

# Stonepound Crossroads Air Quality Action Plan (updated December 2021)

## STONEPOUND CROSSROADS AQAP IMPLEMENTATION PLAN MONITORING REPORT

**Table 1: CURRENT ACTIONS**

	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Lead officer</b>	<b>Progress</b>
1.	Minimising HGV movements – advisory lorry routes	Improved access into B Hill via A2300	End of 2022	Jamie Dallen, WSCC Planning and Transport Policy Planner	A2300 upgrade commenced March 2020, expected to take around 18 months.  Signage to encourage use of the A2300 from the A23 is already in place but is not always the preferred option. Roadworks for widening programme (above) likely to affect use.  An advisory lorry route map is available at <a href="https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/media/1980/alr_map_web.pdf">https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/media/1980/alr_map_web.pdf</a>
2.	“Cut Engine, Cut pollution” signs	WSCC to retain the current signs “cut Engine / cut pollution”. Foliage around signs to be cleared to ensure they are easily visible.	Spring 2022	Richard Speller WSCC Highways Area Manager, Mid Sussex	Absence of standardised and agreed messaging for signage resulted in signs being retained in their current form.
3.	Improve and promote cycle routes	Progression of cycle route between Sayers Common and Hassocks. Promotion of West Sussex Cycle Planner and SDNP journey planner.	On-going	Richard Speller WSCC Highways Area Manager; MSDC Sustainability Team	Through the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Programme (LCWIP), Stonepound area included in the project.  WSCC undertaking design work on part of the cycle route between Sayers Common and Hassocks (prioritised Hurstpierpoint section). The design work has been divided into 8 sections, 2 of which are to be delivered 2022/23.  Hassocks Neighbourhood Plan includes references to supporting additional EV charging, cycleways and bridleways, including routes to Clayton and Hurstpierpoint.
4.	Encourage alternate transport modes	Identifying popular travel routes, encouraging transport companies to provide transport and incentives to use them and to help advertise them.	On-going	MSDC Community services BUL – Emma Sheridan Hassocks Parish Council	A shared approach is being taken by MSDC, Horsham DC and Crawley BC in investigating the rollout of further EV infrastructure across these districts. A feasibility study of a number of potential sites in Mid Sussex has been carried out and between 22 and 26 charging points are likely. Locations not yet finalised.

		School Travel Plans	Dec 2022	Richard Speller WSCC Highways Area Manager	Data on local school travel arrangements will assist the behavioural change work to stimulate modal shift. Work to be initiated with Behavioural Change officer at WSCC.
5.	Optimize traffic signalling to intelligently respond to pollutant monitoring data	Trial project to install low cost pollutant sensors on the 4 branches of the Stonepound crossroads. Once data has been assessed, the traffic light sequencing can be altered in real-time to minimise pollution from stationary traffic.	Spring 2022	Jamie Dallen, WSCC Planning and Transport Policy Planner and WSCC Project Manager, Highways Projects	Installation of the sensors is planned for January 2022. Initial data collection will be analysed after 6-8 weeks. Threshold levels will then be agreed between WSCC and MSDC.

**Table 2: COMPLETED OR NON VIABLE ACTIONS**

1.	Better driving techniques- <b>Completed</b>	Publicising the benefits of better driving techniques e.g. through website and MSM.	By end of May 2015	Nick Bennett MSDC Environmental Protection Officer.	A list of the top 10 better driving techniques will be made available on the Mid Sussex District Council website, once the review of the Air Quality information available is complete (see action 11). A link to eco-driving tips on the AA website was included in the Mid Sussex Matters article.  Publicising the benefits of better driving techniques e.g. through website
2	Vehicle emission testing- <b>not viable</b>	Procedure for deciding upon and organising vehicle emission testing around the AQMA.	Once per year	Nick Bennett MSDC Environmental Protection Officer Taxi Licensing Officer- Jonathan Bryant	This action involves identifying a suitable site to carry out the exercise, organising the police to attend to pull vehicles in and VOSA officers to carry out the exhaust emissions tests on the vehicles. Mid Sussex District Council officers will provide information on air quality and vehicle emissions. <i>A date will be arranged for this exercise, subject to a suitable site being identified.</i> As part of its taxi licensing responsibilities, MSDC undertakes quarterly taxi cab emission testing. Exercise to be conducted targeted at taxi cabs that operate in Hassocks and publicised.  Procedure for deciding upon and organising vehicle emission testing around the AQMA. – Due to the lack of resources and lack of safe location near the crossroads Police have advised that this is unworkable.
3	Consider introduction of	Discuss with WSCC Transport Planning Team*	Nov 2017	Richard Speller WSCC Highways	<b>Completed-</b> If there were more suitable alternative routes it would be an easier and more defensible action to dissuade traffic from using

