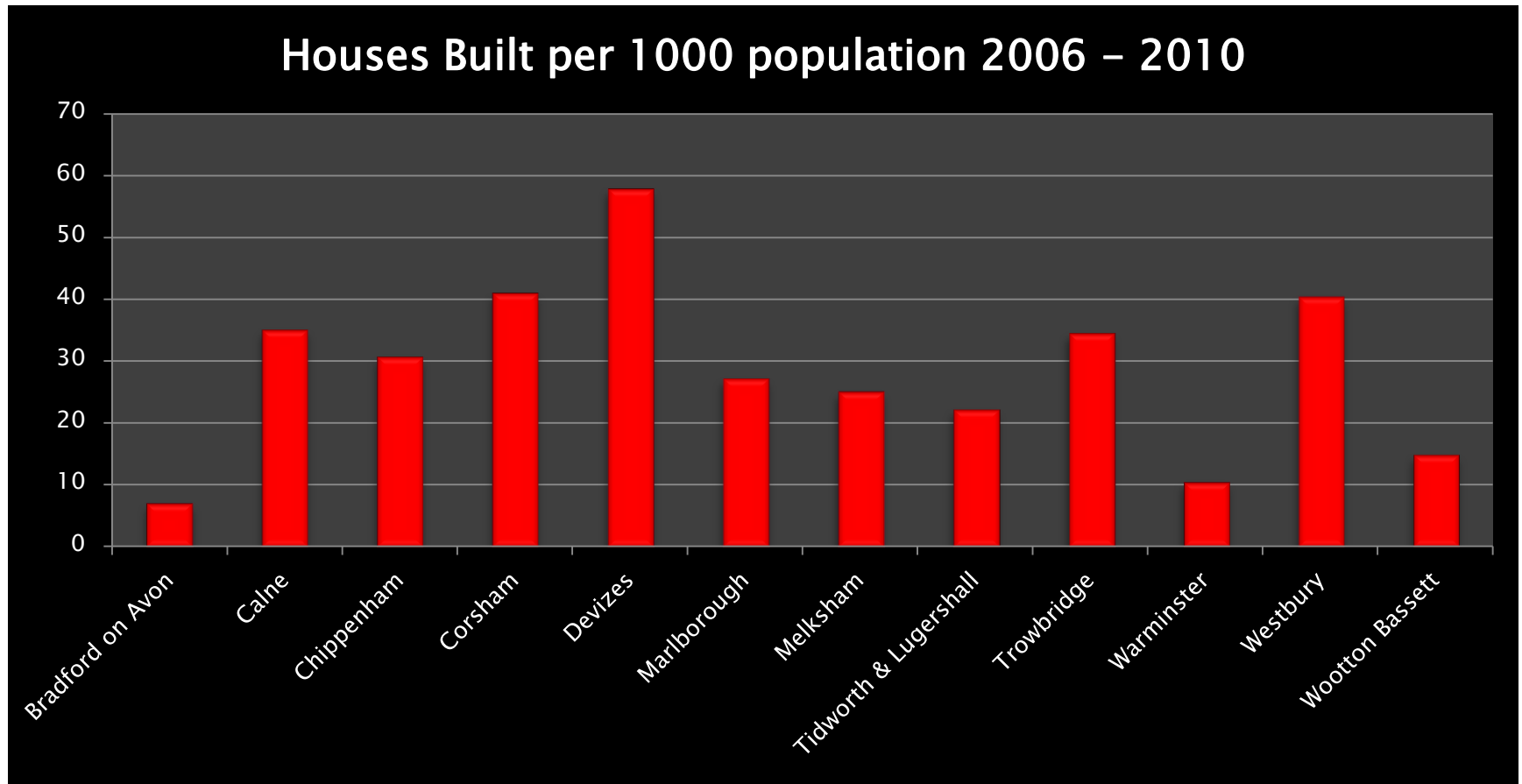




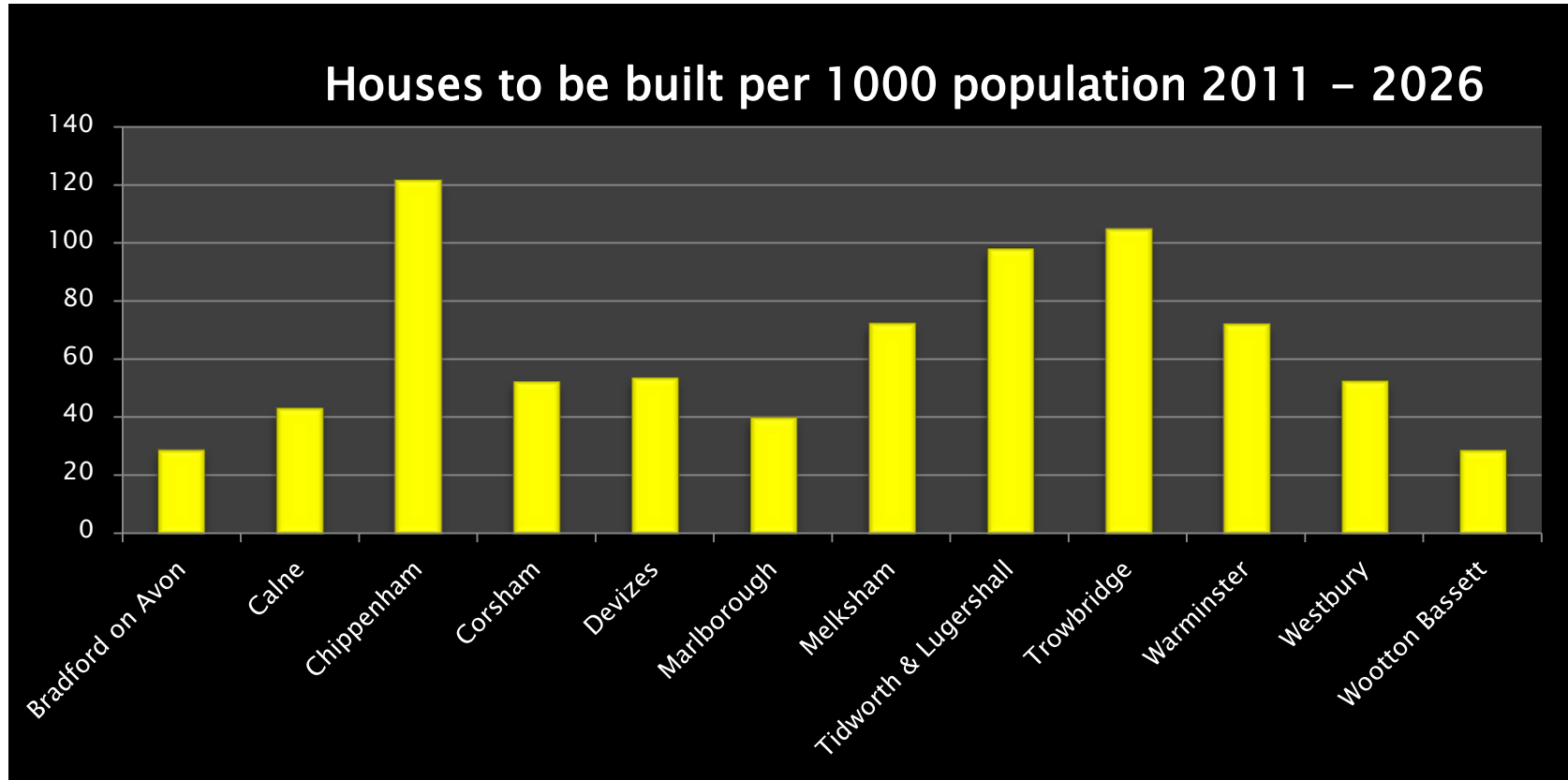
# Homes, Traffic & Pollution

The Future of our Fine Market Town

# House Building to Date



# House Building Plans



# The Council's Road Improvement Plans

- ▶ Further research is being undertaken to understand traffic movements in Devizes which will build upon the research undertaken in 2007.
- ▶ However, some alleviation can be achieved through upgrades to existing junctions to be delivered in combination with current committed and future housing growth.

