

Appendix Two

Mayor's Air Quality Fund 2013-2016

In 2013 the GLA announced the Mayor's Air Quality Fund. The London Borough of Barnet was successfully awarded funding for two projects. Work on the projects started in 2014 and will finish in March 2016. The MAQF projects are the Council's current key priorities in terms of a proactive approach to air quality action planning. A final report will be written in April 2016.

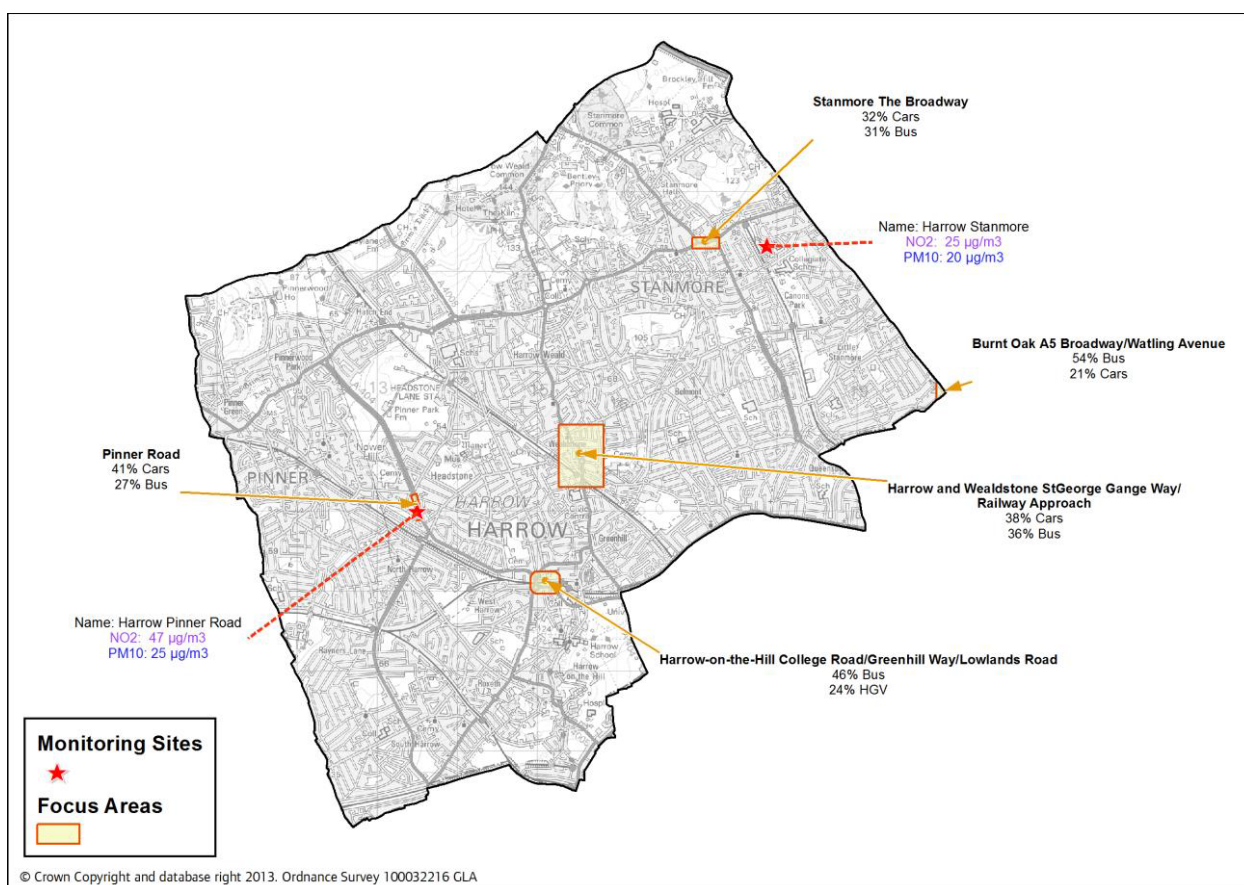
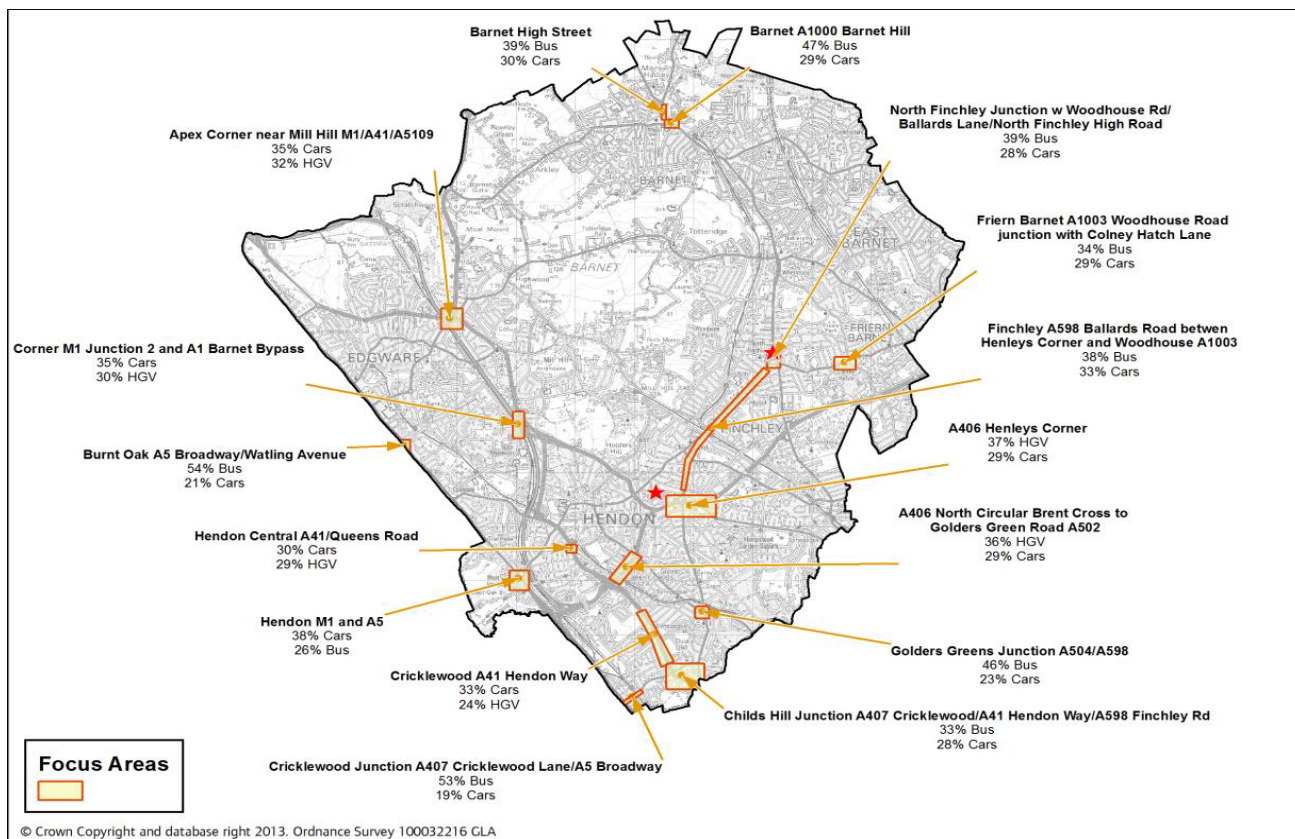
Air Quality Champion Project