	lower speed limits and/or traffic calming measures to reduce the rate at which traffic arrives at the junction. – <b>Completed/not viable</b>			Area Manager, Mid Sussex	this route. Other action plan measures are considering the routing of HGVs via the A23, however any other local route would be an unsuitable alternative for longer distance through traffic. The success of a speed limit relies on a driver's understanding of the need to adopt a lower speed – for example in built up area or where there may be conflicting crossing movements. Therefore use of a lower speed limit without these other factors is unlikely to produce beneficial results and could just lead to more drivers ignoring speed limits. For this to be effective there also needs to be robust enforcement of the speed limit.
4	Approaching Highways Agency to negotiate with sat nav companies to show HGV advisory routes. <b>Not viable</b>				
5	Signage Cut Pollution - <b>Completed</b>	Overgrown vegetation to be trimmed back around existing signs.			<b>Completed-</b> four signs were installed on 29 August 2014, one on each approach. A joint press release was issued on 1 September and MSDC Cabinet Member conducted local radio interviews. An article regarding the signs and the Air Quality Action Plan appeared in the Winter 2014 edition of the MSDC magazine Mid Sussex Matters.
6.	Mid Sussex District Council Travel Plan <b>Completed</b>	MSDC to review its Green Travel Scheme, e.g. in respect of car share, public transport incentives, cycling, walking and promotion of sustainable business travel.	By end of 2015	MSDC Sustainability Officer Matthew Bird	Travel Scheme review to be completed. MSDC has joined easit and are promoting train use to staff through discount cards. A Green Travel day was held at the Council in the Summer with incentives for staff to take sustainable methods of travel into work and promotion of easit cards.  A new Cycle to Work scheme has been implemented. A Staff Travel Event took place in Sept 2017. Online staff travel in May 2018. 60% response rate. 82% of staff commute by car with 45% of respondents saying they wouldn't consider cycling because of the roads were perceived as being dangerous. 44% of staff stated they would use an electric bicycle for short journeys and a number of comments indicated an interest in electric vehicles. Since the survey a Staff Electric Bike scheme has been set up and use of the Council's electric vehicle charging points has increased significantly.

7	School Travel Plans - <b>Completed</b>				<p>Hassocks schools are expanding their capacity and revising their travel plans accordingly. WSCC offers all schools to work with them to produce/update School Travel Plans. The WSCC Local Transport Improvements Project Officer worked with Downlands to produce a new School Travel Plan in September 2017, including updated travel to school survey results.</p> <p>The Walk To programme led by Living Streets is working with a selection of schools in West Sussex, including Windmills Junior School. This provides an outreach project officer to work with pupils to encourage them to walk to school. Working with highway authorities, including WSCC, Living Streets secured funding to continue its previous Walk To project through the Department for Transport Access Fund from 2017/18 to 2019/20. Living Streets undertook a school route audit early in 2016 and recommendations are currently being considered as part of the prioritisation of schemes across the county.</p> <p>A meeting in Hassocks took place on 5<sup>th</sup> April with local stakeholders interested in developing cycling initiatives, This lead to a resident's engagement event to propose and plan local cycle routes. Will also include school engagement.</p>
8	Encourage alternative Travel/Public Transport - <b>completed/on-going</b>				<p>South East Traveline website enables residents to plan journeys by bus, rail, bicycle. This available at <a href="http://www.travelinesoutheast.org.uk/">http://www.travelinesoutheast.org.uk/</a></p> <p>Note – mapping of local sustainable routes and services can be produced for local employers centred on their site, for a fee via a company called Pindar.</p> <p>Other initiatives that can be pursued include Bikeability training in schools (see Action 5 Downland School updates).</p> <p>Section 106 funds have been used to upgrade EV chargers in public carparks in Burgess Hill, Haywards Heath and East Grinstead.</p> <p>Podpoint have upgraded EV chargers at Hassocks train station New sites for EV chargers are being identified in liaison with Planning Officers and others.</p> <p>The Energise Network has ceased. A new Sussex EV Group of local authorities has met a few times to update each other on current initiatives.</p>