# What they said in 2007

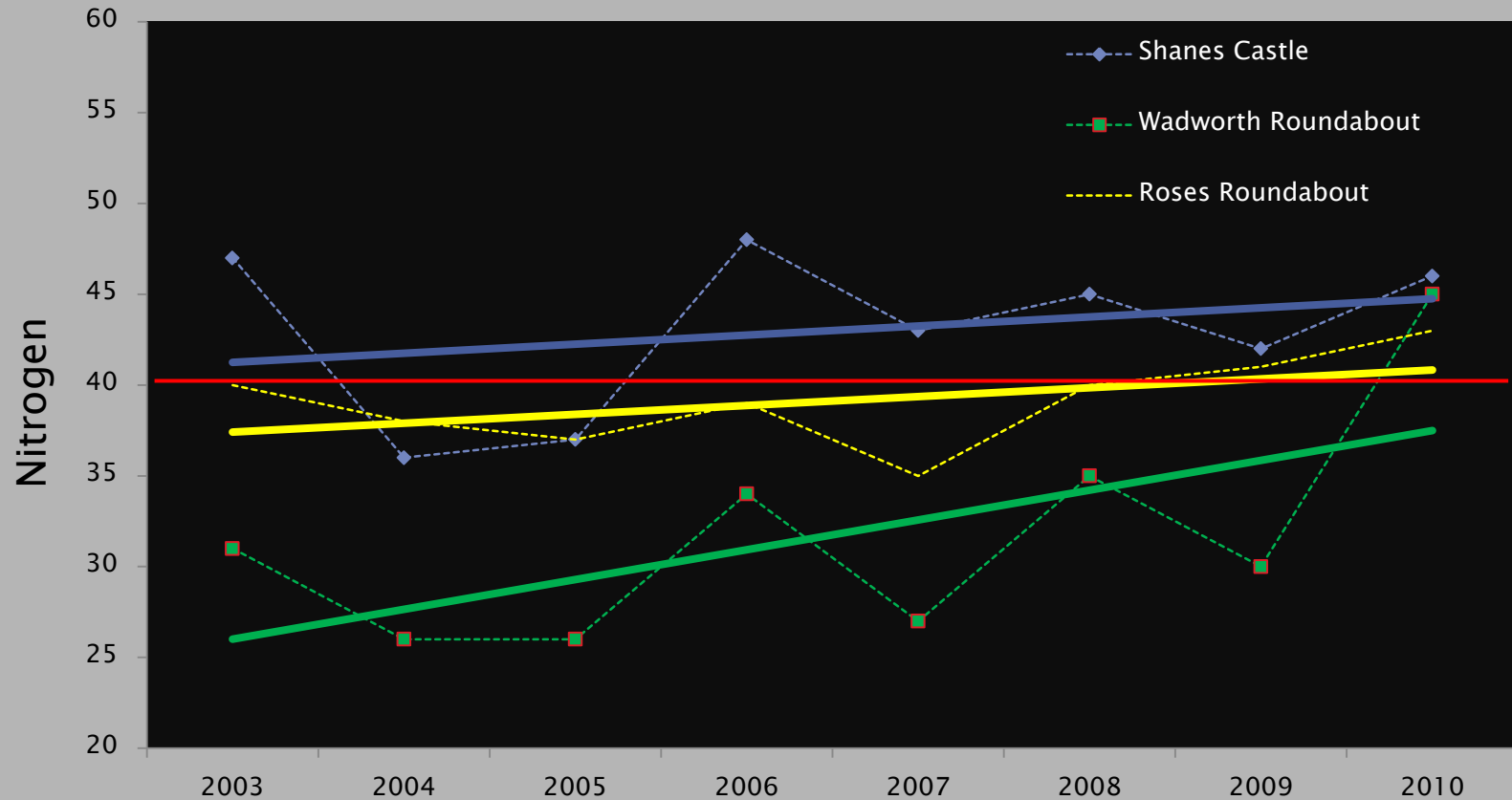
- ▶ *Various levels of forecast demand were tested with cycle and pedestrian improvements at the Southbroom gyratory and at Brewery Corner.*
- ▶ *It was clear from the tests that the level of traffic growth, even in the 2016 Scenario, could not be sustained using the current network.*

# Traffic Impact of New Houses

- ▶ 977 more homes to be built by 2026.
- ▶ Approximately 1000 additional car journeys in each of morning and evening peaks.
- ▶ If 35% of these trips are commuting out of town that will increase peak demand by 24%.
- ▶ Even 10% commuting out of town will increase peak demand by 6%.
- ▶ When congested conditions occur a 6% increase in demand is likely to increase congestion by 12% to 15%.

