

Subject:

FW: Air pollution

From: Councillor Philpott, >

Sent: 19 February 2021 16:35

To: Skinner, Helen <HELEN.SKINNER@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

Subject: Air pollution

Dear Helen,

I was questioned by the Inspector at the planning appeal hearing today about air quality issues which gave me cause to double check the data I had relied upon in my deputation.

In my deputation I said,

" Fareham Council was one of 23 authorities named within the government's NO2 plan as having to assess options for improving air quality, in order to comply with legal limits on nitrogen dioxide air pollution with readings of more than 40 µgm-3."

This statement is true.

What I felt I needed to check was my assertion that there are places in Fareham where air quality is **currently** below the legally acceptable minimum. Given that in the past year traffic flows have significantly reduced due to imposed lockdowns, I wanted to be sure that this statement was accurate.

Since the close of play today I have attempted to look in detail at this matter and I have discovered further information in the 2020 LAQM Annual Status Report in which I found the following quotes:

"Fareham Borough Council was identified within the 'UK Plan for Tackling Roadside NO2 Concentrations' as being one of the local authorities where the annual mean European Limit Value for NO2 (40 µg/m³) is at risk of being exceeded in future years (known as 'PCM non-compliance'). As a result, Fareham Borough Council was required to develop a 'Local NO2 Plan' to achieve compliance with the Limit Value in the shortest possible time."

"Fareham Borough Council has declared two AQMAs due to measured and modelled exceedances of the annual mean NO2 AQS objective in previous years. These are: Gosport Road AQMA, declared in 2006; and Portland Street AQMA, declared in 2007. The boundaries of both AQMAs were extended in November 2017, following a Detailed Assessment reported within Fareham & Gosport Borough Council's 2016 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR)4, which predicted exceedances of the NO2 annual mean AQS objective outside the original AQMA boundaries."

"The AQAP actions have been updated on a regular basis, initially through the Council's air quality steering group and more recently by direct liaison with representatives of Hampshire County Council's public transport and road network departments. The AQAP is under review, although currently on hold until the impacts of covid-19 can be better understood."

The LAQM Annual Status Report concludes that ***"there were no measured exceedances of AQS objectives for either pollutant at locations of relevant exposure"***.

The two monitoring locations to which I referred in my address - Gosport Road, Fareham and Portland Street, Fareham - were as I described. Both these locations have **previously** recorded readings of more than 40 μgm^{-3} , but do not **currently** have readings in excess of 40 μgm^{-3} .

Whilst it would seem that both these locations remain as Air Quality Management Areas, there is no evidence that air quality (in terms of NO₂) currently exceed the legal limit.

Please could you convey my apologies to the Inspector. My assertion was inadvertent and there was no intention on my part to mislead. It would seem that the information I conveyed to the Inquiry on this matter is out of date. Nevertheless, I believe that, whilst the readings at the two AQMAs do not exceed the legal limit, they do remain high.

Kind regards,

Stephen