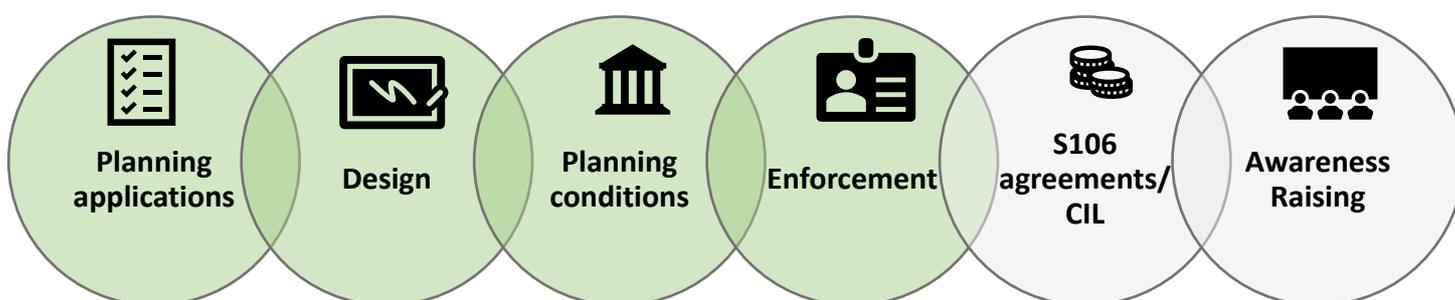


## Somers Town Neighbourhood Forum: Recommendations for the Neighbourhood Plan to improve air quality

A Neighbourhood Plan is a land use planning document and therefore these recommendations focus on areas that the plan can impact: planning applications, design, planning conditions and enforcement. In addition it includes suggestions about allocating some S106 agreement funds / Community Infrastructure Levy and suggestions about awareness raising.

This report is on air quality, but there are a number of other issues that should be considered in the Neighbourhood Plan that may have an impact on air quality such as:

- the use of green infrastructure and the importance of green (not hard) open spaces for people's mental health wellbeing;
- the benefits of walking and recognition that walking needs to be made more pleasurable by improving the environment.



### Planning Applications



- **Planning application summaries** - 2 pages written in non-technical language explaining impacts, mitigation measures and assessment methods used.
- **Air quality assessments** – use conservative background concentrations, justify model verification method. Major developments' air quality assessments should include construction traffic impacts.
- **Air quality positive**- All major developments should be air quality positive in Somers Town

### Design



- **Street Canyons** - new development should not create or exacerbate an existing street canyon
- **Space Heating** - electricity including the use of heat pumps would reduce emissions
- **Green Infrastructure** – include advice on where green infrastructure may be a useful mitigation measure
- **Clean Oases** – major developments should include outdoor space where planting is used to reduce very local air pollution levels
- **Sensitive Locations** - Special consideration should be given to the most sensitive locations

It might be useful for the Neighbourhood Plan to include a map highlighting the most sensitive locations e.g. school, children's nurseries, pre-school groups, doctors' surgeries, sheltered accommodation and any care homes.



### Planning conditions



- Ensure that all major development submits an **Air Quality and Dust Management Plan** (AQDMP). Include a ban on construction vehicles during school start and finish times. Adopt Central London Non Road Mechanical Machinery requirements, and consider electric construction equipment
- Require **electric charging provision** in developments with parking
- Monitor and revise **travel plans** annually
- New schools & extensions should **restrict private car access**.
- Required details of installed boilers or CHP engines to be submitted for approval prior to first operation or occupation of development"

### Enforcement of planning conditions



- This is a duty of Camden Council, but it may be useful to state the expectation that residents' concerns of non-compliance are acted on

*"The Neighbourhood Forum expects Camden Council to respond positively and quickly to any concerns raised by local residents regarding suspected non-compliance with planning conditions".*

### S106 Agreements / CIL



To ensure that there is good air quality data in Somers Town for future air quality assessments monitoring must continue when Kings Cross and HS2 monitoring stops. Section 106 or CIL payments could be allocated to establishing long term background and roadside air quality monitoring sites in Somers Town.

Of particular concern are the emissions from the taxi ranks for St Pancras Station and Euston Station. The high concentrations measured at Brill Place may be due to this source. Monitoring could provide greater insight into whether this is the cause of the high concentrations, or whether it is due to another local source such as the Somers Town Energy or deliveries and taxis for the Crick Institute. Ideally continuous monitoring apparatus would be installed.

### Awareness raising



Awareness raising is not a planning issue, but it may be that money raised through section 106 agreements could be used to raise public awareness of air quality issues.

The Neighbourhood Plan could require developers to raise awareness of the impact of poor air quality on public health through their travel plans.