					<p>A Sustainable Travel Event aimed at Burgess Hill businesses took place on the 13<sup>th</sup> June at Martlets Hall in Burgess Hill . It was well attended by local businesses. Report can be found <a href="http://sustainablebusiness.org.uk/news/event-report-sustainable-travel-event/">http://sustainablebusiness.org.uk/news/event-report-sustainable-travel-event/</a></p> <p>'Get Hassocks Cycling' is a cycling interest group in Hassocks with Cllr representation. An engagement exercise with residents highlighting 3 routes showed 300 people in favour of a route between Hurstpierpoint and Ditchling roundabout (taking in Stonepound Crossroads) - Suspended indefinitely.</p>
9.	Car share promotion – <b>completed/on-going</b>	Promotion of the West Sussex Car Share Scheme- new website and WSCC will be running media campaigns. Consider item in Mid Sussex Matters. MSDC promotion of the easitMIDSUSSEX initiative	On-going	Andy Moulard, WSCC Travelwise MSDC Sustainability Officer Matthew Bird	<p>Previous WSCC projects under Travelwise Local Sustainable Transport Fund behaviour change initiatives have included promotion of West Sussex car share <a href="http://www.westsussexcarshare.com">www.westsussexcarshare.com</a> through radio and other media and provision of an online journey planner that promotes active travel and public transport. Local projects will be developed through MSDC's Sustainability Officer.</p> <p>MSDC has joined easit and is promoting its use by businesses through the Council's website, See <a href="http://www.easit.org.uk/">http://www.easit.org.uk/</a></p> <p>Car sharing is promoted through the Green Travel Pages on the MSDC intranet. It was promoted in light of the Southern Strikes in 2016/17.</p>
10.	Partnership work with bus and train operators – <b>completed/not viable</b>	WSCC approaching bus and train companies to encourage co-ordination of bus and train timetables Use of real time information at the station for bus arrivals.	On-going	Jamie Dallen WSCC Planning and Transport Policy Planner	Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR) operates the 7 year (2014-2021) Thameslink franchise with the operating brands of Southern, Thameslink, Gatwick Express and Great Northern. GTR is investing in cycle parking, station improvements and access to stations through this franchise. Real time information on bus arrivals will require investment from WSCC and bus companies. Limited number of bus services operating past Hassocks station so case for investment in real-time bus arrival information displays may be limited,
11.	Increase air quality information available - <b>Completed</b>	Provision of additional air quality information via Council website. MSDC Annual Monitoring Report	Ongoing	Nick Bennett MSDC Environmental Protection Officer	Reports updated on the Council's website. This includes additional air quality data, including latest data for monitoring at Stonepound Crossroads.
12.	Health and Wellbeing promotion –	Promotion of service offered by Sussex Air, e.g. Airalert service through link on our website.	On-going	Nick Bennett MSDC Environmental Protection Officer	Links to Air alert and the ColdAlert service have been added to the MSDC website. Provision of services by Sussex Air is currently under review by the Council.

