

Air Quality Working Group
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HAQWG – 15th of October 2024 – Hybrid

Introductions and Attendees:

- Heathrow
 - AU- Alan Urquhart
- Ricardo
 - BS - Brian Stacey
 - NR
 - CW
 - BF
 - JS
- Buckinghamshire
 - CW (online)
- Ealing
 - SS (online)
- Hounslow
 - CC (online)
- Slough
 - SN
- BA
 - ST (online)
- CISHA
 - LK - Laura Keith
- DfT
 - HA - (online)
- EA
 - DR- (online)
- CAA
 - AG (online)
 - HA (online)

Apologies:

- AP- BA
- CL– EA

1. Introduction and Apologies:

- The chair BS opened the meeting with apologies from members of the group.

2. Actions from the last meeting

- BS reviewed actions from the previous meeting and provided an explanation to address an outstanding action. BS explained that approximately 10% of PM2.5 emissions can be attributed to UFPs on average. The relevant graphs have been shared with the group.

3. Updates from Members – Round the table

- CC (Hounslow)

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- CW (Buckinghamshire)
 - AQAP public consultation is has now closed. We are currently going through responses.
 - Only 0.07% of population responded to the consultation.
 - Progressing with Iver high street project design. Exploring streetscape improvements to allow lorries to flow more freely with AtkinsRéalis whilst also bringing back a 'high street feel'. Hopefully there will be sufficient S106 funding from nearby developments to fund these improvements.
- SN (Slough)
 - AQAP has gone for approval to the licensing committee who are meeting in October. DEFRA have agreed a final deadline of 4th December for the new AQAP.
 - A new pm 2.5 monitor will be installed. This is estimated to go live in December.
- SS (Ealing)
 - Some issues with their latest ASR. These are mainly around data from the Horn Lane site. The EA are aware. DR and colleagues leading the investigation.
 - BS mentioned that Horn Lane is of particular interest to DEFRA due to a special mix of pollutants. There is potential for further study exploring different sensor technologies for pm composition.
 - Ealing are continuing with their school AQ monitoring / engagement project.
 - Transport colleagues continuing with school travel plans etc. and giving pupils access to AQ data.
 - Project will be spread to next tranche of 10 schools. Will reach 40-50 schools. Sharing evidence early and try get them to do their own bit. Schools engaging relatively well.
 - Fighting noise and dust issues from HS2 as Ealing have 6 sites across the borough.
- CC (Hounslow)
 - Undergoing a refresh of their AQ Monitoring stations Hounslow has 6 stations. Only 2 have pm 2.5. All stations will be upgraded to dual channel analysers soon.
 - Installing low-cost sensors at around 95 locations across the borough with a focus on schools. These will be Airscape Air Lab sensors, the same type as the ones that Camden Council are using.
 - Hounslow are offering capital funding to tackle AQ issues at schools.
 - Latest ASR has been published and they have started delivering their new AQAP which was published at end of last year.
- AG/HA (CAA)
 - New to group. All though AQ is not a core regulatory responsibility the CAA has sustainability strategy. They have a panel to check and challenge the strategy and provide advice and input. AQ is increasingly on their agenda.
 - Would like a bilateral relationship with the group. They were recommended to join via the noise and community forum which they regularly engage with.

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- SS asked about prospects for green growth. How CAA see this for LHR, how we might bring about improvements. Not just for new growth but also expansion.
- HA this is really big question. Particularly around how we can ensure legal targets will be met. Will take this offline.
- BS There is interest in chasing aircraft with drones for UFPs etc. perhaps this is something CAA can be involved in.
- ST (BA)
 - BA are updating their fleet in their transition to EV with HVO as stop gap. WHO uptake is currently 98% fuel usage on ground.
 - Taking delivery of new electric busses. 38 are on order.
 - Trialling new equipment with HAL EV charging.
- DR (EA)
 - Ongoing issues around spikes at the Horn Lane monitor in Ealing. Working to set up proper channels to be able to respond more dynamically.
 - Attended a national AQ conference. This featured great stuff on PM2.5 and methane. DR will share.
 - DR Coming to Heathrow for statutory plant inspections and the biomass boiler.
- HA (DfT)
 - DfT are keen to learn about local AQ concerns. The recent appointment of new ministers is a great opportunity to highlight new issues or existing problems that may have previously overlooked.
- HAL
 - At the last meeting the WG asked for a general AQ brief on trends and recent improvements.
 - AU presented a figures, stats and key highlights from HALs latest reports.
 - SS asked if there is a study on what recent reductions in pollutants are owing too.
 - CW could produce time series.
 - AU shared HAL's 2015-2020 emission inventory which covers HALs reduction.
 - AU gave the WG a preview of the new Airwatch site and how it addressed findings from the CISHA AQ report.
 - SS – asked about averages used in the local AQ comparison tool. AU explained that these tools produce a live average of all the relevant (background or roadside) monitoring stations in the highlighted areas.
 - BS explained that this would not be as representative as modelling based data is a practicable way of providing a live comparison.
 - NR explained the context around the local community want that lead to the development of this tool.
 - BS- BS sought feedback from the LCF and RG. RG is happier with simpler site.
 - The WG suggested Action plan to local. Links to all local action plans. On one page. AU will action this
 - SS asked about progress on HAL action. AU explained that he is working on a draft action plan and this will likely be published early next year.

