



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol

MERTHYR TUDFUL

MERTHYR TYDFIL

County Borough Council

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council 2018 Air Quality Progress Report: Executive Summary (English)

In fulfillment of Part IV of the Environment Act 1995
Local Air Quality Management

Date (September, 2018)

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

<i>Local Authority Officer</i>	Aileen Rahilly
<i>Department</i>	Environmental Health Department
<i>Address</i>	Civic Centre Castle Street Merthyr Tydfil CF47 8AN
<i>Telephone</i>	01685 725395
<i>E-mail</i>	aileen.rahilly@merthyr.gov.uk
<i>Report Reference number</i>	MTCBC/AR/2018
<i>Date</i>	27/09/2018

Executive Summary: Air Quality in Our Area

Air Quality in Merthyr Tydfil County Borough

The main source of air pollution within Merthyr Tydfil is road traffic. As such MTCBC are concerned about NO₂. A network of diffusion tubes operates throughout the district. In the past 5 years NO₂ peaked throughout the district in 2013 and has declined since. This decline has levelled out in recent years. Most sites within Merthyr Tydfil have NO₂ concentrations within the annual mean air quality objective.

A small number of sites (No. 3) exceed the air quality objective, and as such there is currently an AQMA in place along Twynyrodyn Road, from Tesco roundabout to the cross roads with Gilfach Cynon and Arfryn Place. More information is available at https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/aqma/local-authorities?la_id=402 and www.merthyr.gov.uk. Following public consultation on 3 possible approaches to improving air quality within the AQMA, MTCBC has submitted an action plan to Welsh Government, which has been approved.

In accordance with this action plan, in October 2018 Traffic Regulation Orders will be issued, and in early 2019 traffic flow will be reversed along Pontmorlais High Street and Church Street. This will provide alternative routes away from Tesco and the Town Centre then Twynyrodyn Road.

MTCBC also consider the impact on air quality of new developments, and where necessary planning conditions are used to mitigate any negative effects. The Local Transport Plan supports active travel and use of public transport to reduce reliance on cars.

Actions to Improve Air Quality

In 2017 the AQMA along Twynyrodyn Road was formally declared. In 2018 an 8-week public consultation was carried out on a draft action plan to address the AQMA along Twynyrodyn Road. The public were consulted on 3 options to reduce traffic use of Twynyrodyn Road. Most respondents (94%) expressed a preference for the option of reversing traffic flow along Pontmorlais High Street and Church Street. Council approved an action plan to this effect being submitted to Welsh Government and

Defra. It has been approved by Welsh Government. The next step is that in October 2018 the Highways and Engineering Department will be issuing Traffic Regulation Orders. In early 2019 works to re-route traffic in accordance with the approved action plan will commence. It is anticipated improvements in air quality will then be observed.

Local Priorities and Challenges

The priority for 2018 and 2019 will be implementation of the approved action plan. If successful this will enable the AQMA to be revoked by 2021. If unsuccessful additional works will be considered in updated action plans.

Monitoring will be extended to include some areas identified by the Welsh Government Noise and Soundscape survey, where heavy traffic may also affect air quality. Additionally some individual months of diffusion tube data from 6/7 Ladysmith Place indicate extending monitoring in Troedyrhiw would be beneficial in gaining a fuller picture of air quality throughout the county borough. This will be through additional diffusion tubes.

How to Get Involved

Further information on air pollution including access to previous air quality reports is available from www.merthyr.gov.uk. Specific questions can be addressed by emailing PublicHealth@merthyr.gov.uk or by telephoning 01685 725000.