

Appendix 2

DECLARATION OF AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA, TWO GATES – Consultation Letters/FAQ

Under Schedule 11 of the Environment Act 1995 requires a local authority to consult with a range of statutory consultees and other stakeholders in matters relating to Air Quality including Detailed Assessments and the subsequent need to designate an Air Quality Management Area.

Statutory Consultees

- Environment Agency
- Highways Authority
- All neighbouring Councils
- Staffordshire County Council

Other Stakeholders (non-statutory)

- Local Members of the Council for the relevant area
- Tamworth Chamber of Trade
- Member of Parliament
- Businesses in the affected areas
- Residents in the affected areas

Recommended consultation letters are included in this appendix

DRAFT LETTER to Residents and Businesses in the affected area

Your property may be affected by this proposal.

Dear Sir or Madam

CONSULTATION ON THE DECLARATION OF AN AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA FOR NITROGEN DIOXIDE AROUND TWO GATES CROSSROADS, DOSTHILL

Tamworth Borough Council has a statutory duty to undertake frequent reviews of air quality in the area. These reviews consider the likelihood of an exceedence of standards (called Air Quality Objectives), which have been set by the Government for seven key pollutants. Where an Air Quality Objective is being breached the Council must take action, initially by declaring an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and subsequently by developing an Air Quality Action Plan that will aim to improve and prevent further degradation of air quality within the AQMA.

I write to advise you that Tamworth Borough Council is proposing to make an Order designating an area around Two Gates Crossroads as an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). This course of action is necessary because a Detailed Assessment of air quality completed in October 2013 has shown that an exceedence of the nitrogen dioxide annual mean air quality objective (AQO) is likely to be affecting some residential properties. The need for an Air Quality Management Area designation arises primarily because of vehicle pollution from the traffic light controlled crossroads.

The 2013 Detailed Assessment Report may be downloaded from the Tamworth Borough Council website at www.tamworth.gov.uk. Alternatively, on request I will send you a copy via e-mail or you may visit the Council Offices at Marmion House, Lichfield Street, Tamworth to view the Report during normal office opening hours.

Further information on Air Quality can be found at the following website [UK-AIR, air quality information resource - Defra, UK](#)

We are seeking your views on the conclusion of the Detailed Assessment and the proposal to declare an Air Quality Management Area.

Enclosed with this letter is plan of the area showing the nitrogen dioxide concentrations at the facades of properties in the study area. Those properties which have a red, brown or purple spot on them have an annual mean nitrogen dioxide exposure of above the Air Quality Objective and are likely to be included in the AQMA (business properties would not be included). Properties that have an amber spot have a nitrogen dioxide

concentration marginally below the Air Quality Objective and are unlikely to be included in the AQMA unless the consultation process strongly indicates otherwise.

Once the Order has been made, a further air quality assessment will have to be produced within 12 months. In addition, an Action Plan must be produced within 18 months of the Order being made. The Further Assessment is intended to supplement the information provided in the Detailed Assessment. The purpose of the Action Plan is to identify appropriate measures to prevent further degradation of air quality and to reduce the levels of nitrogen dioxide in the AQMA so that air quality meets the required standard.

The Council is inviting members of the public and other interested organisations to make comments on the Detailed Assessment, proposed AQMA declaration and the area proposed to be so designated prior to any designation being formalised.

Please send to me any comments that you wish to make by no later than **[insert]** 2014. In the meantime, if you have any queries about this matter or wish to discuss it, you may contact me by telephone or e-mail.

Yours faithfully,

Steve Lewis
Head of Environmental Health
stephen-lewis@tamworth.gov.uk
01827 709437 direct
01827 709445 general

DRAFT LETTER to Statutory consultees and other organisations

Dear Sirs

CONSULTATION ON THE DECLARATION OF AN AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA FOR NITROGEN DIOXIDE AROUND TWO GATES CROSSROADS, DOSTHILL

Tamworth Borough Council has a statutory duty has a statutory requirement under the Environment Act 1995, Part IV (the Act) to undertake three-yearly Updating and Screening Assessments, produce Annual Air Quality Progress Reports, and to produce Detailed Assessments where potential exceedences of any of the Air Quality Objectives set out in the Air Quality (England) Regulations 2000 are identified.

Section 83 of the Act requires local authorities to designate an Air Quality Management Area where Air Quality Objectives are not being achieved. Once an area has been designated, Section 84 requires the local authority to carry out a Further Assessment to develop an Air Quality Action Plan for improving and preventing further degradation of air quality in the Air Quality Management Area. Action Plans are specific to a pollutant and the area of concern and in the case of traffic derived pollution may involve reviewing traffic management, low vehicle emissions and travel plan initiatives and the use of transport policy and development control strategies under planning legislation. There is a need for widespread consultation and the involvement of all interested stakeholders when Action Plans are being developed.

