

Epping Forest Local Councils Liaison Committee

13 March 2017

Local Air Quality

1. The following has been prepared in response to the report of Councillor C. Pond dated 8 February 2017 and addresses the points raised by Councillor C. Pond in the order that they are presented in his report.
2. All of Epping Forest District Council's air quality reports are available from the Essex Air website. They are placed on this site following confirmation from Defra that they are acceptable.

<http://www.essexair.org.uk/>
3. Monitoring of nitrogen dioxide concentrations continues at specific sites across the district. These sites are identified in the reports published on the Essex Air website. Where annual average concentrations are found to exceed the objective concentration of 40µg/m³, the Council has a duty to declare an Air Quality Management Area. It is then required to publish an Action Plan detailing what measures it will be taking to bring about a reduction in this concentration. As no such exceedances have occurred where there are relevant receptors, the Council has not declared any further Air Quality Management Areas. Defra have concurred with our decision not to do so.
4. The Council has not had any communication from any General Practitioners with regards to Asthma incidents in the Loughton area, although it would be keen to speak to any such professional that has evidence that there is an increased occurrence of health impacts from poor air quality within the district. As Councillor Pond's report identifies particulates from diesel vehicles, the Council would also be interested to have any evidence with regards to this as the cause of Asthma in these patients. To date the Council has not identified concentrations of particulate matter to be elevated within the district.
5. Epping Forest District Council monitors nitrogen dioxide at 27 locations across the district. The sites for monitoring have been selected in order to obtain good coverage across the district in locations close to both busy roads and residential properties. These are the locations which are most likely to experience elevated concentrations of this pollutant, as it is produced by road traffic. The Council has a duty to assess air quality across its district and as such this programme of monitoring will continue to be undertaken for the foreseeable future. The Council may cease monitoring at some locations, or indeed add further sites to the programme as seen appropriate over time.
6. Over the coming months, Epping Forest District Council will be revisiting the Action Plan that was produced in 2012 following the declaration of the Air Quality Management Area at Bell Vue, Epping. Whilst this process will focus on the reduction of concentrations of nitrogen dioxide within the declared Air Quality Management Area, it will also include other measures that will help to enhance the quality of air across our district.
7. As part of this work, the Air Quality Officer will be liaising with colleagues in development control with regards to conditioning future developments so that conditions are set that ensure all appropriate measures to minimise air pollution are undertaken. This will include the provision for electric vehicle charging points on both residential and commercial developments.
8. The Air Quality Officer is looking forward to updating and implementing the necessary measures that will assist in minimising health impacts from any poor air quality within the district.