

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCILS' FORUM

Monday 9 July 2018

www.oxford.gov.uk



COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Councillors Brown (Chair) and Taylor.

PARISH REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Tim Cann (Clerk, Old Marston Parish Council), Lynda Comber (Chair, Littlemore Parish Council), Patricia Hall (Old Marston Parish Council), Richard Wilkins (Clerk, Littlemore Parish Council) and Derek Taylor (Risinghurst and Sandhills Parish Council)

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mai Jarvis (Environmental Quality Team Manager), Shaun Hatton (Highways and Engineering Manager), Stuart Fitzsimmons (Parks and Open Spaces Manager) and John Mitchell (Committee and Member Services Officer)

21. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Corais, Lygo, Clarkson, Haines, Morris and Georgina Morgan-Denn (Clerk to BBL PC).

22. ITEMS RAISED BY PARISH COUNCILLORS

Air Quality

At the previous meeting of the Forum there had been consideration of a paper on Air Quality. It was agreed that there should be a further discussion of the subject at this meeting.

Mai Jarvis, Environmental Quality Team Manager, made a presentation to the Forum, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. She made reference to the Council's latest report on Air Quality and the existence of detailed data for parts of the city which may be found via the following links:

General information: https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20052/air_quality

Annual Air Quality Report:

https://www.oxford.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/4755/air_quality_annual_status_report_2017.pdf

Search for air quality data in your area: <https://oxfordshire.air-quality.info/>

The many and various forms and sources of air pollution are proven to have a detrimental effect on health and can be particularly harmful for those with respiratory conditions and the young.

The key points to emerge from her presentation were the City's commitment to measuring levels of air pollution and focusing on those aspects of it that it was in a position to control or influence.

Air quality is measured, principally, by two means: three continuous monitoring stations located in the city and over 70 diffusion tubes at various locations around the city. Continuous monitors are accurate and provide real time, high definition, hourly data. Diffusion tubes are very cost-effective and provide a monthly average pollution concentration at the location where they are exposed. Continuous monitoring is more accurate and provides hourly data throughout the year but is significantly more expensive than using diffusion tubes.

The centre of Oxford was designated as an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in 2001 and in 2010 the entire city was declared an AQMA. The main contributor to poor air quality is traffic. A picture has been established of localised air pollution 'hot-spots' close to roads. These include: Central Oxford; locations near to high volumes of traffic (such as roundabouts on the ring road); slow moving and congested traffic in locations such as city and district centres.

Ten year trends in local air quality across Oxford are showing significant signs of improvement.

The Council has taken many steps to reduce levels of air pollution and projects including:

- investment in Park & Ride cycle parking facilities;
- steps to encourage and facilitate use of electric vehicles by installing electric charging points; <https://www.goultralowoxford.org/>
- Launch of anti-idling campaign called 'Oxford Air Needs Your Care'; https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20052/air_quality/1258/anti-idling_air_quality_campaign
- Launch of the "STOP" (Schools Tackling Oxford's Air Pollution) project for local schools (facilitates curriculum opportunities and provision of school based monitoring equipment); https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20052/air_quality/1254/schools_tackling_oxfords_air_pollution_stop
- introduction of a "Low Emissions Zone" in the City Centre in 2014 (the vast majority of bus services in the city have to comply with the requirements); https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20216/air_quality_management/208/oxfords_low_emission_zone_lez
- commitment to introduce a "Zero Emission Zone" in the City Centre from 2020; www.oxford.gov.uk/zez

In discussion it was agreed that the increasing use of wood burning stoves represented a source of pollution that might need attention in the future. There were smoke control areas in the City in which wood burning stoves can be used but only if they have passed tests to confirm that they are capable of burning an authorised smokeless fuel.

The Chair noted what valuable work the Environmental Quality Team did and thanked Mai Jarvis for her presentation.

City Council responsibility for highways matters

Littlemore Parish Council had asked for clarification about the City Council's responsibility for highways matter.

