until 2016)
2. Increased enforcement and review of the 7.5 t weight restriction zone
3. Smooth traffic flow by investigating the impact of on-street parking, lower speed limits, changing road markings and using different road surfaces

WATNEXT THOUGHTS...

- ❖ The greening proposals are welcome but for the most part will only improve air quality over many years. We need air quality to improve as soon as possible because air pollution is already damaging our health and is a special threat to vulnerable members of our community.
- ❖ The SODC action proposals are totally inadequate to meet this requirement

WATNEXT SUGGESTIONS:

- ✓ A comprehensive transport and traffic survey & assessment to allow full consideration of all possible options to reduce the volume of traffic in the town
- ✓ Tough and urgent action to reduce the number of HGVs
- ✓ Accurate and up to date information about the pollutants in our air including 2.5 particulate matter which are the greatest threat to our health
- ✓ Best practice by SODC and Oxfordshire County Council in consulting our community and working together to solve the problem

WATNEXT achievements over the last 8 months:

WATNEXT has continued to support efforts to limit storage and distribution at locations near to Watlington with the objective of reducing large HGV and van traffic from these sites

WATNEXT has drawn attention to the high traffic levels in Watlington through a series of National and Regional TV and Radio outlets

WATNEXT has raised the issue of increased traffic and pollution in the area with John Howell MP who is now committed to improving motorway signage to deter HGVs using Watlington as a cut through from the M40

WATNEXT has helped bring together other similar groups in South Oxfordshire that are suffering traffic and pollution issues culminating in a group that is now chaired by John Howell MP.

WATNEXT has highlighted the need for additional scrutiny of the pollution data in Watlington, one of 3 towns in South Oxfordshire which does not meet EU and UK standards for air quality. Approximately 150 homes & numerous businesses are directly affected and of course all people using or visiting the town centre.

WATNEXT do not think that air pollution is being taken seriously, especially the possible effects of long term exposure to air pollution on children. We plan to talk to residents and ensure their voice is heard loud and clear.

WATNEXT has driven the process for improved traffic surveys (to support improved traffic flow initiatives) and improved enforcement of large HGVs.

WATNEXT has been a strong supporter of all of the groups that are trying to improve the traffic and welfare of the town, particularly the Neighbourhood Plan which will ultimately determine the future of Watlington.