This project is a joint project between Harrow and Barnet Councils, and also involves the public health authority.

Project Description

The focus of this project was to hire an air quality champion to engage with local residents, schools and businesses to support smarter travel choices and emphasise the links between poor health, air pollution, and sedentary behaviour. The champion used existing resources such as the Cleaner Air 4 Primary Schools Toolkit and linked this work into existing travel planning support.

Fifteen Air Quality Focus Areas have been identified in LB Barnet, and five in LB Harrow. Schools and businesses close to and within these areas were targeted.



Project Objectives

- To raise awareness of the importance of improving air quality for health
- To reduce idling of vehicles near schools
- To increase the amount of trips to school and work by walking, cycling and public transport
- To re-engage schools that have not been recently active with their School Travel Plans
- To improve the health of children by promoting active travel choices
- To improve air quality in air quality focus areas especially close to schools
- To create awareness in local businesses about poor air quality
- To launch an air quality champion scheme for local businesses

Desired Outcomes

- Improved health of children as they are undertaking more physical exercise by walking or cycling to school
- An increased awareness of the links between poor health, air pollution and sedentary behaviour
- Raised community awareness of air quality issues
- A change in how children travel to school
- An improvement in air quality around schools, and in air quality focus areas
- Reduced idling by cars outside schools
- Action initiated by business to reduce their vehicle mileage
- A decrease in residents' dissatisfaction with congestion