Shaun Hatton, Chief Operations Manager, for Oxford Direct Services, addressed the meeting. Oxfordshire County Council remained the principal Highways Authority for the whole County. For the last 20 years, however, the City Council has taken responsibility for minor/side roads in the City. Following agreement by the City Executive Board, negotiations have been taking place with the County Council to transfer responsibility for maintenance of all the roads within the administrative boundary of the City Council excluding the ringroad to the City Council. The logic for this transfer was powerful. The County Council team for this activity was based some distance away in Deddington. The City Council team was based in the City and had the necessary skills and capacity to take on this additional responsibility.

Once the City Council had taken over responsibility, Shaun confirmed that he or his colleague Oliver Hearn (Contracts Manager) should be the first point of contact.

The Chair noted that the transfer of responsibility would be accompanied by the associated budget but no more. So while the new arrangements would undoubtedly provide better value, the resource available for the task was still finite and would not guarantee a solution to all pot hole woes!

Cllr Taylor drew attention to a proposal from the "Trail Riders Fellowship" to open up two routes on Shotover to motorised traffic (notably motorbikes and 4x4 vehicles). In discussion it was agreed that this was something which, if agreed, was likely to be detrimental environmentally and one which the City Council should object to. The Committee and Member Services Officer to check that an objection is being made. The Chair said she would raise with her counterpart in SODC.

23. ITEMS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

Nominations for a Parish Council representative to serve on the Standards Committee

The four Parish Councils had been invited to nominate a representative to serve as a co-opted, non-voting member of the Standards Committee. The Standards Committee would subsequently be asked to appoint one nominated representative for the duration of their current term as a parish councillor.

Parish Councils had up to 31 July to make their nominations. Those Councils able to make a nomination by that date would take that opportunity if they wished.

It was confirmed that the Parish Council representative would be involved with all of the main 'day to day' business of the Committee, more specific details would be provided by the Monitoring Officer following appointment of the representative.

24. MINUTES

The Parish Council Forum APPROVED the minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2018 as a true and accurate record subject to deletion of the reference to Marston PC collecting contact details in relation to the local Neighbourhood Watch scheme. The details are collected, but by the organisers of the scheme, not the Parish Council.

25. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meetings of the Forum will be held on:

- 19 November 2018
- 25 March 2019

All meetings start at 6.00pm.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 7.00 pm

Air Quality in Oxford

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Mai Jarvis

Environmental Quality Team Manager
Oxford City Council

9th July 2018



Overview

- **What is air pollution**
- **Sources**
- **Impacts**
- **Monitoring in Oxford**
- **Results of monitoring**
- **Action**

What do we mean by air pollution?