# Air Pollution

## Air Quality

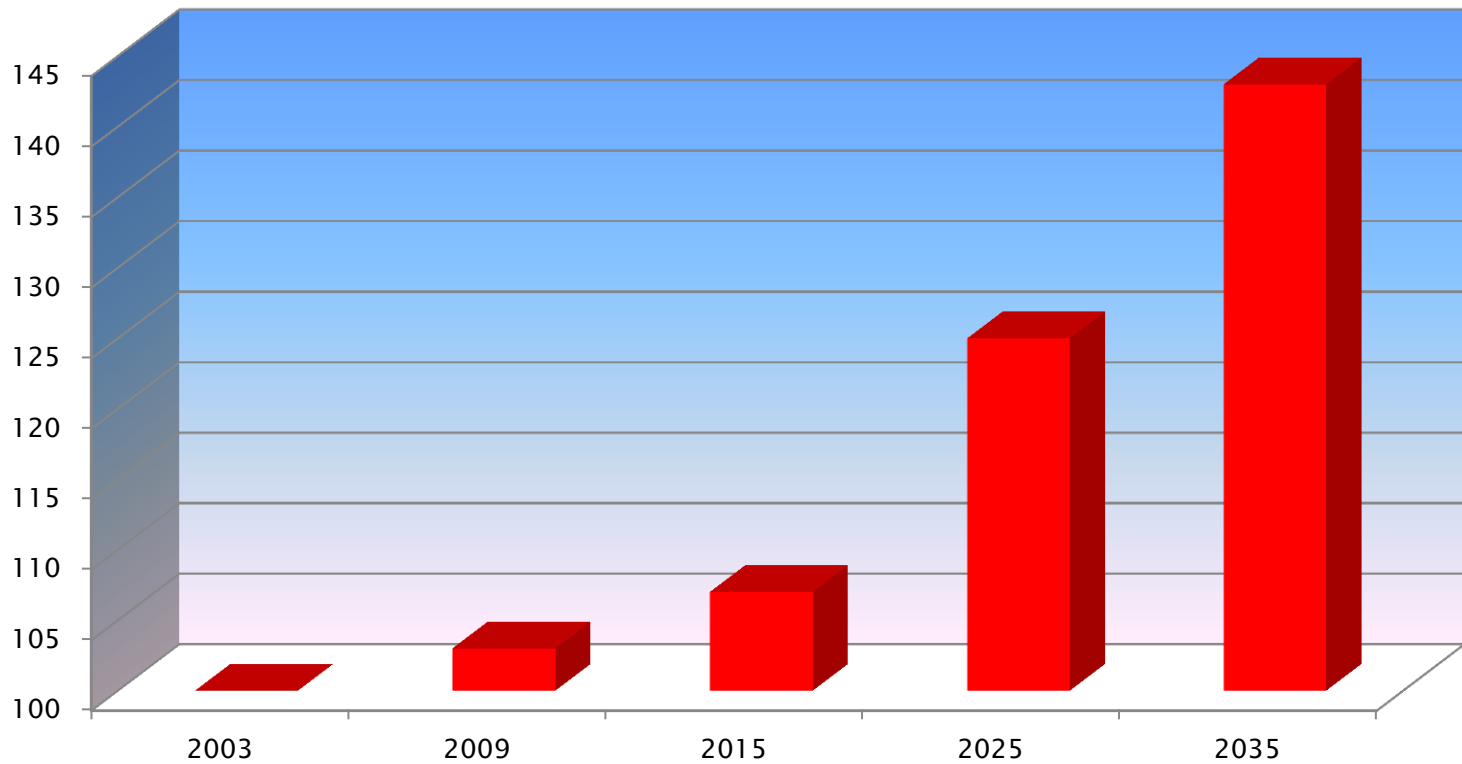


# Council Policy on Air Quality

- ▶ Measures to improve air quality in Devizes need to be considered and could be seen as a constraint to further growth in the short term.

# Traffic Growth

Total UK Road Traffic



# Traffic & Highway Capacity

- ▶ The Council's Core Strategy takes us to 2026.
- ▶ There will be 22% more road traffic than today.
- ▶ All the Core Strategy says about this is that the Council will work on a "traffic demand management solution to road network capacity problems."

