

Appendix 1: Draft Order for the Declaration of the Rumbolds Hill, Midhurst AQMA:

Chichester District Council

Section 83 (1) Part IV Environment Act 1995

The Air Quality (England) Regulations 2000

The Chichester District Council Air Quality Management Area (Rumbolds Hill Midhurst West Sussex) Order No 1 2020

ORDER DESIGNATING AN AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA

WHEREAS

- (a) Chichester District Council ('the Council') is satisfied that, as a result of an air quality review and an assessment of whether air quality standards and objectives were being or were likely to be achieved having been conducted in June 2019 under section 82 of the Environment Act 1995 ('the Act'), the air quality objective level for nitrogen dioxide of 40 micrograms per cubic metre or less expressed as an annual mean is not being achieved in the area of Rumbolds Hill Midhurst West Sussex (which area is more fully described in the Schedule below) within the meaning of the Act and The Air Quality (England) Regulations 2000 (as amended).
- (b) In consequence thereof the Council has exercised the powers conferred upon it by section 83 (1) of the Act.

THE FOLLOWING ORDER IS HEREBY MADE

- (1) The area described in greater detail particularity in the Schedule below and outlined in red on the attached map in red is to be designated as an Air Quality Management Area ('the designated area').
- (2) The Air Quality Management Area is designated in respect of nitrogen dioxide only.
- (3) The designated area shall come into force on 17 January 2020 and shall remain in force unless and until it is varied or revoked pursuant to section 83 (2) of the Act.
- (4) This Order for the designated area is to be known as The Chichester District Council Air Quality Management Area (Rumbolds Hill Midhurst West Sussex) Order No 1 2020.

SCHEDULE

The area of land bounded by the front elevations of the buildings on the East side and West side of Rumbolds Hill (A272) between the junction with West Street and Petersfield Road (A272) and the junction with North Street (A286) and Duck Lane Midhurst West Sussex identified by and including the red outlined and hatched area on the attached plan which is marked The Chichester District Council Air Quality Management Area (Rumbolds Hill Midhurst West Sussex) Order No 1 2020.

This Order and the attached map may be viewed at the Council's offices during opening hours namely East Pallant House East Pallant Chichester West Sussex PO19 1TY and on the Council's website at <https://www.chichester.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=32679>

The Common Seal of

CHICHESTER DISTRICT COUNCIL

was hereto affixed on

the day of 2020

in the presence of

.....

AUTHORISED SIGNATORY

**Plan of the Chichester District Council Air Quality Management Area (Rumbolds Hill Midhurst West Sussex) Order No 1 2020.
Environment Act 1995 Air Quality (England) Regulations 2000 (as amended).**



CHICHESTER DISTRICT COUNCIL



Location Rumbolds Hill, Midhurst

The Chichester District Council Air Quality Management Area (Rumbolds Hill Midhurst West Sussex)
Order No 1 2020

Scale: 1:1,250



AQMA Boundary

Date: 02/12/19

Author: mjennings



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Appendix 2: Consultee responses received.

Response 1:

Philippa McCullough response (By email 22 October 2019):

Hi Simon

Good to meet you last week. Thank you for your email re the consultation asking for comments.

I think the only way to improve or possibly resolve this serious issue properly is by a thorough consultation/work with a traffic consultant.

However even as a lay person there seem some obvious things that could most likely reduce the traffic congestion and as a result the build up of pollution at Rumbolds Hill.

In keeping with the ethos of the Vision process it would be good to look at the issues in a holistic and innovative way - having a can-do attitude to finding resolutions.

Review deliveries with businesses on North Street - days, times, size of vehicles etc - how much if any flexibility

Consider retractable bollards for one loading bay on each side of North Street - a physical obstruction is the only way to guarantee these spaces will be kept free for deliveries & prevent double parking which occurs now

Check sequencing of pedestrian crossings to make sure optimising crossing time etc

Consider preventing right turns into roads intersecting North Street

Serious consideration of widening pinch point on Rumbolds Hill - Nat West Bank currently vacant - make the most of this opportunity

Re-routing of large HGV's away from A272

Look forward to hearing the results of the consultation in a few weeks.

Kind regards

Response 2:

Midhurst Town Council (By email: 4 November 2019):

Dear Simon,

Consultation on the declaration of an Air Quality Management Area at Rumbolds Hill, Midhurst.