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Types of pollution

Gases

Liquid droplets

Solid particles

SO₂

∞

NO_x

CO₂

CO

PM

Ozone

Sources of pollution



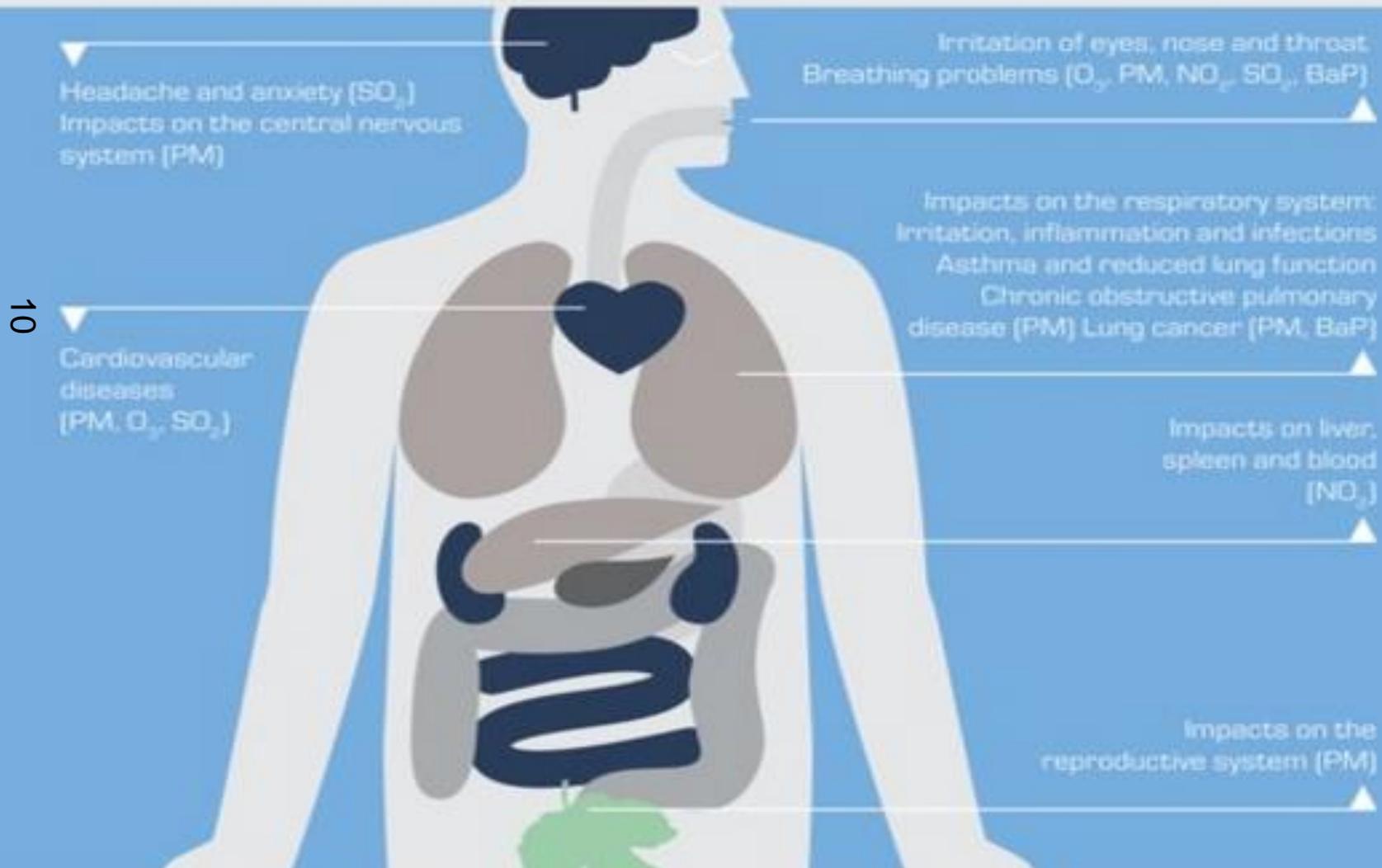
Sources of Outdoor Air Pollution



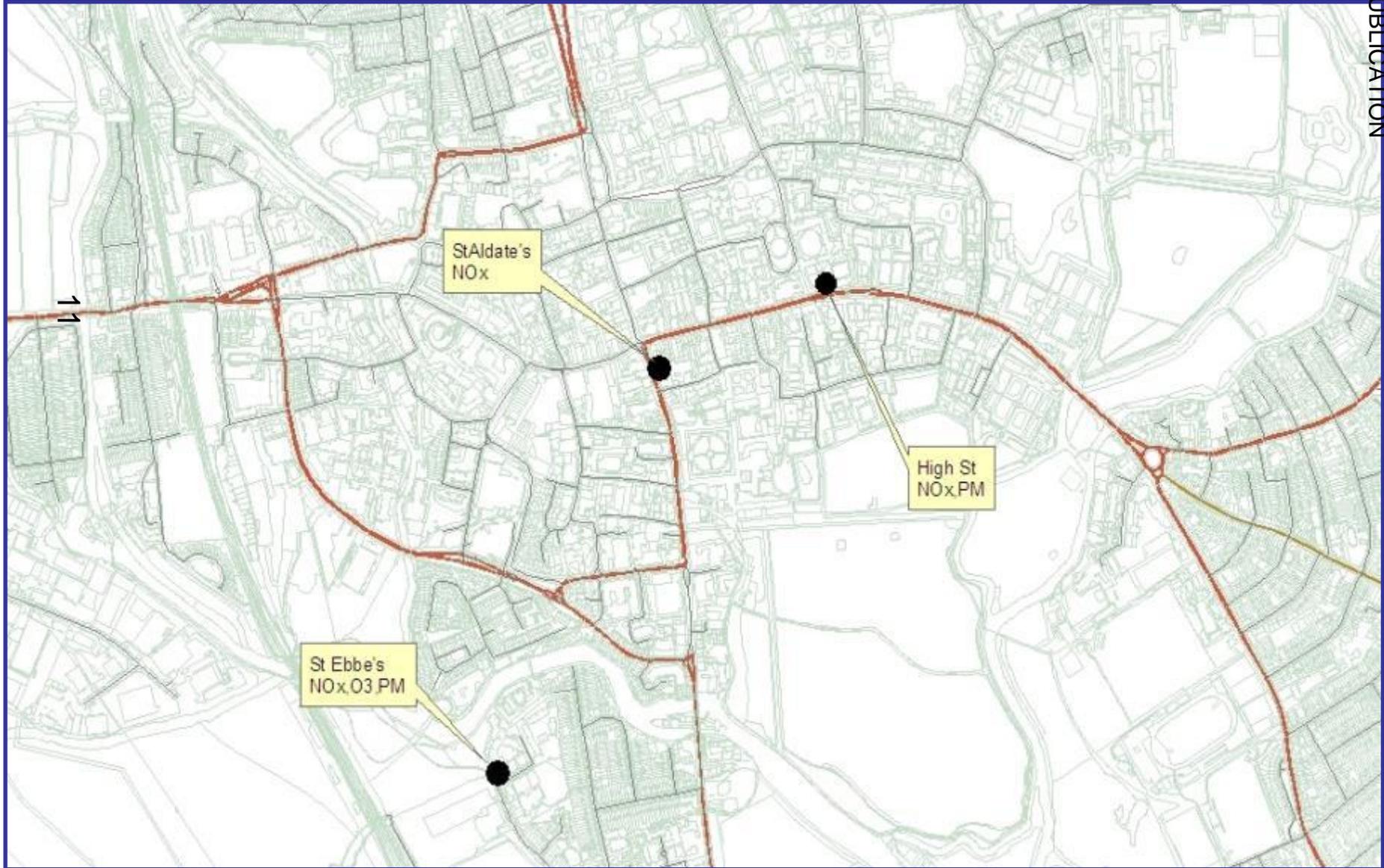


Health impacts of air pollution

Air pollutants can have a serious impact on human health. Children and the elderly are especially vulnerable.



Air quality monitoring in Oxford



51.80-

51.76-

51.72-



NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Local Air Quality Management

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- In 2010 the entire city was declared an AQMA.

