

SANDWELL AIR QUALITY

»» NEWSLETTER ««

Working with faith centres to improve local air quality



SANDWELL'S AIR QUALITY HEADLINES

SANDWELL'S NEW SMOKE CONTROL AREA

»»» NEW RULES START ON 1 JULY 2024

The whole of Sandwell will become a Smoke Control Area from 1 July 2024. Smoke control areas help protect our health and the environment. Tell us what you think by filling in our 2 minute survey, You can find the link on page 2..



WATCH OUT FOR AUNTIE DUCK!

"Auntie Duck" will be flying in soon to help children understand more about air pollution through thoughtful story telling. Auntie Duck gently explains the sources, health impacts of air pollution as well as the positive actions children can take to help improve air quality. Look out for Auntie Duck as she arrives on 20 June which just so happens to be Clean Air Day 2024!



STORY BOOK RAISING AIR POLLUTION AWARENESS

SMOKE CONTROL AREA

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

➤➤➤ ALL OF SANDWELL IS A SMOKE CONTROL AREA FROM 1 JULY 2024

Wood burning stoves have grown in popularity over the last decade, but their portrayed as a cosy, natural and even green form of heating fails to mention that they are also releasing significant amounts of fine particulates (PM2.5) into our homes and communities which can seriously damage our health. For example, did you know that wood smoke contains around 3,000 chemicals and that many of these are similar to those found in tobacco smoke whilst some are even more harmful.

To help protect the health of the entire borough from emissions, Sandwell Council has introduced a new Smoke Control Area that covers the entire borough, just like in Birmingham and Dudley. Find out more on Sandwell Council's webpage: <https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/consumer-advice/air-quality/4>

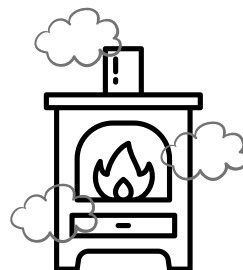
FROM 1 JULY 2024

- Wood can only be burned in Ecodesign or Defra Exempt Stoves.
- When using any other solid fuel heating appliance, stove or open fireplace then only 'authorised fuels' can be used.
- Visible smoke cannot be emitted from any chimney regardless of what is being burned.



LET US KNOW YOUR THOUGHTS AND ENTER A FREE PRIZE DRAW!

We want to know your thoughts about Sandwell's new smoke control area. Open your smartphone camera and hover it over the QR code below to complete the survey and find out more or go to bit.ly/SandwellSCA. Also be in with a chance to win one of four £25 Love2Shop vouchers!



ਸੈਂਡਵੈਲ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਮੇਕ ਕੰਟਰੋਲ ਏਰੀਆ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ।

ਇਸ ਸਰਵੇਖਣ ਨੂੰ ਪੂਰਾ ਕਰੋ

Love2Shop ਵਾਊਚਰ ਜਿੱਤੋ

ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਕਿਵੇਂ ਪ੍ਰਭਾਵਿਤ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ ਇਹ ਪਤਾ ਕਰੋ



bit.ly/SandwellSCA

ਸਮੇਕ ਕੰਟਰੋਲ ਏਰੀਆ ਸੈਂਡਵੈਲ ਵਿੱਚ (ਕਿਸਤੀਆਂ ਸਮੇਤ) ਹਰ ਕਿਸੇ 'ਤੇ ਲਾਗੂ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੈ।

A Smoke Control Area has been introduced in Sandwell

Complete this survey

Win Love2Shop vouchers

Find out how it affects you



bit.ly/SandwellSCA

The Smoke Control Area applies to everyone in Sandwell, including boats

FINAL PROJECT SURVEY

➤➤➤ ASK YOUR CENTRE MEMBERS

Defra (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) who helped fund the 'Faith Communities for Clean Air Project' want to understand more about its impact. To do this we have a final evaluation survey. Your feedback is essential. Did you find out anything new? Did it have any impact on you or your family? Have you made any changes to reduce your air pollution emissions?

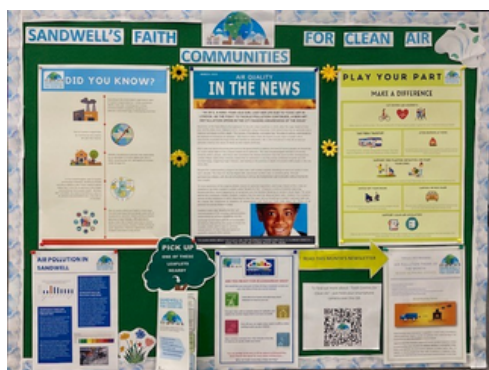
Let us know at this link, by scanning the QR code below, or completing one of the paper copies in the lobby of each centre or find the survey online at <https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/consumer-advice/air-quality/6>

The survey is available in English, Nepali, Arabic, Punjabi, Kurdish, Urdu, Bengali and Gujarat.



➤➤➤ LEADER FEEDBACK

Thank you to the project leaders from each of the centres who has filled in the feedback form. If you are missing the form or haven't filled it in yet, please get in contact with Sophie via email. Your feedback and thoughts on the project are invaluable to the project, and will help shape the way air pollution is tackled in Sandwell in the future.



SCAN THIS QR CODE WITH YOUR SMART PHONE CAMERA:



➤➤➤ TELL US MORE ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH THE AIR QUALITY PROJECT

Email Sophie at sophie_morris@sandwell.gov.uk if you would like to provide more feedback about the project or if you have ideas of what you would like to see Sandwell Council implement to support improvements in local air quality!





Paul Latham

FAITH CENTRE AIR QUALITY UPDATE

»»» CRADLEY HEATH COMMUNITY LINK

Cradley Heath Community Link joined the Faith Centre Air Quality Project in 2023. Although a relatively small centre they have a huge community reach and are an invaluable hub for residents of Cradley Heath and beyond. They hold a Christian worship session on a Wednesday, but also offer a wide range of practical and emotional support including a food bank, free school uniform, café, mental health and support groups as well as craft sessions.

Paul Latham, the head of the Centre, has had a long held vision of creating a cycling project at CHCL to assist individuals, particularly the young, in learning to ride as well as acquiring important maintenance and repair skills so broken bicycles aren't left to rust in sheds. Paul understands the social, practical, financial, and environmental advantages that cycling can offer and wants others to benefit.

CREATING A BICYCLE STORE AND REPAIR HUB



To help support the bicycle project Sandwell's air quality team encouraged the centre to apply for Vision 2030 Community Grant, which they were successfully awarded in December 2023. This has enabled the centre to purchase two shipping containers. One will be used as a bicycle store allowing children and adults without access to a bicycle to learn to ride and build confidence riding, the other will be used as a cycling repair hub.



February 2024 - Storage containers arrive at CHCL to help facilitate learning to ride, led bike rides and their bike repair shop



Keith, Liz, Kirsty and Tim - Catching up at the centre's new site in March 2024

But the biggest shout out has to be to Tim and Keith at CHCL who have worked tirelessly to help support Paul with this project. As well as this project they have been supporting the relocation of the centre into new larger premises on the other side of the High Street!

British Triathlon, led by Kirsty Outhwaite has also supported the centre by organising a free 'Community Activator Course'. This upskilled local volunteers in leading cycling and walking courses. British Triathlon have also purchased bicycles and safety equipment to support the bicycle project. The first cycling session at CHCL is planned for 5 May 2024.

"If I can bicycle, I bicycle!"

David Attenborough