	<b>Completed/on-going</b>	Working through the Mid Sussex Wellbeing Hub regarding initiatives aimed at respiratory illnesses.		Paul Turner MSDC Wellbeing Manager	No directly relevant initiatives aimed at respiratory illnesses are included in the current Mid Sussex Wellbeing programme.  Promotion of service offered by Sussex Air, e.g. Airlert service through link on our website.  Working through the Mid Sussex Wellbeing Hub regarding initiatives aimed at respiratory illnesses. Links to Air Alert and Cold Alert published 2016.
13	Promote national energy efficiency schemes e.g. Green Deal- <b>completed</b>	WSCC have been Green Deal leads and MSDC advocates to promote the scheme.	On-going	WSCC Green Deal lead MSDC Sustainability Officer Matthew Bird	A new Local Energy Advice Partnership (LEAP) has been launched which offers free home energy visits and support measures. A Warmer Sussex initiative aiming to create a multi-agency approach to increasing the energy efficiency of the existing housing stock in Sussex has just received funding from BEIS.
14	EPA90 statutory nuisance – <b>Complete/ongoing</b>	Usual enforcement of emissions from industrial, commercial and domestic sources (ad hoc) or targeted Hassocks initiative.	On-going	Environmental Health	All complaints, including smoke from bonfires, are investigated for statutory nuisance as and when they are received. Environmental Health also regulates certain industrial process for emissions to the atmosphere, but there is currently none in the area of the AQMA  Usual enforcement of emissions from industrial, commercial and domestic sources (ad hoc) or targeted Hassocks initiative. Ongoing - part of Environmental Protection normal workload
15	Mid Sussex District Plan & Local Development Framework - <b>Completed</b>	Submitted District Plan includes DP19 Transport and DP27 Noise, Air and Light pollution. Updated Transport Study information (see MIS Stage 2 Briefing Note)	On-going	MSDC Business Unit Leader Planning Policy and economy	The Council consulted on Main Modifications to the District Plan in October-November 2017. Adoption of the Plan is anticipated in January 2018.  The submitted District Plan includes Transport Policy DP19 and Noise, Air and Light Pollution policy DP27.  Existing Local Plan policies require proposals for new development to be supported by transport mitigation plans, and that account is taken of air quality issues.
16	Incorporate Sussex Air Guidance into Planning Policy - <b>Completed</b>	Arrangements for Development Management using the guidance. Implementation and publicity.	Completed	Nick Rogers MSDC BUL Development Management	Currently Developers are directed to the Guidance and Environmental Health will reference it in their response to planning applications. Where required, Environmental Health also recommend conditions to planning permissions that minimise the adverse impacts on Air Quality. New guidance is being produced by the Sussex Air Working Group.

17.	Air Quality Monitoring – <b>Completed /ongoing</b>	Continued air quality monitoring across the District,	On-going	Nick Bennett MSDC Environmental Protection Officer	On-going monitoring of air quality across the District. Results are referred to in the Annual Monitoring Report. Trends identified will be included in the action plan.
18.	Consider enforcement of commuter on-street car parking around Hassocks station. <b>Non-viable</b>	Parking matters in Hassocks are already being considered through the Hassocks Parish Council Parking Working Group. See Actions in the Parking and Traffic Flow Report.	April 2019	Claire Onslow MSDC Parking Service BUL  WSSC Parking Strategy Team Miles Davy  Richard Speller WSSC Highways Area Manager, Mid Sussex	Actions in the Hassocks Parish Council Parking and Traffic Flow Report include consideration of parking restrictions on the roads in the area NE of the crossroads (e.g. Stanford Avenue), to dissuade commuters from driving through the AQMA to park free.  Public consultation on traffic issues in Hassocks took place in June 2016 and at March 2017. WSSC is looking to enter these proposals on to the Integrated Works Programme for the next financial year.  Hassocks Parish Council is undertaking a self-financed Traffic Regulation Order to restrict parking around the railway station. Not viable due to residents objection to TRO
19	Re-assess traffic light sequencing	Review of sequencing to be undertaken by West Sussex County Council traffic signal engineers.	Spring 2020	Richard Speller WSSC Highways Area Manager, Mid Sussex	Work to upgrade lights to best MOVA software as well as more cycle friendly layout now complete.  Improvement to crossing of western arm left turn lane meaning east-west pedestrian crossing movement to be fully signal controlled now complete.
20	School and work travel plans <b>Completed/ ongoing</b>	Work with WSSC School Travel Plan Co-ordinator to develop travel plans in Hassocks schools taking into account the AQMA. Develop work with private schools Promotion of Work Travel Plans for local businesses, e.g. West Sussex Car Share Scheme and Travelwise.	On-going	MSDC Sustainability Officer Ollie Swann	Sustainability Officer worked with the Downlands School Eco-Co-ordinator to arrange a series of “Bike It” events. This also involved a number of other organisations such as Hassocks Community Bike Hire and Proper Cycle Café. ‘Bike it’ designed to get more children to cycle to and from school, through events such as a smoothie bike lunchtime, bike maintenance workshops, BMX skills presentation and participation in the Hurst Bike Train. 68 children biked to school on at least one of the days.  WSSC continues to promote the West Sussex Car Share and Travelwise campaigns.  Ollie Swann to contact Andy Moulard (WSSC Local Transport Improvements Officer) re possible future work.