

CHIDEOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Chideock@dorset-aptc.gov.uk

Chair: Cllr Vanessa Glenn, 6 Winniford Close, Chideock, DT6 6SA

01 297 480810

Clerk: Miss Sal Robinson, 60 North Allington, Bridport, DT6 5DY 01 308 426327

7 August 2019

Dear Mr Prosser

Re: High Pollution levels in a Chideock and the bus companies current use of Euro 3 / 4 vehicles.

Chideock Parish Council is writing to you to raise the very serious concerns about the high level of pollutants / particulate matter to which the public transport routes X51/ X53 and the local school bus provision currently contributes. It is understood that these are two areas of provision which as Dorset Council you have some jurisdiction when considering which vehicles should be deployed when contracting transport services.

The village of Chideock sits in a deep sided valley, with steep hills at either side. The village has been subject to a AQMA since May 2007 and currently Dorset Council is engaged in developing a new action plan to address the seriously high levels of pollution - Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) levels at the top of Chideock Hill at the western end of the village have been recorded as being as high as Inner London. In addition, those who live within the confines of the village are subject to brake dust, burning brakes and other types of pollutants as well as diesel pollutants.

Firstly, the vehicles currently used on the X51 and the X53 are old bus stock which are not Euro 6 compliant. Secondly, the local school transport provision is also below the Euro 6 standard, and this too adds to the overall levels of pollution.

The Parish Council faces a very serious challenge in attempting to get the concerns regarding the health and well-being of village residents heard. Currently legislation for an emission zone only applies to Towns and Cities, but the reality is that rural villages on what are described as "strategic highways" can be equally affected. There is increasing awareness of pollution related health issues in the village, in particular asthma.

Over the years the traffic volume has increased beyond the capacity of what is, essentially, a rural road. Currently this has been partially recognised by DEFRA, Dorset Council and Highways England. But given that Dorset Council has adopted the

Climate Change Agenda, the residents of this village would like a holistic approach taken to ensuring that all means of securing cleaner air are considered.

What does this mean?

The Parish Council asks Dorset Council to intervene directly with the relevant bus companies and providers of transportation through this village to secure an agreement to introduce at the very least Euro 6 compliant provision as a matter of urgency. Secondly, in the longer term to raise directly that any future contracts with external bus companies should reflect the type of clean fuel buses that serve communities in Dorchester and south Dorset.

I look forward to hearing from you as part of the parish council's air pollution reduction agenda and Dorset Council's Climate Change agenda and hopes that the health and well-being of Chideock's residents will at last be recognised on this specific issue.

Yours sincerely

Sal Robinson (Miss), Chideock Parish Clerk

To: Matt Prosser, Dorset Council Chief Executive

Cc: Sam Crowe, Dorset Council Interim Director for Public Health
John Hellgren, Dorset Council Executive Director of Place
Cllr Spencer Flower, Leader of Dorset Council
Cllr Ray Bryan, Dorset Councillor with Highways, Travel and Environment
portfolio
Cllr Pauline Batstone, Dorset Council Chairman
Cllr Rebecca Knox, Chair of Dorset Health and Well-Being Board
Bob Driscoll, Chairman of the Western Area Transport Action Group
(WATAG)
Sir Oliver Letwin MP

Subject: Letter from Chideock Parish Council regarding the use of non Euro 6 complaint buses

Date: Fri, 4 Oct 2019 12:58:17 +0000

From:

To: Chideock Parish Clerk (chideock@dorset-aptc.gov.uk) <chideock@dorset-aptc.gov.uk>

Hello Sal

Thank you for your letter and my apologies for the delay in replying. The council has needed to liaise with bus companies to inform this reply.

X51 and X53...

The operator of these services, First Wessex, has confirmed that they operate Euro 4 and Euro 5 vehicles on this section. They have stated that there is insufficient revenue generated by these services to upgrade vehicles at this time. A requirement to do so may in their view risk the services being discontinued. The council will always look for opportunities to work with operators to provide vehicles with the most current emission standards having regard to the commercial viability of services.

Local school transport provision...

The council reviews its requirements when tendering for school transport provision to ensure that vehicle emission standards are appropriately reflected in the procurement.

I will ensure that the councils air quality lead officer is made aware of the issues raised.

You may be aware that the council has established an Executive Advisory Panel (EAP) for climate change. The procurement of cleaner vehicles, both for our own fleet and those of our contractors, will be discussed at this Panel and recommendations likely to be made to guide council actions in the future.

Regards

Graham

Graham Duggan
Head of Community & Public Protection