

## **Clean Air Basingstoke Initiative – A joint response to the BDBC from Basingstoke Clean Air Campaign and Basingstoke Transition. Friday 1/2/2019**

We heard tonight that after several years of hard campaigning Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC) has finally decided to take air pollution in our borough seriously. Basingstoke Clean Air Campaign (BCAC), a recently formed group of local people committed to cleaning up our air, and Basingstoke Transition, which first highlighted the air pollution issues nearly two years ago, both welcomed the Council's new initiative.

"It is great to see the Council getting its act together over this; and thanks to Cllr Eachus and BDBC for listening to us" said past Mayor Martin Biermann. "We have been fighting for cleaner air for a long, long time. This initiative is a good start but it just that a good start. We still have enormous ground to catch up" Martin Heath, another "veteran" clean air campaigner and a member of Basingstoke Transition Network said "We have been saying to the Council for several years now that we need to tackle air pollution in our Town. We went to see them in January last year and said one of the first things that needs to be done is to build awareness of the issue. The Council's initiative does just that. So well done to them. We produced our first report on air pollution in Basingstoke over two years ago. We found five areas in the Town with potentially illegal levels of air pollution."

"Since then the High Court, the Council's own monitoring and the British Lung Foundation all have confirmed our fears. There are pockets of air pollution all across Basingstoke and Deane."

"We have developed an 8 point action plan to clean up our air. This includes more trees, better buses, more cycle routes, less traffic and building more efficient homes and offices."

Gill Phipps from BCAC added "Yes this is a good first step; but just that – a first step. We need more monitoring of air quality. We need to set targets of how clean our air should be. The Council seems to saying that we should something about it, which is fine; but what are they going to do? They need to measure air quality now in more places so that they can measure how much progress we make, and they need to plan now for better, cleaner, cheaper public transport journeys."

BCAC are holding a public meeting on air quality on 21st February 2019 at 7pm at Christ Church Chineham RG24 8LT. All are welcome.

BTN have produced an 8 point action plan on air quality. A copy is here <http://basingstoketransition.org/air-pollution-update-2/>.

You can contact Basingstoke Clean Air campaign at [Bstokecleanair@gmail.com](mailto:Bstokecleanair@gmail.com) and Basingstoke Transition at [info@basingstoketransition.org](mailto:info@basingstoketransition.org). To find out more look at their Facebook pages