

CHIDEOCK PARISH COUNCIL

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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

12 October 2020

Dear Mr Eustice, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Re: Lack of particulate matter monitoring and controls in Chideock, Dorset

Chideock is a small village in West Dorset sitting astride the A35 trunk road. It has had a health threatening level of air pollution for many years and despite being designated an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in 2007 the pollution has only got worse.

In fact this rural village of Chideock has the highest level of recorded Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) pollution in the entire UK at 97 micrograms per cubic metre of air which is more than double the Government's statutory limit for this pollutant (source: Dorset Council Environmental Health).

Chideock Parish Council has been concerned for many years that, in addition to the NO₂ pollution, there are also excessive levels of Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀). However, (unlike NO₂) Dorset Council Environmental Health have refused to install any monitoring for these pollutants, even on a trial basis, despite carrying out such monitoring in at least three other less polluted locations in the county. As you are probably aware BBC Countryfile broadcast an item on 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.

Unfortunately our constituency MP, Chris Loder, seems to have little or no interest in the plight of our village, having appeared to have ignored several attempts by the Parish Council to get his support in our efforts to force Dorset Council into monitoring PM_{2.5} so that the village may know truly whether there is a serious problem or not. Therefore, Chideock Parish Council now PLEADS with you on behalf of the residents of this Parish to PLEASE intervene and demand that such monitoring is now introduced into this village.

However, Chideock Parish Council would also emphasise that monitoring is only the first step in this process and again PLEADS with you, for the sake of the Public Health of this village, to not only monitor these pollutants (to confirming that which we already know) but finally to introduce controls that will remove this pollution from the village and give back to the residents the right to fresh air that is an International human right and surely the entitlement of all UK citizens.

The Parish Council looks forward to hearing from you shortly with positive proposals not only for monitoring but also for eliminating this Public Health hazard in this community.

Yours sincerely

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

Sal Robinson (Miss), Chideock Parish Clerk

CC: Sam Crowe, Dorset Council Acting Director of Public Health
Cllr Simon Christopher, Dorset Ward Councillor for Marshwood Vale
Chris Loder, MP for West Dorset