



Annual General Meeting

Held at: Schoolhouse Café, St Paul's Road, Cheltenham
7pm, 18 August 2021

Attendees: Caroline Sherwood, Peter Frings, Dave Entwistle, John Patient, Miriam Frings, Mark Barber, Trish Barber, Heather Bridge, Peter Clegg, Kelso Gordon, Sue Mildinhal, Christine Mitchell, Geoff Mors, Rob Rimell, Daniel Wilson.

Apologies: Will Luker, Cllr Max Wilkinson, Cllr Paul Baker, Cllr Guy Maughfling, Alex Chalk MP.

Minutes

Review of activity

Caroline Sherwood gave a review of activities since our first meeting on 17 July 2020, attended by 4 people. We have since grown to over 140 supporters.

The Constitution was signed on the same date, committing Clean Air Cheltenham to these aims:

- *Raising awareness through an annual Multimedia Celebration of Clean Air*
- *Liaising with groups pursuing similar aims, such as cycling and environmental groups, tree planting organisations, residents' associations, and schools*
- *Encouraging collaborative action between all agencies concerned with the quality of air in the town, principally those responsible for transport and health care*
- *Raising funds to support relevant projects*

Clean Air Cheltenham recognises the critical role air quality plays in physical, emotional, mental and spiritual health. The quality of the air is of central importance to the well-being of all, as well as being of particular concern to those who suffer from respiratory disease, to parents and children and to the elderly.

We have held two *Clean Air Day* celebrations (October 2020 and June 2021)

- High Street stall recruiting members and gathering comments (in collaboration with respiratory team and NHS information bus in 2021)
- Book signing with Tim Smedley (author of *Clearing the Air*)
- Tree Walks with Chris Chavasse, Cheltenham's Senior Trees Officer
- Qigong in Pittville Park with Karen Soo
- Poetry workshop with Anna Saunders, founder of the Cheltenham Poetry Festival
- Community Bike Ride
- Kite Flying Event

We have held two well-attended webinars with both local and national speakers

- Air Quality, Health and Technology – Joining up the Dots
- Creating a Sustainable Transport Plan – in collaboration with our twin town of Göttingen and also Birmingham City Council

Both of these webinars are available on our YouTube channel.

We have another important webinar coming up in September (22nd) on how the *Workplace Parking Levy* has been used by Nottingham City Council to fund sustainable transport initiatives. This will be chaired by Lilian Greenwood MP (former Shadow Secretary of State for Transport)

We have achieved regular publicity through a range of media channels:

- Fortnightly column in *Cheltenham Post*
- Interviews on BBC Radio Gloucestershire
- Articles in *Bylines*, *Our Town (Journal of Cheltenham Civic Society)*
- Publicity through our own website, facebook page and newsletters to supporters, and Twitter account
- Regular contributor to Charlton Kings Futures Facebook group

Air pollution in Cheltenham and the Air Quality Action Plan

Peter Frings summarised the data available around air pollution in Cheltenham, and the latest situation with regard to a new Air Quality Action Plan.

Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) pollution has been measured by Cheltenham Borough Council (CBC) by diffusion tubes for over 10 years. These only give a monthly average reading – but central areas of the town are persistently slightly above the legal limit.

CBC installed some new 'AQ Mesh' monitors in 9 locations in September 2020 – which were intended to give real-time readings of both Nitrogen Dioxide and particulates. However, due to technical issues, the monitors needed to be recalibrated – the results they were giving were apparently significantly different from the NO₂ reference monitor in the town centre and the NO₂ diffusion tubes. A year later, no data has been published since the installation of these new monitors. We will be putting in a Freedom of Information request if the data is not made available by the end of August.

Particulate pollution is measured in two locations in Leckhampton by the local parish council – readings average slightly above the World Health Organization annual threshold of 10 micrograms/cubic metre of air. They are therefore likely to be higher in more central areas of Cheltenham.

Peter Frings announced that a particulates monitor was being installed on St Paul's Road on the 19th August.

Clean Air Cheltenham has also been pressing over the last year for CBC to start work on a new Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP). This should have been published last year. We asked a question about this AQAP at the April CBC Cabinet meeting, which prompted an urgent

meeting to set this in motion. Clean Air Cheltenham were invited to this first meeting of an 'Air Quality Steering Group' – and in response we drew together a detailed set of recommendations for action in a 'Framework' document which we submitted in May 2021. There have been no further meetings of the 'Steering Group' and the deadline for the AQAP was meant to be September 2021.

Accounts

Peter Frings presented the summary of the annual accounts (see attached) which were approved by the meeting.

Clean Air Cheltenham recorded its thanks to Cheltenham Borough Council for two Community Building grants received during the year.

Invitation to join the core group

Caroline Sherwood announced that she was standing down from her lead role as chair and co-ordinator. The meeting gave a vote of thanks for her initiative in setting up Clean Air Cheltenham, and her creativity, commitment and enthusiasm which had guided the organisation during its first year.

All attendees at the AGM were invited to attend the next Core Group meeting to see if they would like to get more involved in steering and developing the organisation.

Discussion

There was a wide-ranging discussion of the topics covered in our Clean Air Action Plan, particularly improving the affordability and frequency of public transport, the development of a proper cycling infrastructure, and the need to increase the pressure on the borough council to improve air quality through reducing car usage and simultaneous support for sustainable transport alternatives and active travel.

The meeting ended at 8.15pm.



Accounts 1 August 2020 to 31 July 2021

	£
INCOME	
Individual Donations	£623.42
Grants	£700.00
CAD 2021: Eventbrite donations	£185.17
	<hr/> £1,508.59 <hr/>
EXPENDITURE	
Website and IT set up	
Website developer fee and template cost	£409.24
G suite set up and initial costs	£69.89
Hosting	£86.26
Photolibrary costs	£71.98
Clean Air Day 2020	
Workshop speaker fees (Anna Saunders)	£50.00
Tim Smedley expenses	£94.30
Misc	£64.00
Postcards	£57.79
Other workshops	
Helen Moore	£50.00
Clean Air Day 2021	
Workshop speaker fees (Anna Saunders)	£75.00
Misc	£15.84
Kiteflying (licence, kites)	£91.00
Bike flags, web expenses	£99.71
	<hr/> £1,235.01 <hr/>
CASH AT BANK AT YEAR END	<hr/> £273.58 <hr/>