



Councillor Peter Mason
Leader of the Council
Labour Member Southall Green Ward



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Clean Air for Southall & Hayes

18 October 2021

Dear Angela and CASH,

I am writing to provide an update on a number of issues relating to our seven-point plan for Southall Gasworks and on action we are taking to seek to address the concerns of local residents, provide reassurance, and to be open and transparent on our progress to date.

Independent Air Quality Monitoring

When I became leader, we promised to provide independent air quality monitoring around the Gasworks site. The contract process and the need for the contractor to buy better specialist equipment from abroad has meant this has taken longer to get underway than I would have ideally liked.

I am pleased to say that all the necessary equipment is now in the country and will be being installed shortly. There will need to be a short period for the monitors to settle after installation and for any teething issues to be identified, but our contractors, Ricardo, expect to be able to begin sharing data publicly in the week commencing 8 November.

The data will be published on the Air Quality England (www.airqualityengland.co.uk) and Air Quality London (<http://airqualitylondon.co.uk>) websites, and we will link directly to the relevant pages on these from the Council's website.

Independent Soil Testing

We have also commissioned independent soil sampling, using Leap Environmental Ltd. I hope to be able to provide details on when sampling will commence very shortly, along with details of how we will be releasing the findings.



Encouraging Air Quality Complaints

We promised to make it easier for residents to report odours and other issues locally and have established a dedicated email address and phone number, monitored by an environmental protection officer who is based in and dedicated to Southall.

Following the appointment of the dedicated officer for Southall, there were unavoidable and understandable issues with long-term staff illness. I'm pleased to be able to say that a new officer to fill this post has now been recruited and will be commencing work this week, following a short period for training.

While our existing officers have worked hard to seek to cover complaints made via the email address, phone and the OdourCollect app, having a dedicated officer in place again should improve responsiveness significantly.

The new officer will have the same mobile number as previously – 07971 988907, and will be monitoring complaints made via southallodours@ealing.gov.uk, as well as via OdourCollect.

We are currently in the process of producing a leaflet to be sent to all areas neighbouring the Gasworks to provide details of all the channels to report issues, and to encourage residents to do so.

Independent Legal Advice

Last month the new administration published the new and independent legal advice that I commissioned which sets out the legal requirements for a successful statutory abatement notice. In 2019, the previous administration of the Council commissioned independent legal advice from counsel on the position and actions that Ealing had taken in regards to the Gasworks site. This advice was delivered to the previous administration in 2020.

Whilst this legal advice has previously not been disclosed on the grounds of legal privilege, in the interests of transparency and openness, and having reviewed the situation with officers, we are today publishing that advice. I have enclosed a copy with this letter. It is also available on the council's website at www.ealing.gov.uk/southallgasworks.

Noise Nuisance

You have recently raised new concerns in respect of potential breaches of construction management issues on site, including a recent episode of construction noise continuing site beyond the regulated hours for construction. Works beyond the regulated period of activity are clearly unacceptable.



Officers are currently exploring the incident and seeking assurances from the construction contractors that they are abiding by the construction management plan and the constraints on construction hours. Any concerned resident impacted by this should make a complaint to our enforcement teams on 020 8825 8111.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Mason'.

Councillor Peter Mason
Leader of the Council