

29th MARCH 2012

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TELEGRAPH NEWS

Pollution health fears as sun shines on city

ANTI-POLLUTION campaigners warned this week that the glorious spring weather has come at a cost to some people's health.

"We have had some lovely sunny weather the last few days but for people with respiratory or cardio-vascular health condition they are likely to be suffering bad days because with this high pressure comes big increases in air pollution," said Neil Parry, of the East End Quality of Life Initiative.

Air pollution, mainly from traffic, has spiked at more than two-and-a-half times average limits at the council monitoring station in Tinsley, and three times at Lowfield School.

Mr Parry said: "The social cost of air pollution in Sheffield is £160m per year with untold misery for vulnerable people.

"Many Sheffield neighbourhoods are very concerned about air pollution and more are joining the Sheffield community air monitoring project to monitor air pollution for themselves."

He urged the council to back an effective low emissions zone and the Government's Highways Agency to cut speed limits on the M1 near Tinsley.

But he added: "Walking, cycling or taking public transport would help reduce air pollution and the physical activity would do us all some good."

●Local temperatures this week hit the 20s C. According to Museums Sheffield's Weston Park weather station, the March record is 23.6 C in 1965.

●Drought declared, page 18.

'Gard green

A POLITICAL row erupted last week as charges for the green waste were revealed.

Householders will be charged for a fortnightly green bin collection from October and December and, in part, will have them, £12 for ten green bins.

Sheffield's ruling Labour council said that it can no longer afford to fund the waste collection service. Environmental Services, said it will reduce the fees.

Opposition Liberal Democrat councillors said green bins amounted to a "tax".

Shadow cabinet member said: "At a time when Sheffielders are receiving their council tax increase, the plan to hit residents with a charge of up to £58. This will be a burden on many families, particularly those with their weekly black bin collection."

He said the Lib Dem council would be a "hugely popular" free green bin service.

But Labour cabinet member Bramall said: "In the current climate where the Government's budget deficit is a £170m gap over four years, we have cut this year alone, we cannot afford to fund the green waste service."

"Veolia have now charged-for service for people to use. However, household waste collection will continue to take green waste. Advice on composting is available."

The council says 41% of households in a consultation exercise supported the waste service and 12% had