

## **Notes of Meeting Held on Tuesday 18 April 2023 in Chideock Village Hall (Committee Room) between Chideock PC Air Quality Action Group and Dorset Council Environmental Health.**

Present:

Dorset Council (DC)

Janet Moore - Service Manager Environmental Protection

Ben Frost-Jones - Environmental Health Officer

Darren Naraine - Team Leader

Chideock Parish Council (CPC) - Air Quality Action Group

Cllr Vanessa McAra - Chair CPC

Cllr Anna Dunn

Cllr George Dunn

1. The notes from the previous meeting (26 Sep 22) were reviewed and comments made on some as follows:
  - Note 1. DC said that the amended AQAP was approved at Cabinet in October 2022 and subsequently agreed by DEFRA. This follows liaison with National Highways (NH) and is now subject to annual updates via the Annual Status Report (ASR).
  - Notes 4 & 7. New levels for monitoring Particulate Matter (PM) pollution and methods for setting / measuring / modelling pollution have now been established with the Government.
  - Notes 8 & 9. DC confirmed that they still have 10 “AQ Mesh Pods” monitoring PM pollution and that they will use some of these in Chideock once the current monitoring is complete at the end of 2023.
  - Note 13. DC agreed to continue discussions with relevant stakeholders regarding diverting traffic away from Chideock (at Monkey Jump Roundabout and at Hunters Lodge) especially at times of accidents or heavy traffic congestion on this stretch of the A35. Also, regarding re-introduction of local weight testing stations
  - Note 14. DC still attempting to get the pollution figures from the NH 30mph trial on Chideock Hill and will forward to CPC if they can get them.
  - Note 16. DC said that they have re-engaged with Public Health Dorset and proposed that a representative from PH Dorset be present at our next air quality meeting.
2. CPC stated that they had been unable to find current pollution statistics on the DC website. DC stated that provisional figures for 2022 are in preparation, but otherwise figures for previous years have been published. DC stated that the website is “being tidied up” but will forward a link to CPC.
3. CPC asked about the bias applied to diffusion tube results. DC replied that different tube suppliers require different bias adjustment but that studies are being compared.
4. DC said that every 5 years the Government updates the requirements for the air quality strategy. DC are currently reviewing and responding e.g., to include biodiversity comments. DC will prepare future AQ Strategy (including Chideock) in association with other Council Departments e.g., Housing.
5. DC stated that they are aware of the River Winniford pollution issues (especially nitrate pollution). CPC advised DC of the Village initiative to independently monitor pollution levels at a number of locations along the River Winniford including the lagoon at Seatown. The group

was created last year and is known as the Winniford River Action Group (WRAG). CPC to liaise with WRAG to get lagoon data forwarded to Jane Williams (DC Officer) once such data becomes available.

6. DC reported that within the next AQ draft strategy the Government is reviewing many aspects including:
  - a) Domestic Stove Emissions
  - b) Industrial Emissions
  - c) "Planning tools" to ensure that developers "design out" adverse emissions.
  - d) Emissions from brakes and tyres
  - e) Pursuit of "Active Travel" and Public Transport. CPC reminded DC of the budget cuts to public transport, and that electric buses are simply not suitable for the hilly rural areas in West Dorset.
  - f) Clean air zones - DC to seek further clarity on why these zones cannot be implemented around Chideock.
  - g) Smoke control zones
  - h) Agriculture
  - i) Indoor environments - improved through housing standards.
7. CPC expressed concern at the high levels of Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM2.5) believed to exist within Chideock. DC said that the Government has set a statutory target of 10 micrograms / m<sup>3</sup> air to be achieved by the end of 2040. An interim target of 12 micrograms / m<sup>3</sup> air has been set for the end of 2028 but this is not legally binding. DC further added that the Government's PERT (Population Exposure Reduction Target) requires a cumulative improvement of 35% by 2040 when compared to levels from 2018.
8. DC stated that they are currently measuring PM pollution with AQ Mesh Pods at 10 sites across Dorset and still anticipate making some of these available to measure PM2.5 within Chideock by the end of this year. Although DC added that road-side measurement sites are more complicated than "background" sites.
9. DC reported that their preliminary results for Chideock for the next ASR appear to indicate exceedances at 4 tubes. DC to confirm results when the analyses are complete.
10. A question arose regarding the enforcement of the new 30mph speed limit on Chideock Hill. DC agreed to check the legality of this speed limit as CPC believe that this limit cannot yet be enforced by the police.
11. Actions Arising:
  - a) DC to invite Partners (including Public Health and NH) to future Air Quality Meetings
  - b) DC to provide plan to install AQ Mesh Pods in Chideock to monitor PM 2.5 from the end of 2023 (when pods become available from their existing studies)
  - c) DC to forward screen shot to CPC to navigate DC pollution website.
  - d) CPC to liaise with Bristol University regarding their air pollution study of Chideock and to liaise with DC regarding the findings.
  - e) DC to chase NH for traffic diversion signage, speed cameras and weight testing stations.
  - f) CPC to liaise with WRAG to forward lagoon pollution data to Jane Williams.
12. Next Meeting to be held October / November 2023 (date to be agreed nearer to that time)