Thank you for your invitation to comment on the above matter and we note with regret that the five years of ongoing Air Quality monitoring has still not achieved the UK AQ objectives. We support your department's work and will continue to do so as and when CDC declares an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP). We trust that all local authorities will engage in the AQAP to address the AQ issues at Rumbolds Hill. I note that it was suggested by The National Society for Clean Air & Environmental Protection's report in response to the publishing of The Environment Act 1995 that in the section headed;

The AQMA : "Turning Reviews into Action"

It is written on page 25 by The Society;

It is considered best practice that:

All local authorities consider the need for co-operation and collaboration in their air quality management work and particularly with respect to the potential designation of AQMAs.

Once a body of the various interested parties has been formed, Midhurst Town Council would like to be represented at future AQAP meetings. Our offices at The Old Library, Knockhundred Row are less than 100 meters from Rumbolds Hill and we offer them as a meeting point for any future site visits and discussions by the assembled local authorities.

We look forward to hearing more once the consultation period has ended and thank you once again for your department's work so far.

Yours sincerely,

Melanie Kite,
Town Clerk
For and behalf of Cllr Steve Morley.

Response 3

SDNPA (By letter 20 November 2019):

Dear Mr Ballard

Subject: SDNPA response to the consultation on the declaration of an Air Quality Management Area at Rumbold's Hill, Midhurst.

Thank you for consulting the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) on the declaration of an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) at Rumbold's Hill, Midhurst, within the South Downs National Park. We support the designation of this AQMA and look forward to working with Chichester District Council (CDC) going forward on this, including on showing the AQMA on the Policies Map for the South Downs Local Plan. We would also welcome the opportunity to work with CDC in the preparation of the Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP). The SDNPA, through the Partnership Management Plan and the South Downs Local Plan, has identified outcomes and policies related to sustainable travel, and is engaged in a number of current and forthcoming projects which might helpfully contribute to the AQAP.

Yours sincerely

Lucy Howard
Planning Policy Manager

Response 4

WSCC (by email 02-12-2019):

Dear Simon,

Thank you for your letter of 21 October 2019 concerning consultation on an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) at Rumbold's Hill, Midhurst. I apologise for the delay in responding to your letter.

West Sussex County Council notes the results of air quality monitoring data collected at Rumbold's Hill and the requirement to declare an AQMA in this area. The proposed geographic extent of Rumbold's Hill AQMA is believed to be appropriate to the scale of the air quality objective exceedances measured at Rumbold's Hill.

We recognise the challenges of finding solutions to the air quality exceedances in this location given the nature of the historical street pattern, the location within the South Downs National Park and the volumes of traffic using the A286 and A272 through the centre of Midhurst. We will be happy to work with Chichester District Council (CDC) and other partners to identify and implement appropriate measures for the Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) which we understand that CDC will now lead the preparation of. This will include linking measures to our combined West Sussex authorities "[Breathing Better: a partnership approach to improving air quality in West Sussex](#)" action plan.

We look forward to continuing to work with CDC on this matter.

Kind regards,

Jamie Dallen
Transport Planning and Policy Senior Planner
Transport Planning and Policy Team
Planning Services;
[West Sussex County Council](#)

Response 5

Midhurst Town Vision Steering Group (by email 03-12-2019):

Midhurst Town Centre Highways: a review by Midhurst Town Centre Highways: a review by Midhurst Town Council and the Midhurst Vision Group. November 2019.

Mission Statement:

"Midhurst Town Council's priority is to improve road and pavement safety while enabling traffic to pass through and park more easily in our town, to improve air quality and to encourage residents and visitors alike to enjoy all that our town has to offer."

Highway Issues and Air Quality Problems;

Background: Over the last three years we have been researching the various ways of addressing the Parking and Air Quality issues in North Street and Rumbolds Hill. Midhurst Town Council conducted a questionnaire in 2018 followed by an opinion poll and then subsequently in 2019 The Vision programme received many comments and ideas on this same subject.

There have been meetings with traders, shoppers, car, van and lorry drivers, environmental officers and parking officers at CDC and Highway officers and councillors at WSCC. Observation has been conducted for many hours at various times of the day and night. These results are now offered for further discussion.

The two concerns of Highway Issues and Air Quality problems are inextricably linked. The poor air quality experienced on Rumbolds Hill is caused by stationary vehicles waiting to continue north along North Street. They are prevented from doing so by lorries and vans who have double parked in North Street due to the selfish and lazy habits of car drivers

who park in loading and delivery bays. A further problem is the manner in which the new pedestrian crossings operate; they also cause delays to vehicle progress.

