

Mortlake Brewery Community Group

Notes of a meeting held at St Mary's, Mortlake on Wednesday 13 February 2019

Approximately 100 people present

Francine Bates, who chaired the meeting, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the speakers.

Roger Mason, Emeritus Professor from Imperial College London and Chair of the Kew Society spoke on 'Local Air Quality and Effects of Air Pollution on Health'. Click [here](#) for the slides of his talk. Professor Mason defined air pollution and the pollutants that affect human health. He set out the ways in which Richmond exceeds the legal limits of pollutants as agreed by WHO, the EU and UK. He showed the source of these pollutants, principally from cars, vans and HGVs, and the hotspots in the borough, one of which is Chalker's Corner. The adverse effects of air pollution start before birth, and affect the lungs in particular, but all other organs too and can lead to a shortened life. Professor Mason said The Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) for London which is about to be introduced by the Greater London Authority will hopefully improve the quality of the air in the future This includes walking, cycling, using public transport instead of driving, turning off the engine when stationary, using only DEFRA-approved stoves and fuel and arranging for deliveries to a central pickup point as opposed to drop offs at home

Francine thanked Professor Mason for his interesting and informative talk and invited questions.

Q Are the standards in Euro 6 to be extended to HGVs?

A Professor Mason explained that Euro 6 sets the standards for emissions for cars. Some manufacturers make cars that are compliant in lab conditions but not when used normally. There have been incidents of manufacturers falsifying figures as happened at Volkswagen. Emissions are difficult to measure, for example, an unladen HGV can be less polluting than a laden car.

Q What is the effect of particulates from tyres and braking given electric vehicles also emit

A Professor Mason agreed that further work is needed to understand this further

Q What is the impact of a 20mph speed limit?

A The Council is discussing introducing a 20mph limit. It undoubtedly saves lives, impact at 20mph may not be fatal, at 30mph it will be. It is difficult to assess the impact on emissions and other factors like as driving in other gears can also be a factor.

Q What will be the impact of the ULEZ?

A This is difficult to quantify, there are not definite predictions.

Francine thanked Professor Mason again and then introduced Howard Potter to speak. Howard about the air quality at Chalker's Corner. He showed the predicted increase in traffic by 2031 and the places in the borough where this would be particularly bad including Chalker's Corner. Howard argued that the figures on traffic flow and pollution presented by Reselton Properties and their agents were flawed and would not reduce the impact of traffic. He concluded that the decision to widen Chalker's Corner was not the answer. Click [here](#) for slides of Howard's talk.

Francine thanked Howard Potter and invited question.

Q Is anything radical being done to address the problem of air pollution locally?

A Howard had not heard of any such initiatives although the Homebase Manor Road development is planned to be car-free aside from parking for disabled people in contrast to the Brewery plans which offer no radical proposals.

Q Is the development in a Transport for London Air Quality Focus (AQF) area?

A Carol Lee, council officer for Air Quality, replied that the AQF area is bounded by Sheen Lane, Upper Richmond Road West, Clifford Avenue and Lower Richmond Road. The brewery site is not included although in her opinion it should be. She is hoping that the Borough's new Air Quality Plan will be agreed and published before the Brewery planning applications go before the Planning Committee. The Plan will influence policy and decisions on air pollution, car parking, heating, solar panels and all other relevant areas

Melissa Compton-Edwards from Mums for Lungs in East Sheen, Mortlake and Barnes spoke about the organisation and their campaigns. Click [here](#) for a transcript of the talk. Mums for Lungs are passionate about air quality and ways in which it can be improved locally. They have published a leaflet raising awareness of their work locally. They have campaigned against idling, particularly at the level crossings. As a result, from 1 March 2019 any driver who refuses to turn off their engine when asked will be liable for a fine. They are campaigning for better signage about idling in next few months including handing out a leaflet about idling on 1 March. They have led school assemblies to raise awareness and to discourage the use of cars. They are encouraging the restriction of parking in school streets, that is streets near schools at the beginning and end of the school day. The hope is that this will be supported by the council. Mums for Lungs believes that we can all make a difference by not using a car as much as possible, car-free weekends and not using a wood-burning stove. Melissa advised that anyone worried about the impact of poor air quality should walk away from the kerb.

Francine thanked Melissa and commended the work of Mums for Lungs. She invited questions.

Q Who will enforce no idling?

A The traffic wardens will do this.

Q Could the signage against in Sheen Lane be improved?

A Carol Lee explained said the signage has improved and she would continue to press for better visibility.

Q How is the law on illegal levels of air pollution, as at Chalker's Corner, enforced?

A Carol Lee answered that there is a legal obligation on local authorities to improve air quality, but a failure to do so would require a legal challenge to be brought by individuals or organisations and would only succeed if evidence was sufficient that the council had not complied with the duty. Carol said everyone needs to act to lessen pollution and this will take time. She said that the council was committed to supporting residents make changes, eg planned walking routes to reduce impact of pollution. She highlighted the borough's recent publication *Cleaner Air for Schools* which sets out what more can be done.

Francine thanked all the speakers for their interesting and informative, talks.

Robert Orr Ewing, chair of MBCG, gave a brief summary of the position with the planning applications.

- There is a new banner *Bottleneck Bend* outside The Tapestry, the hope is that the Choker's Corner banner will go up again.
- Chertsey Court residents have met with the developer. The residents are raising a petition asking RHP not to sell land to the developers.
- Further Traffic modelling around Chertsey Court has been completed by the developer and TfL but not yet seen by MBCG. Howard Potter has asked for this new data. a copy of it.
- No news from Network Rail whether they continue to oppose to the development
- The GLA has not yet submitted its final report on the site to the borough. They are asking the developer to increase affordable housing on the site from 20% to 35%. The developer's response

is to add another floor to each building, many blocks are already higher than stipulated in the Adopted Planning Brief for the site agreed in 2011.

- There is activity on the site. The developer plans to rent it out for other uses while awaiting news on the planning applications.
- There is no news on a date when the applications will be considered by the Planning Committee.

Date of next meeting Monday 18 March, 7.30pm at St Mary's. This meeting will focus on the proposals to build a new secondary school on the site; the proposed bidders and what the educational need is in the area.