

Dear Residents and Neighbours,

Something of interest, given the pressure by Developers on SBC to make poor planning decisions in contravention of SBC's formal responsibility to take measures to REDUCE pollution in AQMAs along the A2. The key message from this latest evidence is that the most harmful pollutants (PM10 & PM2.5) have 'hit the buffers' when it comes to improving the air we breathe. In AQMAs along the A2, this paints a very depressing picture of continuing harm being made much worse by the bullying tactics of developers.

On 14th February, HMG issued the latest statistics for **average** UK emission of key harmful air pollutants. The figures were compiled by the independent body, the National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (NAEI). There are several tables examining different pollutants over different periods of time – e.g. 1970-2018 and 2008-2018. If you want to explore, this is the link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/emissions-of-air-pollutants>.

It is clear that most pollutants have reduced significantly if you compare 1970 to 2018 - cleaner vehicle engines, fewer coal-fired power stations, tighter controls over industrial emissions. But if you take the last ten years, the graphs tell a different story. They tell us that government/EU policies have picked all the 'low-hanging' (easy) fruit and that just leaves us with no national change in the most harmful pollutants, and that matters most to those of us living in 'hotspots' (AQMAs and cities) into the foreseeable future!

The lesson for Swale Borough Council is - stop ignoring the bigger picture!

Fixating on NOx alone means our health is in the hands of people wearing very narrow blinkers and ignoring the science.

There is no doubt at all that the pollutants most harmful to our health are the very fine particles (PM10 & PM2.5). Central Government are clear, international bodies are clear, only SBC has ignored the evidence because they don't like the linkages made between planning approvals and their formal responsibility to take measures in AQMAs to REDUCE harms. So far, SBC has ploughed-on regardless of that legal responsibility.

Well, we have a new SBC administration, what do you think? Will officials be instructed to get a grip on reality and advise their Councillors accordingly? Let's have some real long-term vision and evidence-based decision-making. Or will the bully-boys win?

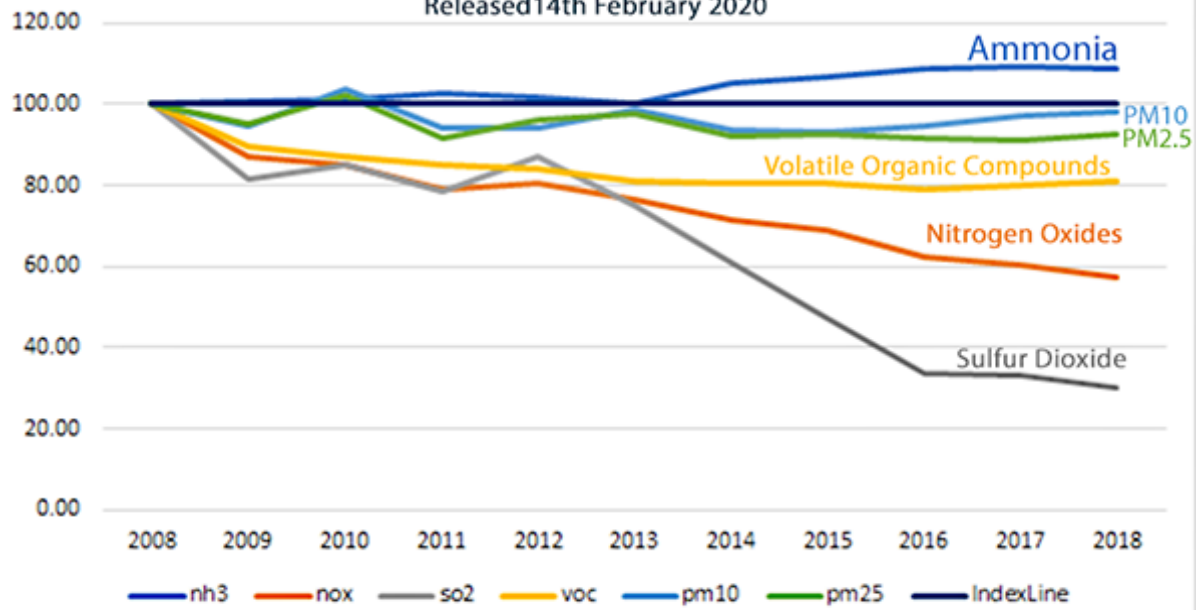
There really is a need for good quality housing, but not if all logic, responsibility and compassion are ignored.

Kind regards,

Nigel Heriz-Smith

Key Pollution Trends (HMSO)

Released 14th February 2020



year	nh3	nox	so2	voc	pm10	pm25	IndexLine
2008	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100
2009	100.90	86.89	81.71	89.79	94.65	95.17	100
2010	101.40	84.93	84.98	87.19	103.62	102.16	100
2011	102.81	78.90	78.49	85.29	93.90	91.76	100
2012	101.60	80.53	86.84	83.86	94.02	96.26	100
2013	100.16	76.47	74.92	80.89	98.39	97.65	100
2014	105.00	71.47	60.82	80.41	93.60	92.18	100
2015	106.66	68.90	47.28	80.32	93.28	92.72	100
2016	108.59	62.33	33.88	78.85	94.44	91.44	100
2017	109.30	60.37	32.93	79.81	97.12	91.15	100
2018	108.70	57.14	30.15	81.10	98.27	92.83	100