

Air pollution

Low Air pollution has been shown to be even more important now we are caught up in the Covid crisis. The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Air Pollution has released a strategy document regarding air pollution in the UK.

<https://appgaq.files.wordpress.com/2020/05/clean-air-exit-strategy.pdf>

In it they say that air pollution must be kept at low levels to help avoid a second peak of coronavirus infections.

There is growing evidence from around the world linking exposure to dirty air and increased infections and deaths from Covid-19. Lockdowns cut air pollution levels in many places, but the MPs said measures were needed to ensure it remains low.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/may/04/is-air-pollution-making-the-coronavirus-pandemic-even-more-deadly>

One report concluded that a small increase in long-term exposure to PM2.5 leads to a large increase in the COVID-19 death rate.

<https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/biostatistics/2020/04/linking-air-pollution-to-higher-coronavirus-death-rates/>

With Derby being identified in 2015 as **one of five local authority areas** with problem levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and told to take action to resolve the situation in the shortest possible time, air pollution is already a prime concern but this new evidence of the effects of air pollution on infection and death rates from Covid 19 makes it a critical issue. It is obvious that we should now be concerned about any level of pollution – not just those levels that might exceed some arbitrary maximum.

DCiC have stated that air pollution in Derby will increase for the 4 years of construction if this scheme goes ahead.

https://www.derby.gov.uk/media/derbycitycouncil/contentassets/documents/environmentalprotection/ED11928_Derby%202019%20AQAP_Draft_Issue%208%20Final.pdf

So, this is the worst time to be starting such a construction project – it will cost lives. This scheme must be stopped immediately for the sake of Derby residents, especially those who are already high risk.