

CHIDEOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Chideock@dorset-aptc.gov.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

7 August 2019

Re: Chideock village (Dorset), high levels of pollution and request for the commissioning of a more accurate air quality monitoring system - the Zephyr system.

Chideock Parish Council represents a village on the A35 which sits within a distinct geological topography. The steep sided valley contributes to pollution levels being high, especially in the West on Chideock hill. Currently, Dorset Council has in place a system of diffusion tubes, but these do not measure all of the air pollutants; are not sufficiently accurate to give definitive readings; can be tampered with and are "old" technology.

For some time, the Parish Council has requested, as part of Dorset Council's public health and pollution control responsibility, that, given the problems with the quality of the information being provided by the diffusion tubes, they should be replaced with the Zephyr system. This system fully records all aspects of air pollution including NO₂ and O₃, temperature and humidity, and can measure PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀, SO₂ and CO₂. Data is automatically returned via a mobile phone network to the manufacturer's server where it can be accessed by the user on a daily basis.

Why is this additional information important?

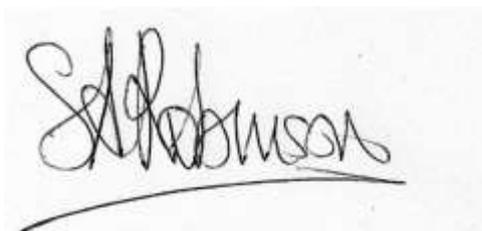
Apart from recognising the levels of NO₂ which are attributed to vehicle exhausts, the village appears to suffer from excessive fumes from brake dust and burning brakes which lead to additional toxic air pollutants - particulate matter or PM. From the point of the downwards slope of Chideock Hill through the speed camera and up to the shop in the middle of the village, the houses both on the main road and on side roads can be engulfed by fumes. This pollution is just as much an issue as NO₂ but as yet remains unrecorded. There is significant impact upon both individuals and businesses, many of which are bed and breakfast establishments.

The main contributors to these emissions are large vehicles such as HGVs and other types such as caravans, or trailers. Essentially, this is either because these vehicles are braking late due to the speed camera or because they are overweight. In this latter respect, the HGVs even when travelling at low speed emit these fumes because they are overweight, this puts a strain on their brakes and the tyres also "burn".

On this basis, the Parish Council strongly urges Dorset Council to give serious and urgent consideration to replace the current diffusion tubes with the Zephyr system.

Chideock Parish Council looks forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

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

Sal Robinson (Miss), Chideock Parish Clerk

To: Sam Crowe, Dorset Council Interim Director for Public Health
Matt Prosser, Dorset Council Chief Executive
John Hellgren, Dorset Council Executive Director of Place
Cllr Spencer Flower, Leader of Dorset Council
Cllr Ray Bryan, Dorset Council Councillor with Highways, Travel & Environment
portfolio
Cllr Pauline Batstone, Dorset Council Chairman

Cc: Cllr Simon Christopher, Ward Member for Marshwood Vale
Sir Oliver Letwin MP
Theresa Villiers MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Coralie McGown, Dorset Council Environmental Health
Kerry Pitt-Kerby, Dorset Council Environmental Health



Environmental Protection

South Walks House, South Walks Road,
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Q) 01305 251010

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Date: 02/09/2019

Officer: Kerry Pitt-Kerby

Q) 01258 484311

[81] kerry.pitt-kerby@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Miss S Robinson
60 North Allington
Bridport
Dorset
DT6 5DY

Dear Miss Robinson,

**Environment Act 1995
Air Quality monitoring- Chideock**

Thank you for the letter of the 7th August 2019 from Chideock Parish Council. I apologise for the delay in the response - this is a difficult time of year to facilitate responses from different directorates within the council due to annual leave.

Chideock Parish Council have requested that Dorset Council replace the diffusion tubes located within the Air Quality Management Area ('AQMA') with a small sensor air quality monitoring system.

You may recall that the council has previously made an application to Defra for a grant to purchase similar equipment (in addition to the diffusion tube monitoring programme) but unfortunately that application was unsuccessful.

Small sensor air quality monitoring systems do still require the same co-location and adjustment calculations that diffusion tubes do. The advantage of these systems is that they are able to provide almost 'real time' results on a number of pollutants, depending upon the individual sensors purchased. As you will know, diffusion tubes are only able to provide results for one pollutant, over a period of 4 - 5 weeks. We already understand that there is an exceedance of the air quality objective for NO₂, so to monitor for that pollutant using this method would not provide additional value.

