



Bill Parish  
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7 March 2024

Dear Mr Parish

## **ASHBOURNE AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA: OVERDUE AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN**

Thank you for your warning letter dated 9 January 2024, sent in relation to the absence of a valid Air Quality Action Plan in relation to the Ashbourne Air Quality Management Area. This response is intended to update you as to the current position of Derbyshire Dales District Council and to inform you of the action taken in response to the receipt of the warning letter.

Firstly, I would like to assure you that Derbyshire Dales District Council takes its responsibilities in relation to air quality extremely seriously. The Ashbourne Air Quality Management Area has been subject to no fewer than 12 reports to our Community and Environment Committee and the draft Action Plan has also been subject to a full public consultation, including 2 public meetings within the affected town of Ashbourne. The draft Action Plan has been developed in full consultation with partners from Derbyshire County Council, who are the highways authority in this case, and with community representatives in the form of Ashbourne Town Council and Ashbourne Town Team. However, up to now our Community and Environment Committee has not been able to add their endorsement to the Action Plan, such that it can be submitted to Defra for consideration and approval. Work has been continuing to develop the proposed measures and to craft a form of words that will be acceptable to the Committee. Officers believe that this work is nearing completion.

The warning letter was considered by the Community and Environment Committee on 6 March 2024. I should explain that this consideration was originally due to take place at a meeting of the Committee scheduled for 8 February 2024, but this meeting had to be postponed due to heavy snow in the area which would have made travel to the meeting dangerous. We are conscious that this means that this letter is now very close to the Defra deadline of 8 March and hope that you will understand the reasons for this delay. Committee considered the letter in detail and has instructed me to write to you setting out the Council's current position and to explain the actions that the Council now intends taking to progress the matter.

**Paul Wilson, MCD, Dip TP, Dip Mgmt, MRTPI**  
**Chief Executive**

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In addition to myself and my colleagues from the District Council's Environmental Health team, the Committee meeting was also attended by an Assistant Director from Derbyshire County Council, who set out the County Council's position in relation to the development of traffic management systems within Ashbourne. The introduction of these traffic management systems comprises the first 3 measures suggested in the draft Action Plan and elected members were pleased to hear that these systems were in development and that indeed implementation had already commenced within the town. It was explained that Committee would like revised wording for these 3 measures to be agreed between officers of the District Council and the County Council and that a further report with that revised wording should be brought to the next appropriate meeting of the Community and Environment Committee in the expectation that this wording could be formally endorsed and approval could be given for the submission of a draft Action Plan to Defra.

At this stage I am unable to inform you of a definite date for this meeting of the Committee as the draft programme of meetings for the new financial year is still in development. However, I am happy to commit to providing you with that date as soon as it is available. This would then set out a target date for the submission of the Action Plan and we would hope that the issue of any final warning letter could be adjusted to reflect this target date.

I hope that this letter will reassure you that Derbyshire Dales District Council and its partners are working hard to resolve this issue in order to submit an Action Plan to you as soon as possible. If you have any further queries on this matter please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you in advance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Braund', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**TIM BRAUND**  
**DIRECTOR OF REGULATORY SERVICES**