# Pollution and Health

- ▶ The House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee said this: –
- ▶ *Poor air quality leads to poor human health. There are short-term effects on, for example, the respiratory system, and more serious impacts due to long-term exposure including permanent reductions in lung function. Air pollution has been linked to asthma, chronic bronchitis, heart and circulatory disease, and cancer.*

# What an EU Report Says

- ▶ A study by the European Commission calculated that air pollution reduces life expectancy by an average of almost nine months across the European Union.
- ▶ Poor quality air is thought to result in more than 32,000 premature deaths in the UK each year alone.

# Pollution & Strokes

- ▶ Scientists in Taiwan found higher hospital admission rates in the city when pollution was high.
- ▶ Two common pollutants – particulates and nitrogen dioxide – seemed to be particularly important.
- ▶ The researchers said the problem was worse when temperatures topped 20C.
- ▶ A rise in levels of both pollutants was linked to a significant increase in the number of people admitted to hospital with the most common type of stroke.

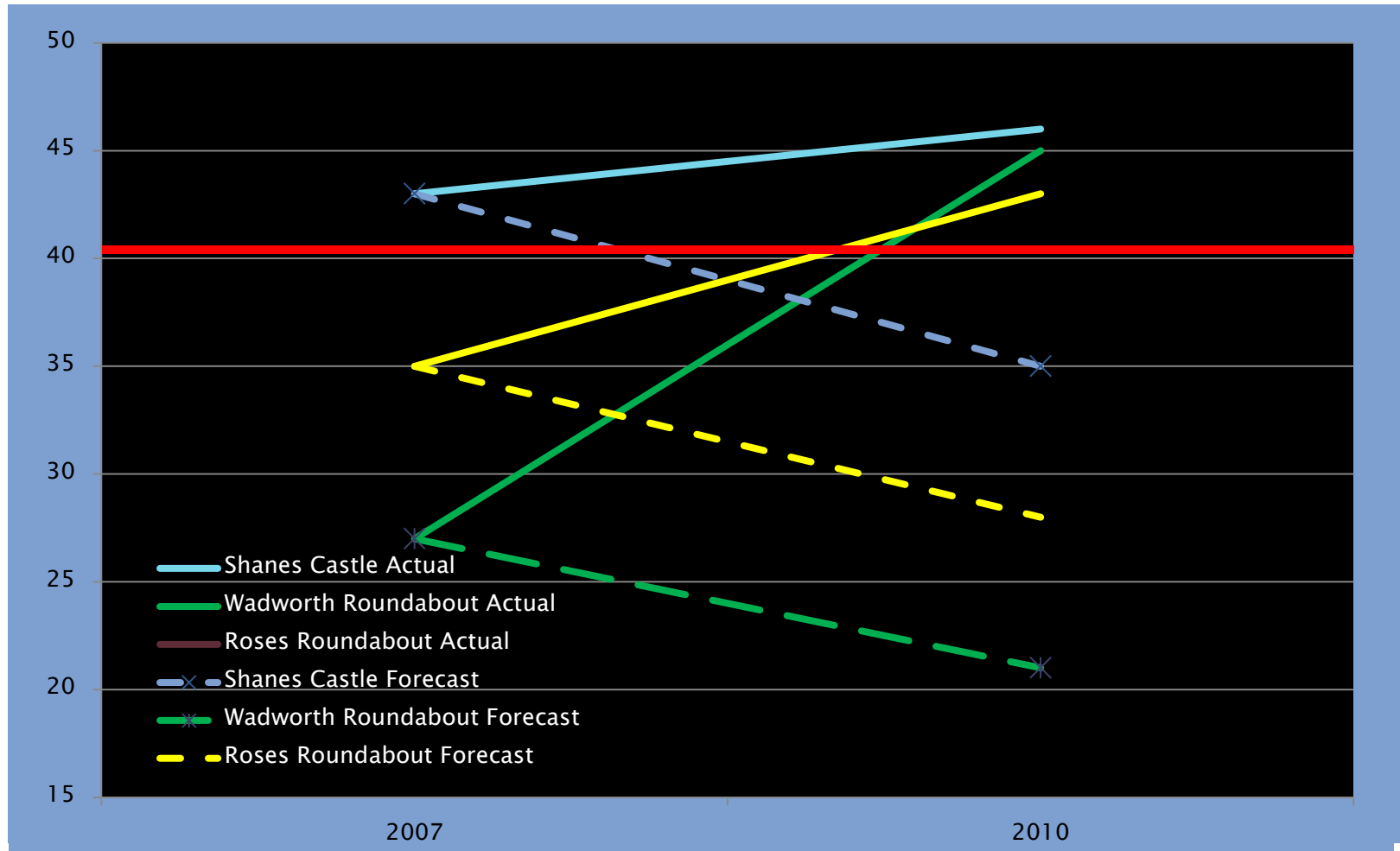
# Our health is under threat

- ▶ According to the British Lung Foundation
  - One in five people is particularly at risk from air pollution.
  - People who already have a lung disease, the elderly and children are likely to be especially affected by high levels of pollutants
  - Air pollution in the UK brings forward the deaths of between 12,000 to 24,000 people each year

# Pollution – The Consequences

- ▶ With more traffic comes more pollution.
- ▶ The Council has a statutory duty to ensure pollution is maintained below the levels set by the EU and ratified by the UK Government.
- ▶ Failure can result in large fines by the EU. Under the Localism Bill, those will be paid by Council Tax Payers, not Central Government.
- ▶ Currently Wiltshire Council has no viable plan to reduce pollution in Devizes.
- ▶ Its forecasting is also very much in doubt.....

# Council Forecast



# Air Quality –the Law

- ▶ The Environment Act 1995 requires all local authorities to review and assess air quality in their area.
- ▶ If any standards are being exceeded then that area should be designated an Air Quality Management Area.
- ▶ The local authority must draw up and implement an action plan aimed at reducing levels of the pollutant.

# The Human Rights Act

- ▶ Read as a whole the HRA requires planning authorities to have due regard to relevant Convention rights in reaching decisions.