If this equipment was installed there would not be any benefit to the existing AQMA, which is currently being evaluated by Highways England. Of the additional parameters which could be added onto the monitors, only particulates could be of interest. But owing to the significant number of components of particulate matter which might be captured, (i.e. in addition to the organic carbon from traffic sources, these include agricultural dusts, products of domestic burning sea salt, for example) and its transboundary nature, the exact source of captured material could be difficult to identify. In order to overcome this, additional monitoring and laboratory analysis would then be required, followed by expert evaluation of the scientific results.

Exposure to particulates is included in Public Health England's 'Public Health Outcomes Framework'. You will no doubt be aware that our colleagues at Public Health Dorset are undertaking a study of population exposure to particulate matter across Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole.

The objective of this project is to establish what steps can be taken across the study area to reduce the impact of exposure to particulate matter on the population. To achieve this, the study is focussing on understanding population exposure to background levels of air pollution, not roadside locations. The study area includes both rural and urban sites to provide broad geographical coverage and include vulnerable populations.

Highways England is undertaking a number of more accurate monitoring exercises using a mobile monitoring station in association with the 30mph trial. Once these exercises have been undertaken, the results may be an excellent baseline to use with regards to particulate matter.

Local authorities need to consider the most appropriate monitoring programme according to the resources available to them. At this time the Environmental Protection Service does not have the budget to purchase additional equipment such as this, or the resources to manage them. However, given the other activities I have referred to above, I am confident that there will be adequate data available to the authorities to consider.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kerry Pitt-Kerby', written over a light blue rectangular background.

Kerry Pitt-Kerby
Environmental Health Manager - Environmental Protection

From: Chideock Parish Clerk [<mailto:chideock@dorset-aptc.gov.uk>]
Sent: 21 September 2019 10:20
To: Kerry Pitt-Kerby <KPitt-Kerby@dorset.gov.uk>
Cc: Coralie McGown <CMcGown@dorset.gov.uk>
Subject: Public Health Dorset study of pollution exposure to particulate matter

Dear Mr Pitt-Kerby

Thank you for your response on the use of Zephyr monitors, dated 2 September 2019.

Chideock Parish Council has no knowledge of the Public Health Dorset Study on pollution exposure to particulate matter, which seems a curious omission as Chideock is one of the two AQMAs in the Dorset Council area.

Please provide the Parish Council with further information on this study as soon as possible; for example, the locations being studied, how the locations were determined and when the evaluation report will be available.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sal Robinson
Chideock Parish Clerk

Subject: RE: Public Health Dorset study of pollution exposure to particulate matter
Date: Mon, 23 Sep 2019 06:42:14 +0000
From: Kerry Pitt-Kerby <kerry.pitt-kerby@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>
To: Chideock Parish Clerk <chideock@dorset-aptc.gov.uk>
CC: Coralie McGown <coralie.mcgown@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>

Ms Robinson

I shall arrange for information to be made available to CPC as soon as it is published.

Mr Kerry Pitt-Kerby
Environmental Health Manager (Environmental Protection)
Environmental Health

Dorset Council

From: Chideock Parish Clerk [<mailto:chideock@dorset-aptc.gov.uk>]
Sent: 06 October 2019 11:14
To: John Sellgren <John.Sellgren@dorset.gov.uk>
Cc: Kerry Pitt-Kerby <KPitt-Kerby@dorset.gov.uk>; Graham Duggan <GDuggan@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>
Subject: Chideock Air Quality

Dear Mr Pitt-Kerby

Chideock Parish Council trusts that Dorset Council is aware of the additional funding for Air Quality Action which is being provided by Central Government, and that applications can be made from 4 October - 7 November. It is assumed that Dorset Council will be making an application for funding - Chideock is on record as being the place with the worse NO2 pollution in the Dorset Council area, whilst other pollutants, such as particulate matter, are not currently measured.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-provides-more-funds-for-local-authority-air-quality-action>

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sal Robinson
Chideock Parish Clerk

Subject: RE: Chideock Air Quality
Date: Tue, 15 Oct 2019 07:38:09 +0000
From: Kerry Pitt-Kerby <kerry.pitt-kerby@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>
To: Chideock Parish Clerk <chideock@dorset-aptc.gov.uk>
CC: Coralie McGown <coralie.mcgown@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>, Janet Moore <janet.moore@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>

Ms Robinson

Dorset Council is of course aware of this funding opportunity.