Key achievements to date

- Working with School Travel Plan officers during anti-idling events at schools
- On track to deliver engagement work at 30 schools within Harrow and Barnet.
- Delivered special sessions for “science weeks” at schools.
- A theatre company will be visiting 12 primary schools in Barnet to deliver a message on sustainable travel and air quality.
- Secondary schools will be engaged by using an organisation that uses music and live bands to deliver its environmental message
- Attended Health Promotion Day at QEII Girls’ School
- A website and twitter feed has been developed.
- <http://www.barnetandharrowcleanerair.com/> and <https://twitter.com/BarnetHarrowCA>

North Finchley Clean Air Project

The purpose of the project is two-fold. The first is to target North Finchley, an air quality focus area and one of the largest town centres in the London Borough of Barnet, with a package of measures to improve air quality.

The second purpose is to reduce nitrogen dioxide concentrations in North Finchley as well as across the Borough’s air quality focus areas, by planting magnolia, pea and silver birch trees.

Project Objectives

- To directly involve the local community in implementing air quality improvement measures.
- To address the local traffic issue
- To create awareness in local businesses about poor air quality
- To launch an air quality champion scheme for local businesses
- To reduce levels of nitrogen dioxide
- To work with schools in the area to encourage alternative transport to school

Desired Outcomes

- Improved air quality in the North Finchley Cleaner Air area and the other air quality action areas
- Reduction in trips made to North Finchley town centre by car
- Raised community awareness of air quality issues
- A change in how children travel to school
- Reduced idling by cars outside schools
- Action initiated by business to reduce their vehicle mileage
- A decrease in residents' dissatisfaction with congestion

An increase in local people cycling for leisure and for commuting

Key achievements to date

Greening

- A total of 300 street trees have been planted across the Borough. Species were chosen that have the capability of removing nitrogen dioxide from the air, thus improving air quality and improving the street scene.
- The greening of the local Percy Road pocket park

Bicycle Hire Scheme

- 18 bike stands were installed to encourage cycling across the North Finchley area.
- 6 bicycles for hire were provided to a cycle shop in a pilot scheme to encourage leisure cycling.

Electric Vehicles

- Funding contribution to install electric vehicle charging points in Lodge Lane carpark in the centre of North Finchley.
- Two electric vehicle charging points installed at Barnet House
- Membership of E-Car Club; a car sharing club using two electric vehicles, situated at Barnet House

Green Infrastructure

- A 50m long and 2m high green screen made of ivy has been erected at St Joseph's Roman Catholic School in Hendon. This is alongside the boundary of the school playground with the A41. The aim is to reduce pollution levels in the playground.

Promotion of Cycling

- A wide variety of cycling promotion projects has been carried out at schools, including Dr Bike to fix bicycles so they can be used again, bicycle training, and providing pool bicycles to enable training sessions for those without their own bicycles.
- Works were carried out to enable a bicycle and scooter park to be installed at Northside School, North Finchley, to encourage pupils to use sustainable travel to school.

Promotion of Walking

- The Council is working with the walking charity Living Streets to encourage children to walk to school, and educate them about the importance of clean air.

Other

- Using MP Smarter Travel to engage vulnerable people in environments that are typically hard to engage in (hospitals, GPs surgeries etc.). They will engage vulnerable people (COPD, asthma etc.) with stands and events throughout North Finchley and Barnet. Large scale air quality maps have been produced to convey key messages. Decision makers, GPs and nurses will also be engaged by means of a presentation to offer up to date advice so that patients can be treated more effectively and prevent issues.

This is run in conjunction with Barnet's Winter Well program which also targets vulnerable groups.

Schools Champion

- We have a member of staff who speaks to children at their schools about air quality and the project and work to change their views on walking to school, idling engines, etc.
- He works with the schools' travel plan champions to get interest and publicise the project.

Website

- A website has been developed. This allows members of the public to post their own photos, drawings, videos and comments about their views of the project, how it affects them and how they see it helping North Finchley. For example, school children can show how their day has changed by walking to school instead of being driven.
- The website has content from every aspect of the project and so pull it all together into a single "user experience" that will be easier for people to understand and thus buy into it encouraging wider participation.
- The website has been built to encourage social sharing which we hope will help promote the project.