

# Sawbridgeworth Town Council

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**MAYOR**  
**Clr Annelise Furnace**  
**TOWN CLERK**  
**Simon Crocker** BSc.(Hons)Msc

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To: Jonathan Geall, Head of Housing & Health, East Herts District Council

9<sup>th</sup> February 2021

## **Re: Air quality monitoring in Sawbridgeworth**

Dear Mr Geall,

I am writing on behalf of Sawbridgeworth Town Council regarding air quality monitoring in the Sawbridgeworth AQMA.

We are pleased to see that EHDC has published its latest figures for air quality monitoring, especially after such a long time without a public update.

However, the 2020 Air Quality Status Report is based on full year validated statistics from 2019. Already these figures are coming up for being two years out of date.

The figures continue to show nitrogen dioxide levels in Sawbridgeworth are higher than the national objective of 40 micrograms - they are 40.2 and 51.4 - the latter figure at the Bell Street crossing is particularly concerning.

As building work commences on the new West Road developments, and given we know how poor air quality can lead to poor public health outcomes, we need regular, up-to-date data to be publicly accessible so that high levels of pollution can be responded to and alleviated quickly. Publishing a year or more in arrears does not help with this.

Following a motion passed at our full council meeting on 25 January 2021, we would like EHDC's response to the following:

1. We request that the system be changed to regular and up-to-date publication of air quality monitoring results.
2. How does EHDC plan to monitor and report air quality levels during the building work on West Road that has now started – surely this needs to be real-time reporting and made public in order to assess potential health impacts?
3. What plans and resources does EHDC have to promote cleaner air in Sawbridgeworth, including anti-engine idling campaigns?

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

*Annelise Furnace*

Clr Annelise Furnace  
Mayor of Sawbridgeworth