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- The main contributor to poor air quality is traffic. A picture has been established of localised air pollution hot-spots close to roads.
 - Central Oxford,
 - At locations near to high volumes of traffic, such as roundabouts on the ring road,
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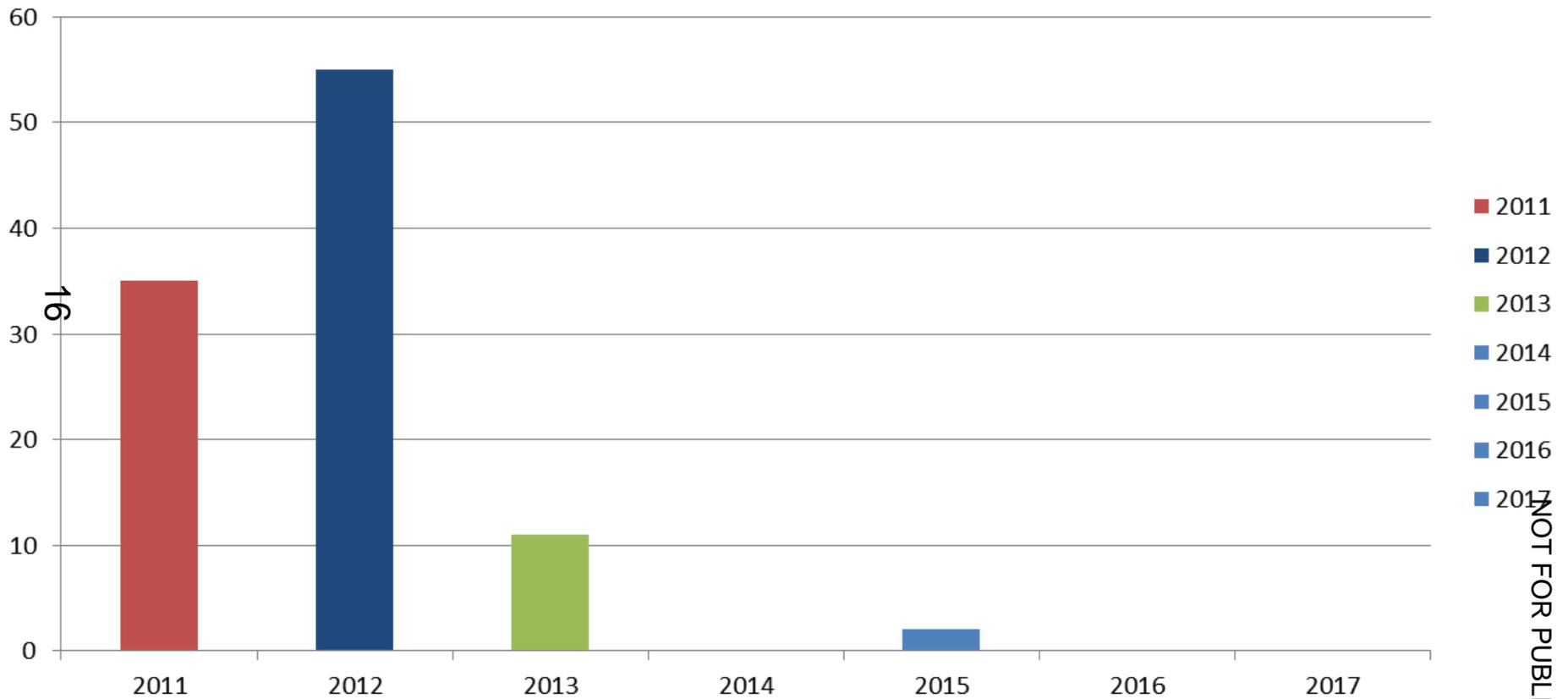




