

## **Save Macclesfield Green Belt - update January 2017**

Cheshire East Council is undertaking a *Local Air Quality Consultation*. **Broken Cross in Macclesfield is to become an Air Quality Management Area because it has poor air quality.**

By completing the survey you have an opportunity to tell CEC that any residential development between Chelford Rd and Whirley Rd and Chelford Rd and Pexhill Rd (both in the Local Plan) and a new roundabout proposed on Chelford Rd (A537), between the Cock Inn and Broken Cross roundabout, will cause increased congestion and harmful emissions. Any development will decrease the air quality in the area and the proposed roundabout will cause sharp decelerations and accelerations in four directions when complete. In a report looking at how to make air cleaner, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (Nice), said that measures which help motorists stay at a constant speed, rather than accelerating and decelerating, were preferable - another roundabout and more houses/congestion will not do this, queues will be longer and air quality poorer.

**Completing the survey may influence the council on whether to go ahead with these developments** as the most recent Planning Inspectors Interim Report says CEC now has 'greater flexibility' in its Local Plan following the inclusion of potential windfall site development figures in Macclesfield, something SMGB successfully fought hard to get included in last years Inspector's Hearings using our Barrister crowd funded by residents and friends of Macclesfield - Thank you!

CEC have been told to produce 'realistic figures' that include small sites (of less than 150 dwellings) and brownfield/windfall developments. CEC should only remove the minimum amount of Greenbelt required in the Local Plan - new windfall figures should reduce Greenbelt losses. The Inspector stopped short of telling the council to do this but this should be the result. CEC can still alter the Local Plan.

Although the Chelford Rd (A537) may be a main arterial route, Whirley Road, Gawsworth Rd, Pexhill Road and Fallibroome Rd all have a 7.5 Ton weight restriction on them. Width restrictions on these roads perhaps and a redesign of Broken Cross Roundabout may help relieve congestion. Building a new roundabout and 2 housing estates will not. Any new 'Link' road across SW Macclesfield (post 2030) will just move more traffic onto the A537 and facilitate yet more residential development in the area and therefore more pollution. Maybe you have your own ideas too.

A study earlier this year by Imperial College which found that forcing drivers to slow down and speed up again produces significant of harmful emissions. Guidelines published say planners must take into account the effect of air pollution when designing road schemes.

The survey is here: <http://surveys.cheshireeast.gov.uk/s/AQMAs1/>

or by going to Cheshire East's website, scroll down to 'Have your say', click on '[Air quality management areas \(ends 03 February 2017\)](#)' then click on '[Complete the Air Quality Management Areas Survey](#)'

It isn't too complicated but does have some leading questions so please read and comment carefully , Question 3 is where it all starts about Broken Cross becoming an Air Quality Management area - sadly it can only be completed online.

**The consultation ends 3rd February 2017**

Please pass on to friends and neighbours likely to be affected. Thanks SMGB!