

The New Heeley Voice



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Air Pollution – The Silent Killer Impacting On Our Community Today!



Above: Traffic on Chesterfield Road

Air Quality monitoring of Nitrogen Dioxide on Queens Road, London Road and Chesterfield Road has reached a new height and exceeded two EU limit values in 2013 at many locations.

and strokes, lung cancer respiratory disease. Diesel exhaust is now classified as cancer causing by the World Health Organisation.



Air pollution is a public health crisis affecting the health of many of Sheffield's citizens. A recent edition of the medical journal BMJ reported on a new study with more evidence linking poor air quality to heart attacks and unstable angina.

Air pollution is a cause of cardiovascular disease, heart attacks

According to Sustrans only 2 out of 5 short journeys (under 5 miles) are made by foot, bike or public transport. The latest figures show that for short journeys made by car 11% are under a mile, 29% are under 2 miles. Switching these short journeys to walking or cycling would save drivers money and the physical activity would help to improve their own health while reducing the pollution would improve the health of many other people also.

We might see the UK Government being spurred into action now that it faces the prospect of fines of up to £300m a year and embarrassing court appearances. The European Commission has launched legal proceedings against it for failing to reduce "excessive" levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO2) air pollution from traffic, despite 15 years of warnings and several extensions and postponements. The commissioner commented "It's an invisible killer that prevents many people from living a fully active life." Remember this pollution and its health consequences are not happening somewhere else, it's right here in Sheffield and in your neighbourhood.

Neil Parry (East End Quality of Life Initiative)