The Act also requires local authorities to consult on their air quality review and assessment (including Detailed Assessments), on the declaration of Air Quality Management Areas and further air quality assessments in declared AQMAs, which is the main focus of this report.

I write to advise you that Tamworth Borough Council is proposing to make an Order designating an area around Two Gates Crossroads as an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). This course of action is necessary because a Detailed Assessment of air quality completed in October 2013 has shown that an exceedence of the nitrogen dioxide annual mean air quality objective (AQO) is likely to be affecting some residential properties. The need for an Air Quality Management Area designation arises primarily because of vehicle pollution from the traffic light controlled crossroads.

The 2013 Detailed Assessment Report may be downloaded from the Tamworth Borough Council Website at www.tamworth.gov.uk/ [\[insert link\]](#) . Alternatively, on request I will send you a copy via e-mail or you may visit the

Council Offices at Marmion House, Lichfield Street, Tamworth to view the Report during normal office opening hours.

Further information on Local Air Quality Management can be found at the following website [UK-AIR, air quality information resource - Defra, UK](#)

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Once the Order has been made, a further air quality assessment will have to be produced within 12 months. In addition, an Action Plan must be produced within 18 months of the Order being made. The Further Assessment is intended to supplement the information provided in the Detailed Assessment. The purpose of the Action Plan is to identify appropriate measures to prevent further degradation of air quality and to reduce the level of nitrogen dioxide in the AQMA so that air quality meets the required standard.

The Council is inviting statutory consultees and other interested organisations to make comments on the Detailed Assessment, proposed AQMA declaration and the area proposed to be so designated prior to any designation being formalised.

Please send to me any comments that you wish to make by no later than **[insert]** 2014. In the meantime, if you have any queries about this matter or wish to discuss it, you may contact me by telephone or e-mail.

Yours faithfully,

Steve Lewis
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Air Quality - Frequently Asked Questions

Tamworth Borough Council have put together some further information that we hope will answer any questions or concerns regarding the Air Quality in Tamworth.

1. Is this a regular problem around the country?

Since the introduction of the legislation requiring local authorities to monitor and report air quality (Air Quality (England) Regulations 2000) and declare an Air Quality Management Area where appropriate, approximately 220 local authorities have declared at least one Air Quality Management Area. Some, such as the London Boroughs have declared their whole boroughs as Air Quality Management Areas.

2. What are the implications of an Air Quality Management Area?

An AQMA means that within that area, the levels of a certain pollutant are above those required by legislation for health reasons. Any declaration in summary, means that further monitoring of that pollutant has to be undertaken and a plan has to be put in place to improve the air quality within it. Therefore the implications of an AQMA are all to encourage positive steps.

3. What is being done to improve Air Quality?

Tamworth Borough Council have in fact already undertaken measures to improve air quality within the Borough. We are at present monitoring air quality levels to ascertain if this improvement is enough to reduce levels to below the required objective. We are furthermore undertaking all the correct procedures required of us by DEFRA (Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs).

4. What do we do to monitor the problem?

Tamworth Borough Council monitor air quality within the area using high-tech real time monitoring equipment. We will liaise with Staffordshire County Council Highways and using data and information supplied by transportation services in relation to queue length and number of vehicles develop solutions.

5. I suffer from asthma, how will this affect me?

Certain sensitive individuals who are more susceptible to respiratory pollution may feel the effects more acutely, or at lower levels. These individuals include those who suffer from heart disease, asthma and bronchitis, especially in young children and the elderly. The Health Protection Agency have advised that if you are in this risk category it is advisable to avoid prolonged exposure during periods of peak traffic.

6. Will this increase my chance of suffering from Asthma?

For most people, pollution levels in the UK are unlikely to cause any serious health effects. During particularly severe pollution episodes, short term effects such as coughing and eye irritation may be triggered. The levels measured within Two Gates, Tamworth however are not considered as 'severe', and the levels are likely to go unnoticed by most people.

7. I work in the area, how will this affect my health?

The criteria used to assess the levels of nitrogen dioxide are based on a long term exposure limit of where members of the public might be regularly exposed for long periods, e.g. residential properties, schools, hospitals. It is thought that the workplace is not considered as long term exposure. Research undertaken by DEFRA identified that exceedences of the shorter term objectives were considered unlikely where the annual mean is below 60µg/m³ (Two Gates, Tamworth levels are below 60µg/m³).

8. Is it safe to allow my children to play in the garden?

Yes of course, these levels are only very close to the main road where traffic is sometimes queued. Furthermore, they are based on exposure to nitrogen dioxide for far longer periods of time than it is considered for children playing in their gardens.

9. What are the implications for property values?

The designation of an AQMA is a legislative requirement and is not an optional process. AQMA's are not subject to land searches and many other councils have declared AQMA's and to the best of our knowledge there have been no reported effects on property values.

For more information, there is guidance available on the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

<http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/air-pollution/faq?view=general>