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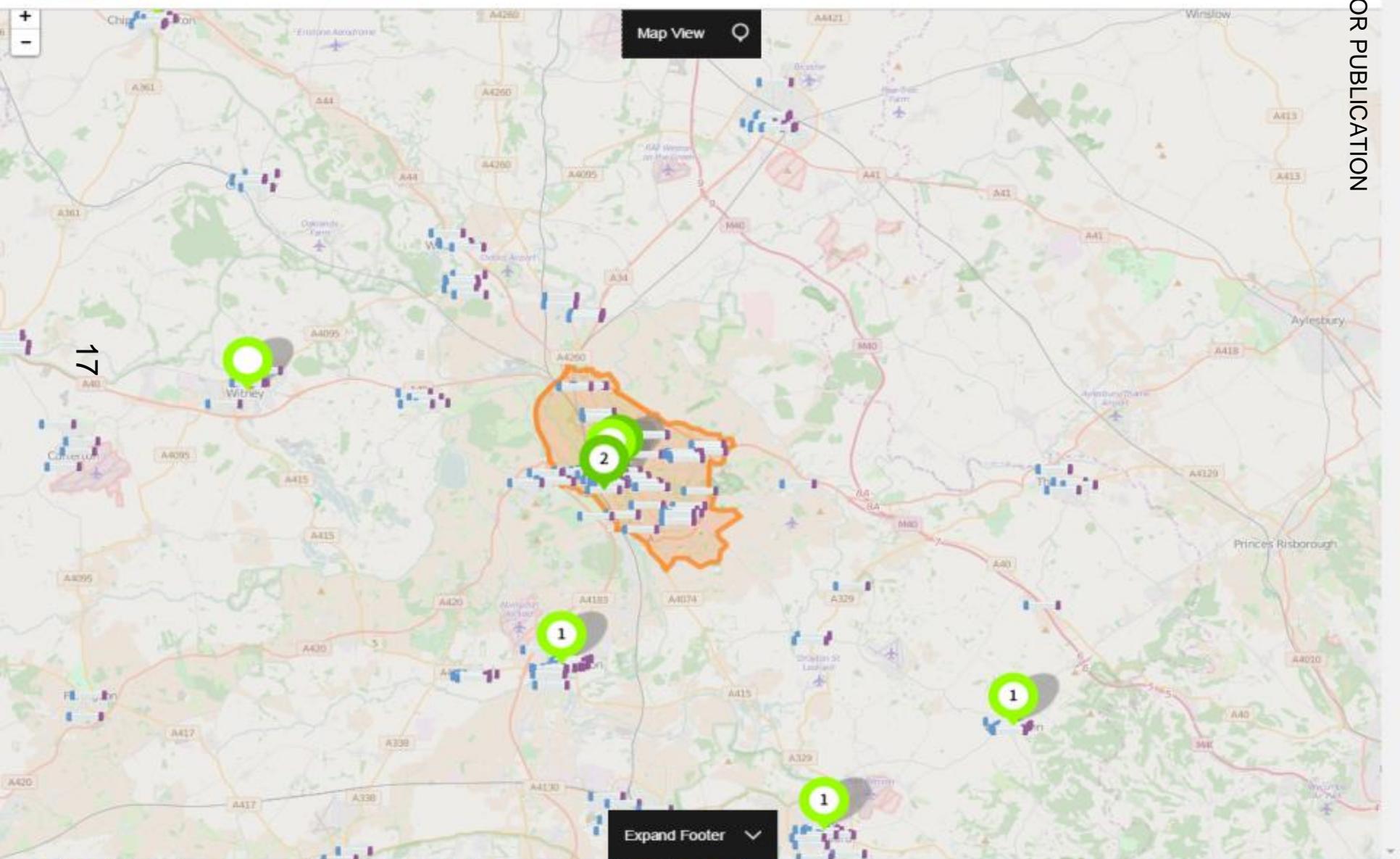
Number of exceedances Air Quality Standard for 2005 (NO₂) Hourly Mean > 200 μg_m⁻³