The funding is being made available for local authorities to bid for grants to support projects aimed at delivering identifiable improvements in air quality – installing electric vehicle charging points has been cited as an example – and the measures are expected to deliver results within 1-2 years. It is not thought that the funding will be made available for additional monitoring, as local authorities are expected to have been undertaking such activities in accordance with their duties under the Environment Act 1995 and will therefore be familiar with issues within their area.

Funding bids are required to meet the strict criteria set out in the scheme documents and of course are not guaranteed to be selected for financial support. In making any application for funding, the council would be required to provide a detailed explanation of how any grant monies would be spent, quantify the air quality improvements which would be expected to be achieved, and confirm that staffing resources will be made available to deliver the project, starting in February 2020. In reality, this means that the council would need to have a fully planned and costed project already in hand now, in order to present for consideration to the funding panel. Given that the A35 is a Trunk route under the control of Highways England ('HE'), the scope for the local authority to implement measures, particularly any which would return very early returns in such a discreet area, is very limited. Highways England has already investigated a number of options such as air quality barriers and single lane traffic platooning and is currently undertaking a trial speed limit reduction with associated monitoring; funding for these actions has already been made available. It is anticipated that the mobile particulate monitoring initiative also in operation will provide early results which would not be achievable with any DEFRA funding, as outlined above.

You will be aware that Dorset Council is supporting Highways England with these ongoing projects and for this reason no further projects or schemes have been developed which could be presented for consideration of funding at this time.

Mr Kerry Pitt-Kerby
Environmental Health Manager (Environmental Protection)
Environmental Health
Dorset Council

Subject: Chideock Air Quality
Date: Mon, 18 Nov 2019 11:43:34 +0000
From: Chideock Parish Clerk <chideock@dorset-aptc.gov.uk>
CC: Kerry Pitt-Kerby <kerry.pitt-kerby@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>, Cllr S Flower <cllrspencer.flower@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>, Cllr Ray Bryan <cllrray.bryan@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>, ClientEarth <info@clientearth.org>, Cllr Simon Christopher <cllrschristopher@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>, DEFRA <air.quality@defra.gsi.gov.uk>

Dear Mr Pitt-Kerby

Thank you for your email dated 15 Oct 2019 concerning funding opportunities (see below). Councillors understand your explanation of such funding being directed towards projects aimed at delivering identifiable improvements in air quality.

However you go on to state that funding for additional monitoring is unlikely "as local authorities are expected to have been undertaking such activities in accordance with their duties under the Environment Act 1995 and will therefore be familiar with issues within their area".

As we all know you have been monitoring Nitrogen Dioxide pollution here in Chideock since 2007, but surely you must also be aware of the high probability of pollution from the particulates PM2.5 and PM10, especially as it is believed that you are monitoring these at some locations in the Dorset Council area. Therefore, it would appear that, since you are not monitoring PM2.5 or PM10 in Chideock, you are NOT actually acting in accordance with your duties under the Environment Act 1995.

The Parish Council therefore, once again, respectfully asks that you now fulfil this duty by starting to monitor these particulates in Chideock, not necessarily on a permanent basis but as a trial to re-assure the residents that what they see and smell is, or, is not PM10/PM2.5 particulate pollution from any source and whether levels are too high for humans as defined by current standards under the WHO.

You also suggest in the final paragraph of your letter a partnership arrangement between yourselves and Highways England. Will you, therefore, please advise the Parish Council of the specific measures you are currently undertaking to reduce the levels of pollution in Chideock (both NO2 and other particulates) regardless of who actually controls the A35. And finally, when the results of the current trial speed limit reduction and associated pollution monitoring will be made available publicly? It is the residents of Chideock who are actually being forced to breath this contaminated air and should therefore be given full sight of any such results as soon as possible.

The Parish Council looks forward to receiving your positive response in due course.

Yours

Sal Robinson
Chideock Parish Clerk

Subject: Chideock Parish Council & air quality monitoring
Date: Mon, 25 Nov 2019 09:43:48 +0000
From: Graham Duggan <graham.duggan@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>
To: chideock@dorset-aptc.gov.uk <chideock@dorset-aptc.gov.uk>
CC: Janet Moore <janet.moore@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>, Coralie McGown <coralie.mcgown@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>

Hello Sal

The new manager for Environmental Protection is Janet Moore and our air quality lead remains Coralie McGown.

Coralie has provided the reply below.

