

Update on the Air Quality Work Across Mid Sussex

The Council is required to report on the air quality throughout the District to DEFRA in an Annual Status Report. This latest Annual Status Report 2022 includes the results of all our air quality monitoring for 2021, comparing the results to the nationally set objectives for air quality, which are health-based. DEFRA has approved our report stating, “it is well structured, detailed and provides the information specified in the guidance”. In summary, the report concludes that we are continuing to see a downward trend of nitrogen dioxide levels in our town centres as well as within the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) at Hassocks. The Annual Status Report 2022 is available on our website [2022 Air Quality Annual Status Report \(ASR\) \(midsussex.gov.uk\)](#). You will also be able to access previous reports at [Air Quality - Mid Sussex District Council](#).

The annual meeting of the AQMA Steering Group took place on 19th October, chaired by the Cabinet Member for Community Councillor Webster and attended by District Councillor Sue Hatton and West Sussex County Councillor Kirsty Lord with support from officers at the Council and County Council. The findings of the latest air quality monitoring results were presented to the group and the action plan was reviewed and updated to reflect the ongoing mitigation measures to improve air quality in the area.

A new air quality monitoring station has been operating in London Road East Grinstead since the summer and is measuring air quality in real time. The station will be used to support and validate monitoring results across the district. Data on nitrogen dioxide and PM10 (particulate matter with a size of less than 10 microns) levels are being collected every 15 minutes. This data can be found on the Sussex Air website at [Sussex-air :: Promoting better Air Quality in Sussex :: sussex-air.net :: Latest Readings](#).

The Council is part of the Sussex Air Quality Partnership, a Sussex-wide collaboration of air quality specialists to promote air quality across the counties of Sussex. One recent DEFRA-funded project undertaken by the partnership was to raise awareness about domestic burning of solid fuels and promote better burning methods and choices. The project – Clean Burn Sussex – included a resident survey to identify households that use solid fuels for domestic heating, determine the types of stoves and fuels used and find out about burning behaviour and the primary reasons for burning solid fuels. For more information go to the Clean Burn Sussex pages on the Sussex Air website at [Clean Burning \(sussex-air.net\)](#)