

Chideock Parish Clerk

From: Cllr. Jill Haynes <cllrjill.haynes@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>
Sent: 25 June 2021 13:20
To: Sal Robinson; Cllr. Simon Christopher
Cc: Janet Moore; Graham Duggan; Cllr. Ray Bryan; James Potten
Subject: A35 Air Quality

Miss Sal Robinson
Chideock Parish Clerk

Dear Miss Robinson

After the request from Chideock Parish Council to Dorset Council please see the response below.

This is a Dorset Council position statement in response to the request by Chideock Parish Council to monitor levels of PM_{2.5} in the Air Quality Management Area next to the A35 in Chideock.

The A35 is a trunk road managed by Highways England, not Dorset Council, and there is no statutory duty for the council to monitor this size of particulate matter. Given the concerns of the Parish Council and the increasing evidence around of how exposure to PM_{2.5} can affect health, we and our partner organisations have considered the request very carefully. However, Dorset Council has taken the decision not to undertake this particular type of monitoring at this time.

The Government has rightly declared Air Quality as a priority within the Environment Bill 2021 and have stated that they will be setting new targets for PM_{2.5} and as part of this, will be introducing a new monitoring network to capture more detailed air quality information. We feel it is prudent to await the details from Government and then consider how we can improve the Air Quality in a more strategic way.

We acknowledge that this decision will be disappointing for Chideock Parish Council. However, providing meaningful data around PM_{2.5} is fraught with practical, technical and analytical difficulties. Public Health England consider that a long-term study would be required, using sophisticated equipment and it is not feasible to site large analysers along this section of the A35. Furthermore, there are many transboundary sources that can contribute to particulate matter, but our current technology does not allow us to identify specific sources, we can only infer these.

For all the above reasons, we intend to wait for further guidance from the Government and our partners at Public Health England before we set out a more systematic and coordinated plan on how best to address PM_{2.5} throughout the Dorset Council area. Work has started on the Dorset Council Air Quality Action Plan and we will shortly produce an online consultation that will invite public comment on the actions within and any broader concerns they may have about Air Quality in the Dorset area.

Yours sincerely

Jill Haynes

This e-mail and any files transmitted with it are intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. It may contain unclassified but sensitive or protectively marked material and should be handled accordingly. Unless you are the named addressee (or authorised to receive it for the addressee) you may not copy or use it, or disclose it to anyone else. If you have received this transmission in error please notify the sender immediately. All traffic may be subject to recording and/or monitoring in accordance with relevant legislation. Any views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender, except where the sender specifies and with authority, states them to be the views of Dorset Council. Dorset Council does not accept service of documents by fax or other electronic means. Virus checking: Whilst all reasonable steps have been taken to ensure that this electronic communication and its attachments whether encoded, encrypted or otherwise supplied are free from computer viruses, Dorset Council accepts no liability in respect of any loss, cost, damage or expense suffered as a result of accessing this message or any of its attachments. For information on how Dorset Council processes your information, please see www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/data-protection