

Air quality monitoring in Bingley town centre

Previously, there was an air quality monitoring unit at the junction of Ferncliffe Road and the Main street. This was removed a couple of years ago. The Town Council pursued this and received the following email on 4 May 2017:

My name is (redacted) and I am one of the managers in the Environmental Health Service. I currently manage the air quality function so your email has been forwarded to me to respond. First of all I would just like to apologise for the delay in responding to your request. Before I responded I needed to be appraised of certain factual information and this took me a while to source.

As you have commented there was a period when an automated air quality management station was located in Bingley. It was one of several units that are located at strategic locations within the Bradford MDC area. The units in question have significant running costs so we have to ensure that they are deployed in locations where we perceive an air quality management issue to be prevalent or likely. The results of the monitoring that is undertaken has to be reported to a central government department (DEFRA) and the data is scrutinised to ensure that the Council acts on the results of that monitoring. This means that monitoring in areas of low air pollution cannot be justified.

The unit that you refer to was located in Bingley for approximately 10 years and during that period the monitoring did not reveal any exceedance of the statutory air quality standards. As there are other areas of the district where it was necessary to undertake air quality monitoring, a decision was taken to relocate the unit to a different location. This was finally completed last year.

I'm afraid that there is no intention to move the unit back to the Bingley site, but I very much appreciate your interest in the issue.

Since May 2017 various factors have arisen:

- 1 The decision to grant planning permission to the incinerator at Marley has been followed by attempts to get the environmental permissions to operate. There is huge concern about the impacts on air quality caused by any plant and increased traffic.
- 2 Increased concerns generally about air quality, as evidenced by efforts at Myrtle Park School to cut incidence of engine idling.
- 3 Likely increase in traffic, particularly stationary traffic, in Bingley.

Therefore, the proposal is that the Town Council requests that Bradford Council reinstates an air quality monitoring unit in Bingley and, in case that is not forthcoming, that the Town Council investigates other ways to monitor air quality, for example, through the University of Leeds.

RD, May 2019