Dear Miss Robinson,

Thank you for your email of the 18 November 2019

Firstly, may I address your concerns regarding the lack of monitoring for PM2.5 and PM10 within Chideock. You are correct in that the Council are currently undertaking a study of population exposure to particulate matter across Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole. This is a time limited project and its objective is to establish what steps can be taken across the study area to reduce the impact of exposure to particulate matter on the population as a whole. To achieve this, the study is focussing on understanding population exposure to general background levels of air pollution - not specifically from roadside locations. The study area includes both rural and urban sites to provide broad geographical coverage and includes vulnerable populations. A decision matrix for the location of the monitors was used, combining pollution, health and demographic data.

There is currently no statutory responsibility for local authorities to undertake monitoring for PM2.5 and as mentioned previously it is not considered economically feasible to monitor for PM10. Furthermore there is no Air Quality Objective for PM2.5 included within the Air Quality Regulations for the purpose of Local Air Quality.

However, and in terms of specific measures that are currently being undertaken, Highways England undertook an emissions monitoring exercise in Chideock as part of the road speed reduction trail. The Council are awaiting the results from the monitoring exercise, which as we understand, includes particulate data. Highways England will be able to provide further details on this project.

I trust the above is satisfactory explanation of the current situation

Regards

Coralie McGown

Team Leader Environmental Protection

Subject: Chideock Air Quality
Date: Mon, 2 Dec 2019 11:37:21 +0000
From: Chideock Parish Clerk <chideock@dorset-aptc.gov.uk>
To: Coralie McGown <coralie.mcgown@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>
CC: Graham Duggan <graham.duggan@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>, Janet Moore <janet.moore@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>

Dear Ms McGown

Thank you for your email dated 25 November 2019 responding to the Parish Council's concerns over various issues connected with air pollution in Chideock.

Firstly, the Council is pleased to learn that you remain as the air quality lead and look forward to continuing our working relationship with you.

However, the Parish Council remains concerned at the lack of monitoring for PM2.5 and PM10 within Chideock. The more so since Mr Peacock's email to you (dated 27 Nov 2019) refers to a Consultant's report ("West Dorset detailed Air quality assessment for Bridport and Chideock 2011") which used computer modelling techniques to produce pollution estimates for PM2.5 and PM10 using actual results from 2009 monitoring.

You advise the Parish Council that there is no statutory responsibility for you to undertake monitoring for PM2.5 nor is it economically feasible for you to monitor for PM10 but Parish Council respectfully points out that this same report contains Air Quality Objectives (AQO) for these pollutants. It is the Parish Council's understanding that these adopted national standards are based on the recommendations of the Expert Panel on Air Quality Standards (EPAQS) and have been translated into a set of Statutory Objectives within the Air Quality (England) Regulations (2000) SI 928, and subsequent amendments. Therefore the Parish Council considers that there is indeed a responsibility on all Public Environmental Bodies to ascertain levels of PM2.5 and PM10 pollution where necessary, and again, respectfully ask that you do carry out some monitoring of these particulates in Chideock even if just as a trial to inform residents that what they see and smell is, or is not PM2.5 / PM10.

The Parish Council commends you on undertaking a study of population exposure to particulate matter across Bournemouth, Dorset, and Poole to establish what steps can be taken to reduce the impact of exposure to particulate matter on the population. This is precisely the sort of study that Parish Council would like you to implement in Chideock and requests that you will please provide the Parish Council with more details of these studies, such as where these sites were located, how long the project has been running, and why it was decided not to include Chideock. With your agreement the Parish Council would like to see and understand fully the project you have referred to.

The Parish Council is sure that you share its concerns, and those expressed by Chideock residents, over the well documented levels of NO2 pollution in the village, with readings at some locations well in excess of legally binding guidelines. The Parish Council fully appreciates the difficulty of reducing the levels of pollution in Chideock with its unique topography and high volume of traffic but would very much appreciate it if you would agree to explain the specific measures currently being undertaken to reduce the levels (both NO2 and other particulates) regardless of who actually controls the A35.

Finally, the Parish Council is becoming increasingly frustrated by HE's reluctance to publish any air pollution data collected specifically as part of the current speed limit reduction trial. Will you please advise the Parish Council of when you expect to receive any of this monitoring data and when it will be made available to us.

The Parish Council appreciates the efforts that you personally make to keep it updated on all these environmental issues and look forward to receiving a positive response from you in due course.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sal Robinson
Chideock Parish Clerk