



News Release

23/09/22 - For Immediate use

Campaign Group supports launch of the Clean Air Zone as a First Step

“Each year around 125 people die in Bradford from preventable disease caused by air pollution. Road traffic is huge part of the problem. We simply have to act, and the Clean Air Zone is a start”

Bradford Shipley Travel Alliance (BSTA) today welcomed the launch of Bradford’s Clean Air Zone as a crucial first step in tackling air pollution in the city.

BSTA chair, Anna Watson, welcomed the council initiative, but claimed it needs to go further:

“The Clean Air Zone is a step in the right direction, particularly if the income from the charge is used to support further programmes to improve air quality. But the Council needs to go further. If road traffic is a major source of the pollution, we must question the council’s plan to widen Canal Road and Valley Road, bringing more traffic and more pollution. We need a seriously consistent approach to deal with a seriously dangerous issue. 125 deaths a year from air pollution is not a price worth paying”

She added “Bradford has the worst nitrogen dioxide levels of 49 cities in the UK. There is no time to waste in tackling this killer”.

The group’s recent factsheet on “Traffic, air quality and our health” highlighted the costs, financial and human, of air pollution caused by ever increasing traffic.

Bradford Council has long recognised the problem. Their recent report on air quality admits that “Air pollution is recognised as a contributing factor in the onset of heart disease and cancer.....particularly affecting the most vulnerable in society: children and older people, and those with heart and lung conditions”

NOTES:

The true cost of air pollution is detailed in the BSTA factsheet on “Traffic, air quality and health”:

- Each year, around 125 people die in Bradford from preventable disease caused by air pollution.
- The number of deaths from respiratory disease in Bradford is amongst the highest in the country.
- The annual health cost to society of the impacts of particulate matter in the UK is estimated to be around £16 BILLION

In light of these devastating costs, BSTA is asking Bradford’s political leaders to give a clear pledge that the Canal Road scheme will be altered to reduce pollution, lower rates of disease and avoid further deaths.

At a recent consultation event run by BSTA, there was widespread opposition to turning Canal Road/Valley Road into a dual carriageway. That would simply generate more traffic, more congestion, and more pollution., particularly outside Shipley Church of England Primary School on Otley Road. It would also make the council’s own targets for carbon emissions and for air quality far more difficult to reach.

The group asked for the scheme to be subject to further consultation, which should include measures to encourage people to use cars less and to bus, walk and cycle more.

For More Information:

A copy of the BSTA Factsheet is attached and at https://bsta.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/BSTA_FactSheet2_AW.pdf

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PHOTOS

- BSTA members are available for photographs at Canal Road, or by the primary school on Otley Road

BSTA is a campaign group supported by 20 affiliated local organisations. It works to encourage alternatives to road-widening, that achieve a shift from car traffic to other transport, to reduce emissions that are harmful to health and to the climate.