

Consultation on Proposed Changes to Crawley's Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)

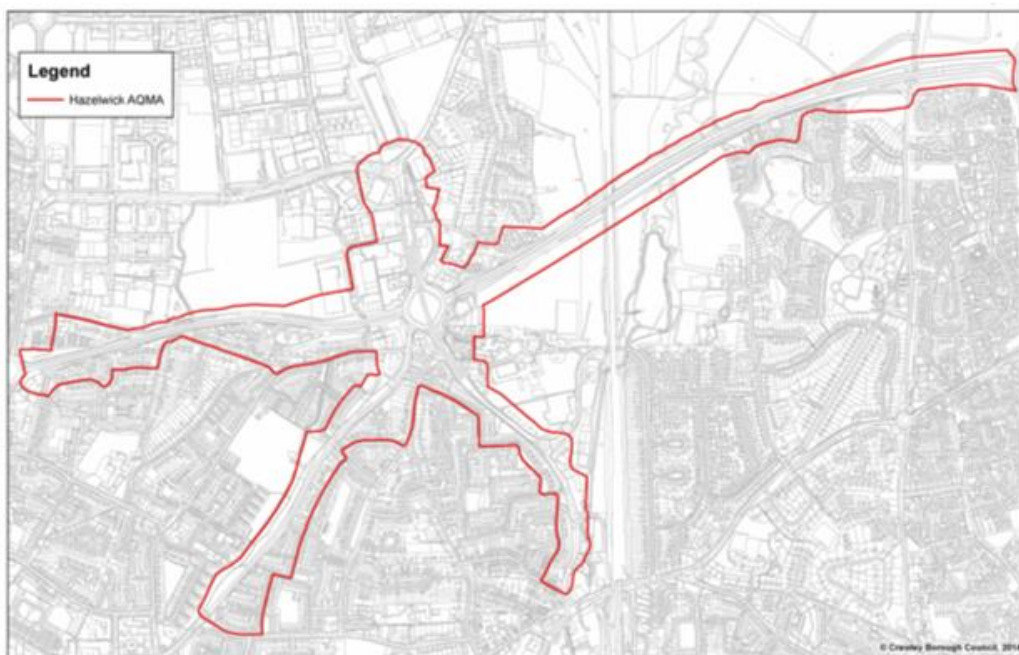
1. Legal Duty

Crawley Borough Council is required under Part IV of the *Environment Act 1995* to review and assess the air quality in their area in line with guidance issued by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Measured air quality levels in our borough are compared to the National Air Quality Objectives and, where these objectives are exceeded, an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) must be declared and an action plan drawn up with measures aimed at improving air quality.

2. Current Situation

The Council has an extensive monitoring network that measures concentrations of nitrogen dioxide. Based on the results of monitoring, an AQMA was declared in 2015 for levels of nitrogen dioxide exceeding legal limits in the area around the Hazelwick roundabout. The Map below shows the location and boundaries of the current "Hazelwick AQMA". The geographical boundary of the AQMA is set to identify the general area in which the Council wants to target actions to reduce concentrations of traffic related nitrogen dioxide. It is not meant to indicate all properties within its boundary have exceedances.

Existing AQMA



The current action plan measures are aimed at reducing vehicle emissions through a range of methods including: improving sustainable transport infrastructure; traffic management;

awareness raising; and planning and policy measures to encourage modal shift. Progress on these measure are updated annually. The most recent 2020 update can be found [here](#).

Since the Hazelwick AQMA was declared, monitoring has indicated that nitrogen dioxide levels are exceeding objectives outside the current AQMA, in the area around Three Bridges station on the A2220 Worth Park Avenue and Haslett Avenue East.

