

Measures of air quality along the NCR and elsewhere in the Ward

In regard to air quality measures in Bowes Ward we have recently completed a green wall project at Bowes Primary. This was the installation of ivy at the front of the school facing the A406 to try and establish if the planting reduced air pollution on the playground side of the wall. Monitoring was undertaken for several months and we are awaiting the results from our partner, Environmental Research Group.

Last week Bowes Primary also had an air pollution audit by a representative of WSP, which is an environmental consultancy working on behalf of the Mayor of London to provide audits to 50 schools across London which have air quality issues due to road traffic emissions. Representatives of the Council met at the school, along with the auditor. We had a question and answer session with the pupils, who were very well informed regarding air pollution and its causes. The school building and surrounding area was surveyed and WSP will propose measures that can be employed at the school to reduce exposure to air pollution.

Following the meeting with Bowes Primary we are also discussing running an anti-idling day in the winter to encourage parents to switch off their engines when collecting their children.

We have now installed nitrogen dioxide diffusion tubes at 92 Warwick Road and 134 Brownlow Road; Warwick Road has been there since January and Brownlow Road since August. To compare the sites the following are the results for August and September for both locations in microgrammes (ug)

August

92 Warwick Road: 31.3ug/m³

134 Brownlow Road: 48.7ug/m³

September

92 Warwick Road: 31.4ug/m³

134 Brownlow Road: 53.1ug/m³

To give this some context the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010 set an annual mean for nitrogen dioxide of 40ug/m³ and the two results we have for 134 Brownlow Road indicate that this location will exceed the annual mean, whereas none of the results for 92 Warwick Road this year have exceeded the 40ug/m³. Caution should be exercised with diffusion tubes as they are not as accurate as real-time analysers, such as the one we have at Bowes Primary and they are for indicative purposes only. To compare, the nitrogen dioxide analyser at Bowes Primary has shown the average concentration for nitrogen dioxide this year to be 41ug/m³. It is unlikely that 134 Brownlow Road has higher concentrations of nitrogen dioxide than the A406.

As you are aware, we have no measures available to us that can directly impact upon the A406; however, the Mayor London does have the power to affect traffic on this road. The most powerful tool currently being discussed is the Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) and air pollution dispersion modelling predicts that implementation of the ULEZ could lead to a 20% reduction in nitrogen dioxide concentrations. Unfortunately, the Mayor currently does not intend to extend the proposed ULEZ to encompass the Whole of Greater London. The proposed boundary is to be the North Circular Road (if the ULEZ is expanded to Inner London) this could mean an increase in concentrations of nitrogen dioxide and PM10 as it will be an escape road around the ULEZ. The Council has lobbied the Mayor of London to expand the ULEZ to cover the whole of Greater London as the health of all residents is important and not just those living inside the A406.