

## COUNTY COUNCIL - GARTREE NEWS MANOR OAK HOMES APPEAL 1 NOV

HDC had decided not to defend their refusal for the 110 houses, despite it being their reasons for refusal that the Planning Committee had agreed with on 15 December last year. The developers had provided detailed explanations why the reasons for refusal could not be relied upon at an appeal.

Despite their refusal, HDC were represented at the public inquiry on 1 November by the planning officer and counsel. The developer had also employed their own counsel, Mr Lowe, together with expertise in school planning. Mrs Yvonne Wright was the Planning Inspector and she started the Inquiry at 10am in the HDC Council Chamber. Mr Lowe set out their reasons for appealing by confirming the county council's responsibility, while Kibworth Primary is full, for having to find a school for primary age children even if that means them being bussed to Fleckney or any other local school with space. Mr Lowe also contended that the distance for pedestrians from the site to the High Street would only take 19-20 mins, according to a desktop exercise, so the location was sustainable.

The community was represented by DCllrs King and Holyoak, Chris Wood, chairman of Beauchamp Parish Council and the KNPG, Stefan Richter and myself. Mrs Wright permitted the five of us to present our statements covering the community concerns. These were well presented and included the folly of expecting 4 year olds to go by bus, when more likely parents would drive them so increasing congestion, plus the cumulative impact of extra traffic on the busy A6, and the time taken to walk from the site to the High Street actually taking people closer to 30 mins in practise, and longer when returning laden down with shopping. Also arguments were put about the site being outside the limits of development, and casting doubt on the current 5 year housing supply figures for the district.

The Inquiry was over by about 3.30pm so the Inspector took the opportunity to look at the location and the village for an hour or so, but returned on her own on the Wednesday and she had agreed to be present during school peak times. The Inspector is due to

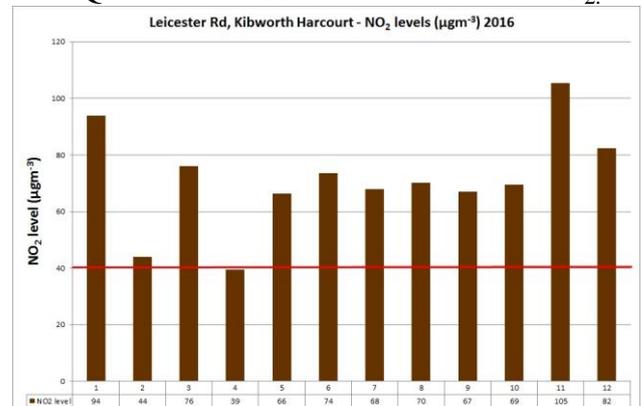
issue her decision before Christmas.

## AIR QUALITY ON A6

HDC have measuring equipment at many sites across the district, including the centre of Lutterworth which has high values of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and has therefore been declared an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA).

So another matter that I reported to the Planning Inquiry was the latest figures for the NO<sub>2</sub> pollutant that has been measured for some time at several locations on the A6 through the Kibworths.

The Air Quality Objective (AQO) for NO<sub>2</sub> is 40µg/m<sup>3</sup> and at a site on Leicester Road, eight of the last 9 months of readings (see diagram) have been above this level. If the remaining readings in the year are also over the limit then this area could also be declared an AQMA with measures to lower the NO<sub>2</sub>.



## X3 BUS ROUTE THROUGH KIBWORTH MEADOWS

The report by County Council Highways was presented to the Harborough Highways Forum as promised on 25 October. I, along with the 270+ residents who had signed the petition to divert the route around the estate, were very disappointed that Arriva and Highways had not been able to fit bus stops along either Wistow or Warwick Roads. There was not enough space between the splitter islands on Wistow Road, and the curve on one side of Warwick Road meant bus drivers would have a blind spot when trying to pull out into traffic. So these geometric difficulties have thwarted the diversion plans.

There is still a hope that the money allocated for adding bus stops along Warwick Road for the Priority Business Park extension, this may then resolve the blind spot for drivers. In the meantime, one of the Harcourt parish councillors who lives on the estate is continuing to meet with the campaigners.

[kevin.feltham@leics.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.feltham@leics.gov.uk) and <http://gartree.yourcllr.com>