



Putting up pollution monitors in Peckham

SOUTHWARK GREENS MONITOR AIR POLLUTION

COUNCIL CAN DO MUCH MORE TO PROTECT CHILDREN AND OLDER RESIDENTS

Air pollution has been in the news recently as people become aware of how it damages everyone's health. We have been putting up tubes to measure nitrogen dioxide pollution in Camberwell and Peckham. The results will be published in April on www.southwarkgreenparty.org.uk.

We have also written to Southwark Council to share some tested ideas:

- Traffic-free areas round schools
- Safe cycle routes and bike parking
- Health information for residents

Do you agree that we need rapid action on air pollution? Email: contact@southwark.greenparty.org.uk



With safe streets, children enjoy their journey

QUIETWAY 7 - WHAT WILL IT MEAN FOR YOU?

SOUTHWARK CHILDREN WANT THE CHANCE TO SCOOT IN SAFETY

Most residents in Southwark do not own a car and rely on public transport, walking and cycling. So we welcome TfL funds to improve cycling in the borough. Quietways are meant to be suitable for all who want to cycle, age 8–80. Quietway 7 will link Elephant and Castle through Burgess Park to

Dog Kennel Hill and Dulwich. With a bit more vision, Southwark Council could use this chance to create really safe, quiet streets around local schools. In surveys, children say they'd like to walk, scoot and bike to school – and research shows it's good for both health and learning.

USEFUL LINKS

- Plan a lower pollution route: cityairapp.com
- Did you know all residents are entitled to free individual or family cycle training?
www.cycleconfident.com/sponsors/southwark
- Turn off idling engines: idlingaction.london

www.southwarkgreenparty.org.uk

contact@southwark.greenparty.org.uk

[facebook.com/SouthwarkGreenParty](https://www.facebook.com/SouthwarkGreenParty)

[@SouthwarkGP](https://twitter.com/SouthwarkGP)

WHAT TRAFFIC FUMES DO TO OUR CHILDREN

GEORGE MONBIOT

Every year, we discover more about the harm being done to our children by the fumes that cars and other vehicles produce. The more we learn, the worse it looks. In polluted places, the damage to their health can be very serious. Here is what we now know about the harm that traffic pollution can do to children:

- It can damage the growth of their lungs. This means that the lungs of children who have been affected don't work so well. The damage can last for the rest of their lives.
- It raises the risk of asthma and allergies. For children who already have asthma, pollution can make it worse.
- It can damage the development of their brains. Air pollution can reduce children's intelligence, making it harder for them to learn.
- It can change their behaviour and reduce their happiness. Air pollution has been linked to anxiety, depression and Attention Deficit Disorder.
- It raises the risk of heart disease later in their lives.
- It can cause cancer, both in children and when they become adults.
- Unborn children can also be affected by the pollution their mothers breathe. Air pollution is linked to babies being born prematurely and small.

Pollution inside your car can be much worse than pollution outside, because the fumes are concentrated in the small space. By driving them to school and by sitting in our cars with the engines idling, we are helping to poison our own children.

We don't mean to do this to our children. But once we know how much we are hurting them, we can stop it, by changing the way we travel. Walking and cycling are ideal. Together we can protect our children from harm.

Reproduced with permission from www.monbiot.com

WHAT CAN WE DO RIGHT NOW?

1. Walk or cycle instead of driving – pollution levels can be higher inside a car than on the street because the ventilation intake is close to the exhaust of the cars in front and fumes build up inside a closed car.
2. Choose a low pollution route. Back routes can have 50% less particulate pollution. Use sites like cityairapp.com to plan a route.
3. If your workplace or school is near a main road, ask the building supervisors how air pollution is minimised. If there's air conditioning, are the filters effective?
4. When shopping, close the door – it keeps the heat in and pollution out.
5. At home, make sure gas boilers and heaters are serviced regularly. If you have fires in an open fireplace, check that you are buying 'smokeless' coal, not 'traditional' or 'house' coal. It's illegal to burn 'house coal' in London – and it's bad for the health of people inside the room as well as outside. It's also illegal to burn logs on open fires in London. Check that any woodburners you use are approved for Smoke Control Areas.