

# CONSULTATION WORKSHOPS

## NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Contact Details:

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### Further Information:

Air Quality Monitoring pages of Council Web Site [www.neath-porttalbot.gov.uk](http://www.neath-porttalbot.gov.uk) access via A to Z of services under "Air Quality Monitoring". This page contains not only monitoring data but also the Councils Annual Air Quality reports and its Local Air Quality Strategy, Airwise. The latter document contains a section on partnership working and consultation in section 4.0.

### Description And Purpose Of Event:

The aims of the Action Planning stakeholder workshop held were as follows:-

- To enable delegates to make a positive contribution to the Action Plan to improve air quality with regard to fine particles (PM10) before further consultation and final consideration by the Council prior to adoption of the plan.
- For delegates to discuss the relative merits of the individual options.
- For delegates to become aware of and discuss policy proposals such as planning guidance for the area.
- For them to become more aware of what contributions both individuals and organisations can make in order to make the implementation of the Action Plan a success.
- To make stakeholders more aware how this initiative fits in with other parallel related initiatives.
- For stakeholders to have a better understanding of the air quality problem in the Taibach/Margam areas, and the potential solutions.

### Local Air Quality Strategy (Airwise Workshop):

This was a full day workshop held in 1999 with invited stakeholders selected initially from a modified list. As a starting point the UDP consultation list was used but significantly modified using local knowledge of potential stakeholders. The workshop was run in house with 70 delegates attending. The method involved facilitators working with syndicate groups to answer a number of questions. The output was a consensus as to what delegates wished to see in a local air quality strategy. The output was worked on further by a steering group of stakeholders drawn from the workshop. The draft plan then underwent a more conventional consultation with approx 120 consultees, and subsequently adopted by the Council. The end product was the Airwise strategy published in February 2000, available on the Council Web site.

**Action Plan Workshop:**

A stakeholder workshop was held in the Air Quality Management Area in order to assist in developing a draft action plan. Over 50 delegates attended this workshop at which participants were asked in syndicate groups to discuss and produce a list of preferred actions together with their various implications and finally to rank these in order of perceived cost benefit. Each group was assigned a facilitator in addition to Council officer with some knowledge or involvement with Air Quality Management. Registration packs also contained both factual information on air quality in the area along with a number of potential options for action. A newsletter was also sent out prior to the workshop to all 3,000 houses in the AQMA.

**Part of process or stand alone?:**

Overall process so far:

1. Workshop to start production of Local Air Quality Strategy Airwise, steering group, consultation and adoption by Council.
2. Establishment of specific Air Quality Management Working Groups e.g. Corus Tripartite involving Local Authority, Corus and Environment Agency Wales.
3. Review and Assessment, consultation, declaration, newsletter and information giving public meeting, further assessment, consultation.
4. Holding of Action Plan Workshop for stakeholders to produce draft action plan.

**Resources Used:**

Approximately £5,000 for 2 workshops but this does not include the following:

- Officer time for planning workshops and designing materials/packs, newsletters etc. which is extensive.
- Officer time involved in training facilitators.
- Officer time in running the workshop e.g. 5 facilitators, 1 coordinator, 2 registration staff, 5 Council advisors distributed between groups, 3 senior managers plus member representation.

**Advantages/Disadvantages:**

Both workshop events were considered to be successful in achieving their aims. Although there was not much feedback from the newsletters, subsequent Best Value surveys have indicated there is enhanced public awareness of the Council's efforts to improve air quality. The open Public Meeting after the declaration of the AQMA was found to be less successful in that it tended to be hostile and confrontational with some of the public attacking the major local industry for its contribution to pollution.