

14 February 2022

Samanatha Brooman
Development Manager
Tarmac
Portland House
Bickenhill Lane
Solihull
Birmingham
BS7 7BQ

Our Ref: LAQ051931V2

Dear Mrs Brooman,

Re: Air Quality Impacts Associated with Proposed Residential Development at Colney heath

We have been asked to look at the proposals for the redevelopment of land to the south of Colney Heath Football Club for residential purposes in respect of air quality and potential impacts from vehicle emissions. The proposals are for 45 residential dwellings to be built on the site with access via the existing access road which leads to the football club and runs to the south of Colney Heath School and Nursery.

Air quality in Coley Heath is expected to be good. The Council is required to undertake a continued and annual review of local air quality within its borough. As a result of this process the Council have declared a number of air quality management areas within the district due to exceedances of the annual mean NO₂ UK air quality objective. However, none of these are in Colney Heath or the immediate surrounding area, the nearest being over 5 km to the north-west in the centre of St Albans.

The Council undertake extensive monitoring of NO₂ concentrations within the district. There are no monitoring sites in Colney heath, however they do have a monitoring site located on Sleapcross Gardens at Sleapshyde. The site is located approximately 10-15 m from the A414 and during 2019 recorded an annual mean NO₂ concentration of 29.8 µg/m³, significantly below the objective limit of 40 µg/m³. The majority of properties located in Colney Heath are over 50m from the A414, therefore the impact of emissions from the A414 on air quality within the village would be significantly lower than experienced at Sleapcross Gardens. Furthermore,

traffic flows along the High Street, through the centre of the village, are considerably lower than those experienced on the A414. Emissions within the village will, therefore, be lower than generated along the A414. On this basis it is concluded, based on professional judgement, that NO₂ concentrations throughout the village will be lower than recorded at the Sleapcross Gardens monitoring site, so well below the annual mean objective.

The Council have also concluded that concentrations of particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) are meeting the relevant UK air quality objectives across the borough, so levels within Colney Heath are also expected to be well below the objective limits.

Overall, air quality within the village is considered to be good and significantly below the UK air quality objectives.

The development proposals, once operational, will generate additional vehicle movements on the local road network. Based on 45 dwellings and, as a worst-case assuming 6-8 trips per dwelling per day, the total additional movements would be 270 -360 per day. These additional vehicles would travel to and from the site along the High Street to the north and south of the Site.

Air quality planning guidance, published by the Institute of Air Quality management (IAQM)¹ sets out criteria to determine when traffic generated by a proposed development may result in significant impacts on local air quality and a more detailed assessment of these potential impacts is required. The screening criteria indicates that where the following criteria are exceeded, there is a risk of significant effects on local air quality:

- a change in Light Duty Vehicles (LDVs) flows of more than 100 Annual Average Daily traffic (AADT) within or adjacent to an AQMA or more than 500 AADT elsewhere;
- a change in Heavy Duty Vehicles (HDVs) flow of more than 25 AADT within or adjacent to an AQMA or more than 100 AADT elsewhere.

Even if it was assumed that 100% of the development trips would travel north along the High Street the vehicle movements would fall below the above criteria indicating that impacts on local air quality would not be significant and no further assessment is considered necessary.

Taking into account the low pollution concentrations within the village, i.e. well below the UK objective limits and that trip generation falls well below the IAQM screening criteria, based on professional judgement the

¹ EPUK & IAQM (2017) Land Use Planning & Development Control: Planning for Air Quality, January 2017

development will not have a significant impact on local air quality and air quality does not pose a constraint to development of the site for residential purposes.

We hope the above sets out our position clearly, however if you would like to discuss any issues on air quality relating to the Site and proposed development, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,



Jo Kirk
Director