- ▶ If a decision of the planning authority is incompatible with the European Convention on Human Rights then it is unlawful, unless an Act of Parliament left the planning authority no choice but to act in the way that it did or proposes to act.
- ▶ Under the HRA private rights in the form of Convention rights are to be put before the public interest.
- ▶ The right to respect for the home guaranteed by Article 8 of the ECHR includes the right to enjoy the amenities of the home free from excessive pollution.

# What needs to be done?

1. A clearly defined strategy for reducing congestion and therefore pollution.
2. A realistic assessment of the impact of new homes on traffic.
3. Detailed plans for reducing congestion supported by a comprehensive traffic model.
4. Tailoring the number of new homes to a pollution level below the legal limit and to create no net increase in traffic congestion.

# What if nothing is done?

- ▶ If the Council persists with its house building programme without other effective measures;
  - Air Pollution will stay above the legal limit.
  - Traffic congestion will worsen.
  - Those with a choice will stop coming to Devizes, i.e. shoppers & tourists.
  - Businesses requiring road communication will go elsewhere.
  - The cost to the community in terms of healthcare, jobs and EU fines will be very considerable indeed.

# What we want the Council to do

- ▶ Reduce the target for new houses in Devizes to Zero until: –
  - The impact of additional traffic can be comprehensively modelled together with proposed traffic management measures.
  - There is a clearly defined policy for reducing air pollution to below the legal limit.
  - The result of the modelling demonstrates that the reduction in congestion will be such as to support the pollution reduction policy.

The Golden Rule

Infrastructure

before

Expansion

# Now for your views

The Trust for Devizes is a non-political charity concerned solely with ensuring that Devizes remains a pleasant place to live and that its great history continues to be demonstrated in its built environment.

We are here to serve you.

*If you are not already a member why not join us and help keep Devizes a Special Place?*



# What you can do

- ▶ Respond to the Core Strategy Consultation
  - On the Council's Web Site  
<http://consult.wiltshire.gov.uk/portal>
  - By email to  
[spatialplanningpolicy@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:spatialplanningpolicy@wiltshire.gov.uk)
  - At the Public Consultation in the Corn Exchange on 11 July between 2 and 8 p.m.
  - In writing to Spatial Planning Team, Wiltshire Council, County Hall, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN.
  - Contact your local Councillors, Jane Burton, Jeff Ody, Laura Mayes & Nigel Carter