

## COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MEETING 14 OCTOBER 2020

### AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

#### STATEMENT AND QUESTIONS from Peter Dobbs, a resident of Ashbourne, on the Air Quality Annual Status Report.

*"I note that my suggestion to make the discussion of the Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR) an agenda item for this committee has not been adopted. It appears that not even having Ashbourne quoted as a pollution hot spot on prime time TV has caused air pollution to be moved up this council's list of priorities.*

*I therefore propose to use my Public Participation as an opportunity to appraise the Committee of the key points from the recently published ASR:*

- 1. It contains several errors. Like most reports mistakes have crept in. Without any scrutiny these errors would go unchallenged. This is what I thought committees were supposed to do with reports. If the data supplied in the ASR was to be used in making the 'Detailed Assessment' it would have to be repeated with the correct data.*
- 2. The data from the NOx sample tubes relates to 2019 (ie before the pandemic reached the UK). The 2020 ASR should therefore be completely unaffected by any issues with lock-down since all data was secured before then. The reason for this report being delayed from its target publication date of June 2020 should not be attributed to the virus.*
- 3. All data points for tubes 12 and 19 on Buxton Rd Ashbourne have returned values well beyond the air quality objective value of 40ugm-3. The annual mean for one is almost 20% higher than the 'safe' value and the other is over 40% above the target. Plotting the data indicates no downward trend.*
- 4. There is no possible interpretation of this data that does not conclude that DDDC are obliged to declare an air quality management area on a section of Buxton Rd. This should have been done last year.*
- 5. Your chairman will have recently received a copy of a significant discussion document from the Traffic Group of Ashbourne Town Team. It repeats the request for the immediate declaration of an Air Quality Management Area on Buxton Road.*

*I also have two questions:*

- 1. Has the contractor to carry out the 'detailed assessment' been appointed?*
- 2. What timescale are you requesting for the completion of this detailed assessment?"*

#### RESPONSE:

Thanks for your question, Mr Dobbs. In reply I can inform you that a preferred consultant has been identified and contracts are in the process of being agreed.

In relation to timescales, the preferred consultant has indicated that their work can be completed in a very short space of time – 2 weeks has been suggested. However, a start date has not yet been set as part of the contractual arrangements. I will ask officers to update you when a more definite timescale is available.