

CHIDEOCK PARISH COUNCIL

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Chideockpc.org.uk

Chair: Cllr Vanessa Glenn, 6 Winniford Close, Chideock, DT6 6SA 01 297 480810

Clerk: Miss Sal Robinson, 60 North Allington, Bridport, DT6 5DY 01 308 426327

22 October 2020

Dear Cllr Knox, Chair of Dorset Council Health and Well-Being Board

Re: Dorset Council's Failure to recognise crisis of pollution in Chideock

Chideock Parish Council would like to thank you for your continuing personal interest in our village and the very real Public Health issues arising from traffic related air pollution that the residents are currently facing.

However, the Parish Council remains very concerned that Dorset Council is still failing in their Environmental and Public Health responsibilities to the residents of and visitors to Chideock, and asks you (in your role as Chair of Dorset Council Health and Well-Being Board) the simple question "***Why has Dorset Council not recognised that parts of Chideock have the highest levels of nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) pollution in the country?***" (Source: Friends of The Earth UK Pollution Hotspots; and Dorset Council website). Since, apart from monitoring the levels of NO₂, Dorset Council are doing **absolutely nothing** to reduce it and safeguard the health of the public.

Furthermore, you will no doubt be aware of the recent broadcast of BBC Countryfile (Sunday 4 October 2020) featuring PM_{2.5} pollution in Chideock. In this broadcast Dr Ben Barratt of Imperial College London determined with a top of the range hand held monitor that the level of PM_{2.5} in the centre of Chideock was 130 micrograms per cubic metre of air which is **FIVE** times the UK annual mean objective to be met by 2020 for this pollutant. Many experts and the World Health Organisation say that one Microgram of PM_{2.5} is one too many and has set a recommendation of 10 micrograms per cubic metre of air which the UK Government is committed to meeting by 2030

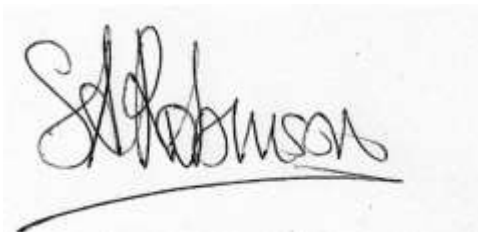
Chideock Parish Council has been asking Dorset Council Environmental Health Department to, in addition to the NO₂ monitoring, monitor for PM_{2.5} (even if only on a trial basis). However, to date Dorset Council has refused to do so even though the Parish Council understands that they are monitoring PM_{2.5} in at least three other less polluted locations within the county.

Chideock Parish Council believes that residents in Chideock are at an increased risk of air related chronic disease and ask that Chideock residents be informed of what factual evidence Dorset Public Health Trust currently holds about this matter?

The Parish Council sincerely asks you to intervene in this serious Public Health issue by forcing Dorset Council Environmental Health Department to immediately commence monitoring PM_{2.5} in Chideock and to finally introduce measures to reduce these traffic related pollutants within the village to safeguard the public health of its residents and visitors.

The Parish Council looks forward to your responses in due course.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sal Robinson', with a horizontal line underneath.

Sal Robinson (Miss), Chideock Parish Clerk

CC: Chris Loder MP
Sam Crowe, Dorset Council Director for Public Health
Cllr Simon Christopher