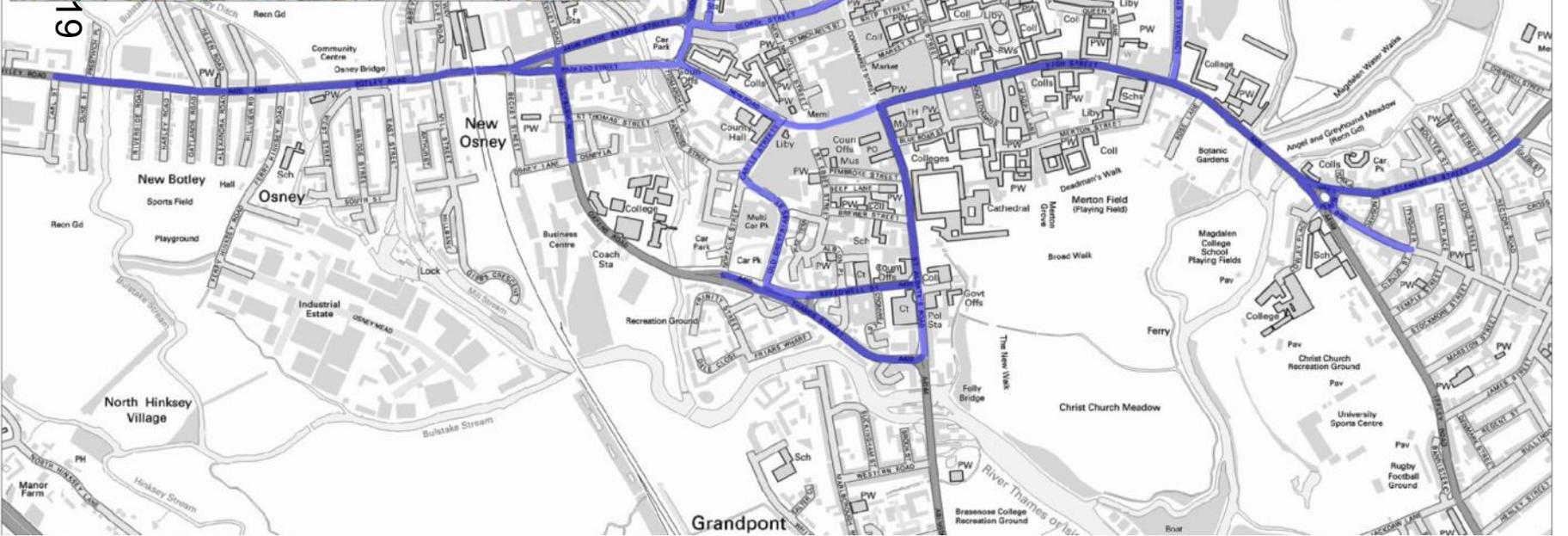
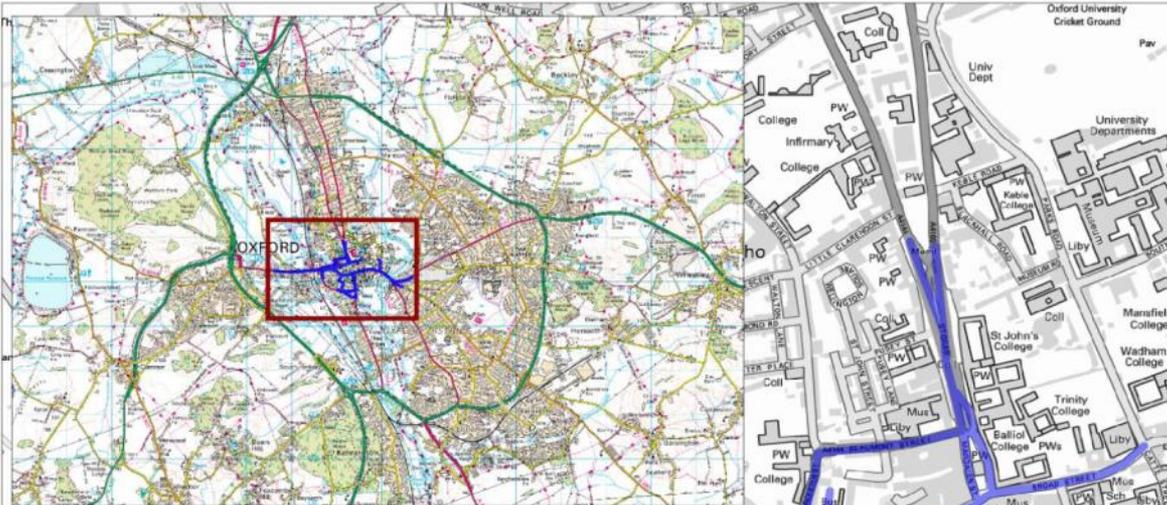
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GO ULTRA LOW OXFORD



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Schools Tackling Oxford's Air Pollution





OXFORD AIR NEEDS YOUR CARE

Turn off your idling engine





What can you do?

- Most people contribute to air pollution at some level, but small changes can help to make a difference.
- Walk or cycle if you can, rather than taking the car. This has positive health benefits too.
- When choosing your route you can really reduce your exposure to pollution by avoiding busy roads.
- Use public transport as alternative to car whenever possible.
- If you drive, don't leave your engine idling when you are stationary.

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Thank
you