



# Green Party

for the common good

Press release for immediate use

13<sup>th</sup> March 2018

## **Woods Lane closure causes 57% increase in NO<sub>2</sub> Pollution outside Melton Primary School**

An investigation by Suffolk Coastal Green Party into air pollution in Woodbridge and Melton has revealed a massive increase in air pollution.

The group monitored levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) at the traffic lights outside Melton School and at Limekiln Quay Road in Woodbridge. The group monitored for several weeks, providing a snapshot of NO<sub>2</sub> pollution for that time. NO<sub>2</sub> is a toxic gas which inflames the lining of the lungs. The legal annual limit for NO<sub>2</sub> is 40 micrograms per cubic metre (ug/m<sup>3</sup>) but there are no safe levels of exposure to air pollution.

Four sites were tested, using NO<sub>2</sub> diffusion tubes. All showed significant increases against the Defra average readings. The site raising most concern was Melton Primary School, where a 57% increase was recorded for the period 21<sup>st</sup> January to 4<sup>th</sup> February 2018. At this site, the Nitrogen Dioxide reading was 39.23 micrograms per cubic metre, up from the 2016 average of 25 micrograms per cubic metre. The European legal limit is 40 micrograms per cubic metre.

It is clear that the increase has been caused by the three-month closure of Woods Lane, to facilitate a new housing development.

Everyone has the right to breathe clean air, but each year in the UK air pollution causes 40,000 early deaths, and stunts the development of children's lungs.

Eamonn O'Nolan, of Suffolk Coastal Green Party said:

"Air pollution is an invisible killer. In Suffolk Coastal, at least 71 people die early every year as a result of pollution.

"Our study clearly shows that the Woods Lane closure, and the resulting traffic chaos, has put children at risk, with Nitrogen Dioxide readings directly outside Melton Primary School almost eclipsing the maximum legal limit. Pollution outside the Red Lion Pub in Woodbridge increased by 61% in the same period".

"The closure was put in place to facilitate the development of a former Greenbelt side by Bloor Homes, a development which was strongly opposed by local residents and Suffolk Coastal DC alike. The local Planning Department decision was overturned by the Government"

"It's just not right that our school-children and grand-children are growing up breathing dirty air, which can actually lead to lung problems for life. We need clean air now."

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<https://suffolkcoastal.greenparty.org.uk>

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