

## **CHIDEOCK PARISH COUNCIL**

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[Chideockpc.org.uk](http://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**

**19 October 2020**

### **Re: Complaint regarding Dorset Council's failure to address the pollution crisis in Chideock**

Chideock Parish Council considers it to be essential to make a formal complaint regarding Dorset Council's continuing failure to properly acknowledge and address the very real Public Health problem derived from traffic related air pollution in Chideock.

The complaint is based on not only the inadequate way in which you have been discharging your Statutory duties directed by DEFRA through the identification of Chideock as an AQMA in 2007, but also the more recent refusals to monitor for PM<sub>2.5</sub> within the village. This was disgracefully shown up to millions of people across Dorset and the UK in the recent BBC Countryfile programme (broadcast Sunday 4th October 2020) when within moments Dr Ben Barrett (University College London) revealed levels of PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollution in the centre of Chideock to be 130 micrograms per cubic metre of air. This is five times the Government's recommended limit and thirteen times the World Health Organisation recommended limit. This is for a substance which is potentially extremely harmful to human health, which you have flatly refused to monitor in Chideock, even on a trial basis, whilst monitoring it in at least three other less polluted areas.

Despite these damning indictments of your inability to safeguard the residents and visitors to Chideock, and even when Dorset Council's own NO<sub>2</sub> monitoring identifies parts of Chideock as the most polluted location in the UK, no measures have been put in place to actually improve this scandalous situation.

Further to this Parish Council learnt recently that the 2019 and 2020 Annual Status Reports for Chideock (Statutory documents for submission to DEFRA) has not been progressed since February of this year - There is no other conclusion than that Dorset Council simply does NOT care about the well-being of its residents.

In summary: -

1. Dorset Council has failed in their legal duty to deliver an air quality action plan which identifies measures which can be delivered within a time limited framework, as required by DEFRA in their response to the 2018 Annual Status Report.
2. Dorset Council has consistently ignored the Impact of the high illegal levels of air pollution in Chideock and the detrimental effects this has on its citizens by not agreeing to put in place monitoring of particulate matter.

3. Dorset Council has taken, over many years, a public relations strategy of talking to the village and Highways England about the NO<sub>2</sub> pollution levels (which are being monitored), but with little actual action being taken to alleviate the impact on the public health of its citizens.
4. Dorset Council is responsible for public health and yet Chideock, with an identified issue of air pollution, was not considered for the Dorset pollution and public health study currently taking place. Instead the village of Beaminster was identified which does not have the same levels of air pollution. Dorset Council and Dorset Public Health are currently failing to actively consider outcomes for the residents of Chideock, where it is believed there is an increased risk of asthma and heart conditions due to air pollution from all types of particulates and other pollutants.
5. Dorset Council appears to be unable to separate the political and economic needs of the A35 strategic highway (which is delivered by Highways England) from the environmental and public health needs of its citizens. Dorset Council and Highways England appear to favour doing nothing about the increasing level of heavy goods and congestion, at the expense of the lives of those who live in Chideock.
6. In short, Chideock requires Dorset Council to be a responsible and legally compliant public body which is able to introduce and deliver measures which safeguard the residents of this village over and above the needs of the road haulage and higher levels of congestion. Chideock Parish Council look forward to hearing how Dorset council are going to address these issues,

Please advise Parish Council within the month of how Dorset Council will address this public health outrage and immediately start to monitor for PM<sub>2.5</sub>.

The 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

Copied to: -

Chris Loder MP  
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Baroness de Vere  
Mr Matt Prosser, Chief Executive Dorset Council  
Cllr Spencer Flower, Dorset Council Leader  
Cllr Christopher, Ward Councillor for Marshwood Vale  
Cllr Ray Bryan, Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment  
Cllr Rebecca Knox, Dorset Council - Health and Wellbeing Board  
Mr Graham Duggan; Head of Community Protection