



CARA Bulletin

10 July 2018

Local issues

- **Have your say on 'BreATHe' – Bath's Clean Air Plan 2021.** Air Pollution has an adverse effect on health, particularly respiratory health. As such, at the CARA AGM in May, CARA members agreed for CARA to focus on Air Pollution as a priority. This coincides with the requirement for B&NES Council to achieve compliance with Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) limits 'in the shortest possible time' and by 2021 at the latest and B&NES' current consultation on its Clean Air Plan 2021. See below for further details.

Have your say

B&NES has expressed a commitment to listen to the views of the public, key stakeholders and partners so that it can deliver an Air Quality package with the most benefit to people with the least impact on residents and the economy. If you would like to comment on the proposal and state your preferred option;

- Visit www.bathnes.gov.uk/breathe, or
- E-mail Richard Brown of CARA on mailbox@rbrown.co.uk. CARA shall be responding to the proposal but would like to know what you think so that we can best represent the views of our members. Please respond by **July 25th**.

Background

To improve air quality, the Government has told 28 Councils in England – including B&NES – to achieve compliance with Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) limits 'in the shortest possible time' and by 2021 at the latest. This is part of the National Air Quality Action Plan. There are a number of hotspots in Bath where concentrations of NO₂ (caused by vehicle emissions) exceed the acceptable national and European limit of 40 µg/m³. Therefore, B&NES needs to take urgent action by introducing a Clean Air Zone (CAZ). A CAZ is a designated area in the city where B&NES can introduce measures, such as charging drivers of high-emission vehicles, to reduce vehicle emissions and cut pollution, with the aim of improving everybody's health.

The Options

B&NES has drawn up a shortlist of 3 options (or packages of measures) capable of bringing about the required improvements by 2021. Each option features a different class of Clean Air Charging Zone in the centre of Bath, alongside a range of other measures to encourage greener modes of travel.

- **Class B CAZ.** Higher-emission **buses, coaches, private hires, taxis** and **heavy goods vehicles (HGVs)** will all be charged when driving through the zone.

- Class C CAZ. Higher-emission vehicles (as class **B**) plus higher-emission **light goods vans (LGVs)** will all be charged when driving through the zone.
- Class D CAZ. All higher emission vehicles (as class **B** and **C**), plus **higher-emission cars**, will be charged when driving through the zone.

In line with Government guidelines, the following vehicles will be exempt from charges:

- Petrol vehicles with Euro 4 (or newer) emissions rating, manufactured from approx. 2006
- Diesel vehicles with Euro 6 emissions rating, manufactured from approx. 2015
- Fully electric and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles
- Vehicles within the disabled passenger tax class

B&NES is considering other exemptions and discounts as part of its public engagement, but these cannot be decided until further technical assessment and modelling is complete. This includes consideration of emergency vehicles, community transport, blue badge holders and motorbikes.

Other action

Alongside the charging element, each package will include non-charging measures designed to encourage people to use greener modes of travel and lessen the impact of a CAZ. These measures may include:

- Sunset provision for owners of Euro 5 diesel vehicles, giving more time to review options
- Reduced cost of residents' parking permits for lower-emission vehicles
- Improved public transport facilities, such as bus priority, better bus stops and more real-time information
- Better provision for walkers and cyclists
- A review of taxi licensing policy, considering how low-emission vehicles can be encouraged
- Improved use of roadside variable message signs (on parking availability, events, travel times etc.)

What is the area covered?

B&NES' advisers are proposing a small zone in central Bath rather than a medium or large zone. They believe that a small zone offers the greatest benefit in terms of reducing air pollution across the city by 2021, with the least impact on residents and the economy. Assessments show that a small zone will adequately reduce the number of higher-emission vehicles coming into the city centre so that air quality benefits are also felt on nearby arterial roads. This includes London Road, which has some of the highest concentrations of NO₂ in the city.

Note: The CAZ, see map below, covers all of the CARA area.

What might the charges be?

A decision on charges and hours of operation will be reached after further assessment and public engagement. Note: any revenue from CAZ charges will be used to run the scheme.

What is the timing?

A decision on the final package of measures must be reached by December 2018. B&NES expects a CAZ will be in place in Bath by 2020 (as per its legal obligation) to bring about the required improvements by 2021 at the latest.