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- CW- gave a quick update on his AQ model for HAL. Work has started on 2023 model with initial calculations and data capture underway. This model will feed into the new HAL AQ strategy / action plan.
- Ricardo
 - BF presented on HALs 2024 CAD monitoring projects including Clean Air Walking Routes in Spelthorne, HAL Colleague transport to / from the Compass Centre and plume chasing on the roads around the terminals.
 - SN asked if routes were walked just once and how representative would this be of AQ along these routes.
 - BF responded that we did multiple walks of the same routes during drop of time but this is just a snapshot on a single day.
 - SN – to get true rep of AQ exposure do we not need more measurements at diff times of year etc.
 - BS –This is just a snapshot meant to serve as a visual aid to take to local community forums etc. to see if there is more appetite for further study and as an informative to give people an idea of exposure in their area.
 - SS asked that if one were to replicate a similar project in Ealing to come up for solution for walking routes to schools would walking multiple times over 1 week be sufficient for reliable data.
 - BS responded that more data will always be better, but this would depend on what you are trying to achieve with this data.
 - AU commissioned the same type of study in Waltham Forest in 2019. He found it very useful and WF still use the study in cabinet reports for projects like school streets etc.
 - DR asked if these monitoring exercises revealed anything new, BS explained that results from this sort of study are not surprising to AQ practitioners but are really useful to the wider communities e.g. HAL staff, colleagues and local residents.
 - BS introduced JS who has just started his PhD research project with the University of Birmingham. One of the first things he will be looking at is how different instrument manufacturers analysers respond differently when making measurements.
 - NR gave an update on the latest AQ report. All analysers are now running well except for the BC analyser at Oaks Road.

Key Discussion Points:

- DEFRA are rolling out 100+ pm 2.5 monitors nationwide to expand the network.
- Slough are getting 2 monitors. One at an existing station and additional one as a new background site. There hasn't been much communication from DEFRA about specifics etc. Slough wanted a PM 2.5 sensor at the existing site but were struggling for budget, so this is a big win for them.
- CW hasn't heard anything about Bucks getting a monitor.
- NR will check in to see if bucks are getting one.
- SS asked what the benefit of these pm 2.5 monitors will be and are they looking at transport corridors? BS explained the plan is to gather PM2.5 data in as wide an

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environment as possible. Try to understand how different measurement techniques perform in different environments and to fill gaps in knowledge base. There is a need to improve our understanding and establish a robust baseline for exposure to this key pollutant.

- There still isn't a UKHSA representative for this group. BS will reach out again to KE. SS mentioned that BF from the UKHSA frequently attends noise and AQ forum. SS highlighted the importance of a health representative for this group so we can drill down into health outcomes. We still don't know much about cause and effect, and we need more understanding on the health impacts of UFPs. DR mentioned that UKHSA representatives did attend the recent national AQ conference. DR will try get contacts through this.
- AU to check in again with his contact in the GLA about joining the WG.
- SS called for joint projects with HAL. Lack of local funding means there is a greater need for local stakeholder projects.
- AU responded that he thinks there is appetite within HAL to help fund projects that improve air quality in the local area we are keen to hear about any bids or local schemes that involve model shift and streetscape improvements for pedestrians etc.

4. Any Other Business (AOB)

- BS- The Chair of the LCF has asked if we would consider having a local community rep in the HAQWG to feed back into LCF. The aim would be for this would promote more engagement of the WG with the local community. There was general agreement that a LCF representative observer attending the HAQWG would not be appropriate for the WG. The WG would prefer that BS regularly attended LCF meetings to engage with that community and provide them with regular updates. BS- to attend LCF meetings in future and provide two-way feedback.

5. Action items.

- HA to take SS's question offline (CAA's role in Green growth for airports / LHR not just for growth but also expansion).
- BS to explore potential avenues for collaborating with CAA in UFP plume research.
- CW to produce time series for causes of recent reduction in pollutants around Heathrow.
- AU to have Airwatch updated to include links to all the local AQAPs.
- AU to provide an update on draft HAL AQ action plan / strategy.
- NR will check in to see if bucks are getting one.
- BS will reach out again to KE about getting a UKHSA representative for this group
- DR to reach out to AQ conference UKHSA contacts.
- AU to check in again with his contact in the GLA about joining the WG.
- LA officers to keep HAL in mind for potential match funding etc. for AQ improvement projects.
- BS- to attend LCF meetings in the future and provide two-way feedback.

Date for next meeting:

15th January will be online. Afternoon.