

Air Quality discussion

We had two presentations one from Andrew Edwards Air Quality Officer Bristol City Council and from Jo Barnes Air Quality Researcher from Bristol City Council, both presentations were presented by Jo Barnes.

Notes from discussion:

Stephen Clark: Politicians debate in next council meeting next week no legislation in place to create a clean air zone. Stephen suggests we push for a clean air zone in central Bristol, there is a petition online also recommends we write to MP's and local councillors.

- If we have an air quality zone what does this mean? A reduction in high polluting cars in the centre including buses and taxis.

Clean Air zones have been thrown out by high court because the argument case for it is not strong enough. Jo Barnes suggests we go for a zero emission zone.

Janet Carr-Hydd: How and where would we begin what's really bad and what's not so bad how do we communicate to people, how do we make people realise.

Dannie: how do we communicate things like climate change, we need to think of how the smoking campaign worked.

Donald: For example would people give up wood burning stoves it also impacts air quality, what are people prepared to give up?

-Parsons school is a particular black spot in terms of air quality

Moira: Should we take small little measures to begin to make a difference?

Dave Tudge: Suggests we identify a school that is considered particularly bad and get the air qualities team to measure to see how air quality impacts during term time compared to school holidays.

Jo Barnes: We need to make people passively change their behaviour and not making people feel bad.

Dannie: enable people to make the right decision.

Janet: couldn't we put a sign up saying this improves air quality? With regards to street trees

- A Discussion was had about the impact of street trees on air quality, depending on the type of tree some species can actually make air quality worse as the canopy keeps poor air quality at our level. Some non-native species, may improve air quality. When thinking about Street trees we need to try to get this balance right between having native species that are good for our wildlife and non-native to help improve our air quality.

Donald: Agrees with Stephen about the plan to move things forward.

Ben Barker: Let's use the projects we already have to help take this forward e.g. Let's walk Bedminster Campaign and support the Bedminster improvement District to encourage people to shop locally.

Dave Tudgy: suggest we promote the projects that are befitting the environment but explain why they are beneficial. For example the 20 mph zones were put that to help improve air quality but that was never explained to the public so people couldn't really understand the benefit.

Dave suggests we link in with Bedminster energy group, Ben mentioned we used to but communication was never continued from their part. Dave will now link the group with Donald.

Robert Marson: the Terms of Reference (TOR) has Air quality included on the draft revision of the (TOR) this is a good start.

Dannie: As this area has higher number of people walking and cycling is the poor air quality caused by people coming through the area?

Jo Barnes: the highest levels of poverty has the worst air quality but also has the least cars so it is definitely caused but people coming through the areas. These tend to be more inner city areas.

Tess: does the environment sub group want to support the proposal by Stephen, to make the recommendation to the NP (Neighbourhood Partnership) to support the clean air zone including air quality management in the area.

The minority of people at the meeting said YES as support.