On both the east and west side of North Street it is inevitable that due to the cars parked in the delivery bays, lorries and vans will be forced to draw alongside and wait for a delivery space to become available. A large lorry may wait until the bay is clear but small and large vans will start unloading from the highway. Within minutes a tail back can be created in Rumbolds Hill and at busy times this will continue along both Petersfield Road and Bepton Road. These delays also cause tailbacks in the other direction, over North Mill Bridge and up the A272 and A286. The frustration that this creates can cause visiting drivers to abandon any plans to explore the town and continue on through Midhurst and then speed on out from the other end of town.

So what to do? How can we solve these issues? When is the Air Quality problem going to be addressed? How do we motivate drivers to stop in our town and enjoy all that it has to offer?

Firstly it should be acknowledged that we are blessed with two large car parks at each end of town and two smaller ones in the centre. Encouraging more efficient use of these facilities would certainly help alleviate the problem. The southern car park is rarely filled to capacity and one of the central car parks is sadly inefficient. A primary initiative should be to enable large lorries to park in the delivery bays of North Street. The more effortless the delivery process is then the sooner these trucks can move on. In achieving this we would also facilitate parking for the many vans now plying our town due to the rise in internet deliveries. For whatever reason (and our CEOs have heard them all) people continue to park in delivery bays. For the sake of our health and the town's wellbeing this practice should be prevented. We therefore offer an outline solution that has recently been gaining popularity.

Possible solution: To create an area for **delivery and collection only** on both the east and west side of North Street running south from the southern pedestrian crossing to the start of Rumbolds Hill. From that same crossing but in the northerly direction there could be **car parking** on the west side and possibly also the east side. Additionally, more appropriate street furniture could be placed around the crossing to discourage the selfish and often dangerous practice of parking on the cobbles.

To recompense for the loss of some car parking spaces at the southern end of North Street, a TRO could be applied for to revert the parking in Church Hill to a shorter turn-around time. If one hour parking could be reinstated this would help the traders in Church Hill, North Street and West Street. It would also better enable the necessary traffic clearances for markets, Christmas Street parties and Armistice Day Parades. The Post Office car park could also benefit from a few alterations to encourage higher vehicle turn-over too. Blue badge holders would also have parking spaces in North Street.

There are many different permutations of how to better address the confusion caused by half-day and full-day parking restrictions. The solution above would work alongside the Town Vision's desire for a more open and green town while creating a more welcoming town centre.

If these ideas are not acceptable then alternatively consultees also suggested:

The creation of a town by-pass.

*To completely remove **all** car parking in North Street and only allow deliveries.*

A cycle lane to run down North Street

*More efficient timing sequences for the two pedestrian crossings in North St.
The widening of Hollist Lane from Easebourne to Woolbeding.
Placement of trees in tubs to dissuade pavement parking.
To expand North Street car park behind North Street.
Use traffic lights at both ends of Rumbolds Hill to enable a better traffic flow.*

Currently Chichester District Council is in the process of commissioning a consultancy to review parking efficiency across the district and MTC have requested that they approach Midhurst's parking issues holistically. Both on-street and off-street parking should be reviewed in tandem and we trust that both CDC and their consultants are made aware of the comments and suggestions represented herein.

Speeding Issues and Highway sound pollution;

These two subjects only bear any joint correlation when the vehicle is a motorbike. With reference to motorbike noise, especially early on Sunday mornings, there is virtually nothing that can be done. There was a suggestion of introducing *sleeping policemen* throughout the town but this is not popular due to the noise that would be created by large trucks. The only obvious remedy is for West Sussex police to increase their patrols on the A272 on Sundays.

The issue of other speeding vehicles has started to be addressed and Midhurst Town Council has initiated a Community Speedwatch programme under the auspices of West Sussex Police. Currently there are three volunteer operatives and a co-ordinator who are about to receive final training on December 2nd. They will be seen on our roads this winter and if more volunteers come forward then it is hoped that their presence will become more of a deterrent to anti-social driving habits.

Maintenance of Pavements and Kerbs;

The constant breaking up of the paving slabs and kerbs by drivers who park on them is another much noted frustration. This is especially so for those who rely on mobility scooters, transport their children in buggies or have impaired vision. They have reported the dangers of rocking slabs and the lack of dropped kerbs. The erection of more bollards around town was suggested but most would prefer to put a stop to this practice without resorting to such measures. The Town Council will review this subject separately and research further how other towns (eg; East Grinstead) have dealt with the problem.

Councillor Steve Morley

Midhurst Town Council Highway Review Group
and Midhurst Town Vision Steering Group.

Appendix 3:

List of consultees:

Internal

Development Management and Building Control

External

DEFRA

West Sussex County Council

South Downs National Park Authority

Midhurst Town Council

Midhurst Vision Group

Members of the public living in, or close to the declared AQMA