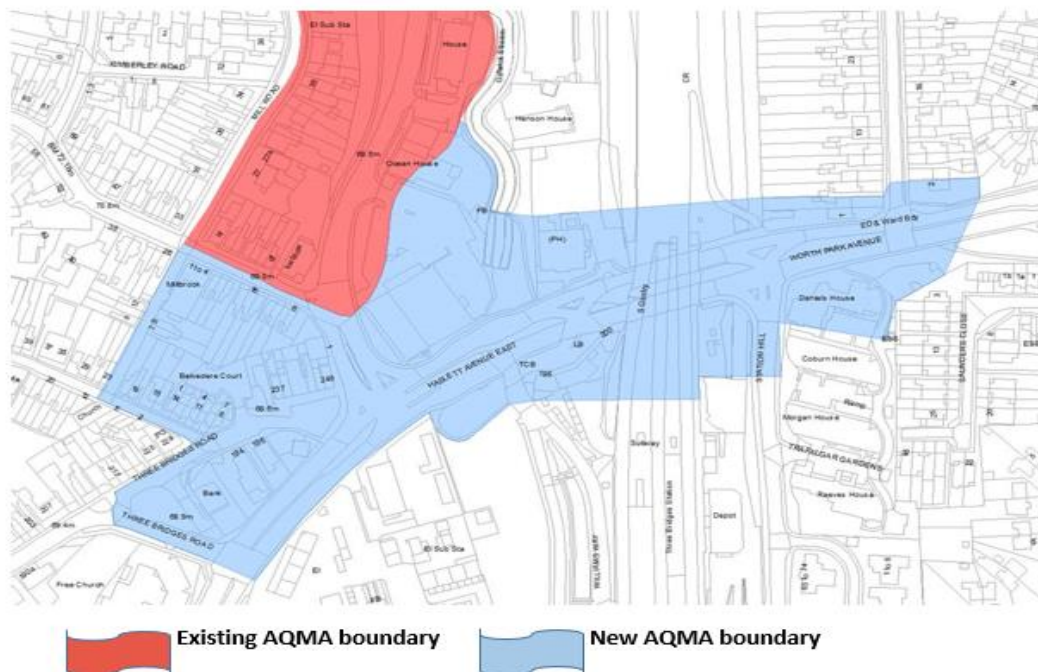
3. Proposed Actions

The Council has therefore reviewed the boundary of its existing AQMA to ensure it remains relevant. As a result, the AQMA is to be extended to include the Three Bridges area, forming a single extended “Crawley AQMA”. This will allow a coordinated approach to addressing air quality issues across all locations in a holistic manner. It give focus to the traffic corridors that are contributing to the problem at specific locations within the area, and helps prevents the risk of solving air quality issues at one location and creating another elsewhere.

The new area (shown in map below) would include the roads and properties fronting *parts* of:

- Worth Park Avenue from the junction of St Mary’s Drive,
- Haslett Avenue East to the junction of Three Bridges Road,
- Three Bridges Road to New Street
- New Street to Mill Road
- Mill Road to Hazelwick Road
- Hazelwick Avenue.

Proposed Extension to AQMA



4. Consultation (How to Take Part)

The Council is legally obliged to declare an AQMA in areas where the air quality objectives are exceeded. We are therefore undertaking a consultation exercise to raise the community's awareness of the proposed extension to the AQMA, as well as seeking any views and comments residents may have on it, before formally declaring the changes.

When responding to the consultation, please consider the following points:

- Although required by law, the declaration of an AQMA is intended to be a positive and proactive step towards improving air quality.
- An AQMA is not meant to indicate all properties within its boundary have exceedances, but rather the geographical boundary of the AQMA is set to identify the general area in which the Council wants to target actions to reduce ambient concentrations of road traffic related nitrogen dioxide.
- Bringing an area within an AQMA means greater attention is paid to the air quality impacts of new developments within the planning process.
- Following the declaration of an AQMA, an Air Quality Action Plan will be drawn up to identify actions to reduce air pollution levels. This action plan would also be subject to consultation.

The closing date for this consultation is 14 February 2021.

To have your say please email your comments to haveyoursay@ Crawley.gov.uk

by 14 February 2021