

Motion submitted by Councillor Boden regarding Air Quality Monitoring in Whittlesey

Residents within Whittlesey have been reporting an increasing number of cases of poor air quality in recent months.

Within Fenland there is a disproportionately large number of potentially significant sources of Industrial air pollution in Whittlesey. Key among those sources are, and will be, the Forterra Brickworks and activities within Saxon Pit, but there are others as well.

Sites where there is a significant recognised risk of harmful air pollution are heavily regulated by the Environment Agency as well as often being subject to planning conditions imposed by either Cambridgeshire County Council or by Fenland District Council.

There has for many years been comprehensive monitoring at the brickworks site, and enhanced air quality monitoring equipment will soon be installed at or near to Saxon Pit as a result of development there which has recently been approved by Cambridgeshire County Council.

There is concern within Whittlesey as to the effects of current and future industrial activity on air quality in the town.

Fenland District Council has for many years monitored air quality in Whittlesey, currently including monitoring of levels of nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide.

It is important that the residents of Whittlesey have confidence that air quality is appropriately monitored and effectively reported so that action may be taken if it is ever necessary.

Full Council therefore resolves:

1. to support in principle the siting within Whittlesey of monitoring equipment measuring particulate matter, particularly PM2.5
2. That Officers be requested to present a Report to the next scheduled meeting of Cabinet outlining:
 - a. the capital and revenue costs and preferred location(s) for such additional monitoring equipment
 - b. how FDC may facilitate online up-to-date public reporting of monitored air quality in Whittlesey (including, where possible, from third party monitoring equipment), recognising that whilst some monitoring data may be available real-time, other data (such as that from diffusion tubes) is necessarily only available historically.