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**WELWYN
HATFIELD**

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Reply To: address as below
Our Ref: WK100868
Date: Tuesday 10th December 2019
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Melvyn Middleton
Planning Inspectorate
c/o Programme Officer
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Dear Sir

Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan Examination

I write in response to recent documents received for Air Quality Assessment received from David Lock Associates (DLA) on behalf of site promoter's Tarmac Trading for proposed allocation site Birchall Garden Suburb (BGS) in the form of a Technical Note (dated 3.10.2019) and updated proposed design layout plans (as attached) to ensure acceptable air quality mitigation along the A414/Burnside site (southern/southern-eastern) edge of the proposed BGS development.

The Council's Environmental Health team have reviewed the latest documents submitted by DLA and in summary have considered whether or not a 60m buffer zone is sufficient, to suitably mitigate any effects of pollution for future residents, from road traffic and commercial operations from Burnside.

Since 2013, environmental health have been monitoring air quality in the locality (The Commons, Welwyn Garden City and Thistle Grove, Welwyn Garden City) by the use of diffusion tubes which monitor nitrogen dioxide. In 2015 a further diffusion tube location was added on the A414 very close to the proposed development site. These monitoring sites were set up as background sites to observe effects from local pollution sources, namely Burnside and the A414. The results have consistently shown that air quality concentrations for nitrogen dioxide are below the limit value set in the Environment Act 1995. The limit value being 40 ug m⁻³. These results were submitted to DEFRA who regulate local authorities in respect of air quality monitoring. They advised that we stopped monitoring at The Commons and Thistle Grove, due to the fact that the results were very low. Monitoring stopped at The Commons and Thistle Grove in 2018. However, monitoring adjacent to the A414 continues.

A key factor for consideration is the distance from a pollution source. When you move distance of 20m or more pollution levels from pollution sources tend to reduce significantly. This is especially relevant in open environments, as it allows for pollution to disperse rapidly. In the case of Birchall Garden Suburb, the distance of any residential properties from the A414 and from the Burnside site will be 60m.

This is just in relation to whether or not the proposed buffer zone is sufficient. It is likely, that there will be air quality mitigation required at the time when an application is made. This will

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be in relation to mitigating potential impacts to the locality from the effects of the development. Mitigation will likely include the provision of electrical vehicle charging points, the promotion of active travel and anti-idling schemes put in place at any schools within the development.

After examination of the evidence submitted the Environmental Health team can confirm and agree that there will be no adverse impacts to residents from road traffic or the Burnside site with the proposed buffer zone of 60m, which will be sufficient to mitigate effects from either pollution source.

Yours Sincerely 

Joanna Harding
Head of Public Health and Protection

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